

NATIONAL GENDER BUREAU

BEIJING +5

SURINAME 1999

Part I

Suriname is a republic, a former Dutch colony that became independent in 1975. The country lies in the North of South America, embraced by French Guiana in the East, Guyana in the West, and Brazil in the South, facing the Atlantic Ocean. The land area is 163,265 sq. km, of which 161,470 sq. km is land and 1,800 sq. km water. The capital city is Paramaribo.

In 1998, Suriname's population was estimated 434,331 people, of whom 217,704 are men and 216,627 are women.

Its population is multi-ethnic, and consists of 35% Creole, 35% Hindustani (Indian), 16% Javanese (Indonesian), 10% Maroon (descendants of African slaves), 3% Amerindian, 2% Chinese, 1% European.

Though the official language is Dutch, Sranan Tongo, the lingua franca, is widely spoken and is the communication language between the several cultural groups.

Suriname is also a multi-religious country, consisting of 42% Christian, 27% Hindu, 20% Muslim, and 11% other. Some public holidays, such as Holi Phagwa, Good Friday, Christmas, Easter, and Id UI Fitre, are related to these religions. Other public holidays are January 1, July 1 (Abolition of Slavery) and 25 November (Independence Day).

The Surinamese guilder equals 100 cents. The official exchange rate (May 1998) is US\$ 1 = SRG 780. Illegal transactions take place on the black market with exchange rates as high as US\$1 = SRG1500 (May 15).

The Government of Suriname was in the election preparation phase soon after the formulation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA). Despite this, a regional program was established for the Dutch-speaking Caribbean (i.e. Suriname, Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles) on May 11 1996, just two weeks before general elections in Suriname. This program comprises research in the field of vocational training and some activities on gender awareness and violence against women. The newly elected Government conducted a study, (From Women's to Gender Policy, February 1997) to evaluate the Government structures regarding women's policy in Suriname from 1990 - 1995. This document recommended a change in the Government's approach, and gender policy was born.

The Government Policy Statement of 1996 stated that the Government of Suriname would strive for equal development of every citizen. Equal participation of women in the decision-making process will contribute to the further development of the whole society. The policy statement also refers to the integration of gender policy into government policy, while all aspects of government policy will be tested on the equal quantitative and qualitative involvement of women and men. The Government committed itself to the adjustment of national legislation to achieve equality and to meet the requirements of international conventions. Government will facilitate women's organizations in the implementation of their policy programs and has asked that special attention be given to rural women.

The Constitution of Suriname gives much attention to personal and equal rights of men and women and freedoms, on the one hand, and to social, cultural and economic rights, on the other hand. Although Suriname has not yet formulated a national plan of action, several projects have been carried out in collaboration with NGOs, in which the BPFA is reflected. In August 1997, the National Gender Bureau was established. The former building of the National Women's Bureau was repaired and fully equipped. To prove Government's commitment, the President formally opened the Gender Bureau in January 1998.

Before the establishment of this Bureau, the Government provided funds to implement projects on the sub-regional level as part of the framework with the Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The lack of a co-ordinator for a 10-month period and the cuts in the Dutch development aid have led to a delay in the formulation of a national gender policy, as well as in a gender mainstreaming policy. In spite of these constraints, 10 projects were implemented in collaboration with NGOs, with the emphasis on domestic violence. Within the national policy there was also special focus on poverty eradication programs.

The new co-ordinator will start on June 1, 1999. Priority tasks are to formulate a gender policy and to finalize the report on CEDAW, which is in a preparation phase. It will be a national report reflecting the point of view of Government and NGOs and it is being prepared in collaboration with the National Women's Movement (NVB), an NGO. An awareness-raising campaign on especially BPFA and CEDAW, as well as the integration of gender within government policy, is part of the actions for 1999. Furthermore, a website will be set up to provide national and international information, as a follow-up to the CIM/UNIFEM/CIDA computer project which provided computers and Internet facilities to women's bureaux in the Caribbean in order to improve collaboration among them. The website will also give information in Dutch on CEDAW, BPFA and WSSD.

In the field of legislation, a follow-up to the evaluation of the discriminatory legislation has not been forthcoming due to a lack of legislation lawyers within the Ministry of Justice and Police. According to a study conducted by the Lobi Foundation for Family Planning (in 1995) 96 laws have been identified as bottlenecks to the implementation of the ICPD Program of Action. A study carried out on the Labor Act by the Women Workers' Rights Steering Group proved that most of these laws had been formulated from a male perspective.

From 1994 - 1997, the Government provided technical assistance in the form of personnel to the foundation Stop Violence against Women. After the participation of the Commissioner of Police and the national CAFRA co-ordinator in the IDB meeting on violence in 1997, Government organized a wide deliberation in 1998. CAFRA Suriname and Culconsult conducted a study on violence against women with IDB financing in June 1998, in order to evaluate the institutions dealing with domestic violence. The results were published in the report "They Are Crying out for Help" (Henna Malmberg). This led to a domestic violence conference facilitated by the Government and the kick-off of the train-the-trainers' training, during which police officers and social workers from NGOs and other institutions were trained. The training of 466 police officers at all levels and 96 social workers has led to the need to set up a networking structure, which will be started in 1999. Diminishing Dutch aid has forced the Government to look for other funds to implement this project, also for the training of social workers in four more districts.

As result of awareness-raising through the media, more cases of domestic violence are being reported with the police and organizations like Stop Violence against Women. Twenty hotline counselors were trained in 1998. In May 1998, 76.7% of all reported cases of domestic violence were women ("They are crying out for Help, Henna Malmberg). There are cases of stalking of ex-partners without the offender being punished. There was even a case of murder of the victim and suicide by the stalker.

In the field of domestic sexual offenses, punishment is too low, while the law still allows the person accused of sexual abuse to be set free while the case is being investigated. Family members are then threatened (especially in cases of incest), and cases are often withdrawn. This overshadows the successes. There is need for a special domestic violence act and

training of prosecutors and judges. Though not obligatory, children are sometimes heard in these cases. The available facility for abused children allows shelter for a maximum of one year, after which the girl moves back with her family. There is no possibility to do a DNA test or a sperm test in order to prove guilt in case of rape and sexual abuse. The crisis center for women has only room for 15 women with small families.

The Department for Youth Affairs within the Ministry of Education is implementing a re-entry program for teenage mothers. Day-care is part of this program. An obstacle in implementing this program is the fact that girls feel ashamed to go back to the same school after giving birth. Most school principals have no problem bringing these girls back into the system, but fellow students do not know how to react to the re-entry of the teenage mother. There is no program providing guidance for teenage fathers or to show them their responsibility. In spite of sex education being included in the program of primary schools nation-wide, and all the efforts of the Lobi Foundation, which provides information on family planning, and contraceptive products, teenage pregnancy is still high.

The Government of Suriname committed itself to several poverty eradication programs in collaboration with donor organizations. In 1995 Dutch Aid was allocated through the Government to establish a NF 6 million fund for NGOs, of which one million is for food programs. Out of the Dutch aid, the Government intended to provide 2.5 million Dutch guilders for a fund for women micro entrepreneurs, but because of the decreasing Dutch aid, this cannot be implemented. To meet to the need for small loans by women micro entrepreneurs, the credit union GODO provides loans to these women in collaboration with the Dutch NGO named Bilance.

A micro project program enabling CBOs and NGOs to implement community development projects was financed by the European Union and ended in April 1999, after some 62 micro projects had been carried out. A new financial protocol is on its way. It will be necessary to simplify the application form to increase the accessibility to micro funds, by especially CBOs. In collaboration with the IDB, a Community Development Fund is being set up. This will focus on the interior, which is a Government priority area, as was stated in the 1996 Government Policy Statement.

In the field of women workers' rights, Suriname has participated since 1996 in an ILO three-year pilot program, which led to the establishment of a steering committee in which representatives of Government, NGOs, trade unions and employers are participating. The steering committee implemented projects that included studies in the field of sexual harassment, awareness raising on women workers' rights, studies on the situation of women in technical jobs, and the development of a training manual as a result of several training programs on women workers' rights. The program will end this year and the Government will have to look for a possibility to sustain what has already been started.

In 1997, 36 high-level women civil servants finalized a leadership training by Leadership Management International. The Speaker of the Assembly and the Under Minister for Social Affairs were among the graduates.

Political leadership training are being implemented by the Women's Parliamentary Forum to augment women's knowledge of political skills and political structure, and thus remove the barriers for women to enter politics, meanwhile preparing women of different political parties for the next elections, which will be held in 2001. Among the people qualified to vote, 51% is female.

As part of the elections of 1996, an awareness-raising campaign on the participation of women in politics led to the increase of women in parliament from 6% to 16%, while the number of women on the nomination lists also increased.

The development of a training manual after a pilot training of two local councils in two districts is also a project to increase women's performance in politics at a lower level.

A project to improve the ability of women members of parliament and other women in high civil service positions to initiate legislation will be implemented by the foundation STAS Caribe in 1999 with funding of Pro Lead.

According to the Government Policy Statement with regard to the participation of women in high level positions, the first woman Attorney General and the first woman judge were recently appointed (1998). The first woman Speaker of Parliament was elected in 1996. There is one woman Minister and one woman Under Minister.

To integrate gender mainstreaming into policy, the Ministry of Home Affairs is awaiting nominees to institutionalize an intra-departmental body. In the light of BPPA, different sectors have tried to achieve equality in the spheres of gender, but it is not co-ordinated and more would be achieved if were comprehensive. There is a trend within the police that leads to the increase of the number of women within the police department, and the first woman Head Inspector has already been appointed. Including gender training in the training on violence against women is a first step towards sensitization of the police force. Also within the different security services there is a trend of more women being employed, but this has to do with the fact that men are not willing to work as a security guard for low wages.

The Regional Health Services in Suriname has a female face, since most of the beneficiaries for free health services are women and children. Male nurses, however, are scarce and men leave the nursing sector for higher salaries in other professions. Though the number of women doctors has increased, men still dominate in this field. According to the Ministry of Health there are 30 women and 154 men doctors.

As part of an attempt to institutionalize gender mainstreaming, Government officials will be trained in gender and gender mainstreaming in June 1999.

Since 1995, the attention to gender issues has increased. This has to do with the fact that women organizations are implementing public education as part of the implementation of certain projects. There are radio programs as well as TV-programs and series, while the gender page in the newspaper is published every month.

Public awareness increased after the first sub-regional conference with the theme "gender awareness and positive image building of women through the media". This meeting was part of the regional co-operation framework of Suriname, Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles. Participants in that meeting started regular TV and radio programs.

Though there is an increase of women in the media, men still dominate, especially at the management level. The Editor-in-Chief of the largest newspaper is a woman. Government appointed the first woman on the board of the national TV station STVS.

Within the government policy there is a clear statement on women and gender. But there are still some areas of concern. The lack of data is one of the biggest obstacles for gender planning and evaluation. If there are data, they are often not desegregated by sex. There is a need for training all institutions that are collecting data in order to meet this need.

The decline of world market prices of oil and bauxite has caused a decrease in Government income. The price per barrel of oil of the state-owned company State Oil declined from US\$20 per barrel crude oil in October 1996 to US\$ 6 per barrel by November 1998, which led to a decline in oil income by US\$ 20 million. The Suralco Bauxite Company has made known its intention to close down the smelter and send home 300 laborers of the pot room in 1999. In April, the United States of America prohibited the import of Surinamese shrimps since the Korean trawler owners were not using turtle-friendly nets. These detrimental influences on the main income-generating industries and the freezing of Dutch development aid in the course of 1999 have led to serious economic problems in Suriname.

In January 1999 there was an official devaluation of the Suriname guilder from US\$1 = SRG396 to US\$1 = SRG780, while the illegal market shows an exchange rate of US\$1 = SRG1500 (May 1999). The inflation in April was 67%, in comparison with April 1998. In order to deal with this crisis, a reconstruction program was implemented, consisting of economic measures that led to cuts in the budget, with serious consequences for health and education. For example, by May 15, 1999, the Medical Mission, which is responsible for the medical health services in the interior, had not yet received its subvention from the Government for 1999.

Part II

Facing serious economic problems followed by social eruptions since 1998, as part of which schools were closed for almost two months, the gender budget is ... % of the budget of the Ministry of Home Affairs and .. % of the National Budget.

This is a distorted portrayal of Government expenditure on gender, for with funding from donor agencies like CCGEF and Dutch development aid, some US\$120,000 has actually been spent on gender projects during 1997 - 1999. Other donors that are sponsoring women's projects in Suriname in collaboration with NGOs are the Women in Development fund of the Dutch Embassy, IDB, Bilance, Mamacash and NOVIB (Dutch women Co-financing organizations). It is not clear what the amount of money is that these NGOs and organizations are spending in Suriname. UNIFEM is implementing a program entitled "Women and Sustainable Development" as part as a cost sharing agreement with Suriname, using Dutch aid. Within this program, a sustainable livelihood pilot project will be implemented. In co-operation with UNICEF, some small-scale women's economic empowerment projects are being implemented, as well as projects focusing the girl child. A donor co-ordination institute on government level is badly needed to achieve an effective expenditure of donor funding.

To implement gender in Suriname, a gender mainstreaming system has been planned, but still has to be filled in. The National Gender Bureau is supposed to be headed by a co-ordinator, assisted by an assistant co-ordinator and an administrative staff. The new co-ordinator started on June 1, after a period of ten months without a co-ordinator. The intra-departmental board is in a preparation phase, since ministries are still in the process of sending nominations.

An NGO advisory board has not yet been installed, since there are still discussions going on among the NGOs themselves as to representation on the board. Criteria for representation on this board still have to be developed. Government wants a national representation, which means that each of the ten districts will have to be represented.

There is also an Intra-Ministerial Committee (IMC) consisting of the Ministers of Planning, Regional Development, Social Affairs and Home Affairs, which meets to discuss policy matters. Its discussions should also cover gender policy.

Because of the absence of the co-ordinator, the Gender Management System has not yet functioned as desired. The government hired a consultant to solve this problem, but as the consultant was not a civil servant, some structural parts of the problem could not be undertaken properly.

There is no co-ordination of the implementation of the several conventions Suriname committed itself to. As far as the Convention on the Rights of the Child is concerned, Government showed great concern and established a National Commission in 1995 to coordinate all child rights matters. In 1997 the term of office of the members of this National Commission ended, and no new members were installed. In 1998 a structure was set up within the Cabinet of the President. This Steering Committee for Youth Policy consists of the Head Coordinator for Social Affairs within the President's Cabinet, the Under Minister of Social Affairs, a representative of a children's NGO and a representative of the University. The Steering Group was assigned the task of drawing up a national policy on youth, which is different from the implementation of child rights. The absence of a co-ordinator of child rights has now led to a delay in the preparation of the defense of the initial report on CRC in September this year.

There is no structure on the Vienna Conference. As a follow up to Agenda 21, a National Environmental Board under the Office of the President has taken steps to consolidate the environmental management issues. The Environmental Institute of Environment and Development (NIMOS), which is headed by a woman, supports this Board.

Within the implementation of the gender policy in Suriname, the National Gender Bureau works closely with NGOs. The CEDAW report will be prepared by an NGO with funding facilitated by government. Thus, one national CEDAW report will be formulated with support of government and NGOs. Within the formulation of the gender policy at a national level, several workshops are planned in which NGOs will assist in implementing a five-year gender policy plan that will cut into a national plan of actions over the period of one year. The networking guide of NGOs will be available on the website of the Gender Bureau and will be adjusted every year.

The co-ordination of gender policy will be conducted by means of an interaction between Government and NGOs. Within this collaboration, NGOs will provide Government with a listing of their activities and the dates of these activities, which will be published by the Bureau. Other NGOs can then plan new activities using information from the Bureau. This will prevent duplication of activities, or activities planned for the same dates. Donor co-ordination will also be part of the gender policy.

POVERTY

1.1. ACCESS TO CAPITAL

Gender gap in ownership

PROGRAMS	OBSTACLES	FUTURE COMMITMENTS
<p>There is no data available on ownership of agricultural land. In general, families work the land together in the coastal area. According to a study on the Commewijne District, entitled "Participation of women in the small agricultural sector" carried out by Carla Amatsakio (Sep. 1998 p. 57) the contribution of women within the family to agriculture is 51% and men 39%, and 10% by other family members.</p> <p>In the interior, women and children work on the plots. Women NGOs provide training for especially women farmers on an individual basis. In the District of Commewijne the Progressive Women's Union (PVU) has a training program for 80 women farmers. PVU has set up SAV, the Organisation for Surinamese women farmers, especially for that purpose.</p> <p>They have their own market at Tamanedjo and a small foodprocessing company.</p>	<p>The last agriculture survey was held in the early 80s.</p> <p>Women in the interior have no title to the land due to a land rights problem.</p> <p>There is no policy on women in agriculture.</p> <p>There is no data available</p>	<p>In the next agriculture survey, data should be sex-desegregated.</p> <p>Develop a policy for women farmers as part of gender mainstreaming.</p>

Technical assistance

<p>Business ownership by sex</p> <p>Female employers' job creation capacity</p>	<p>N.A.</p> <p>Women NGOs encouraged networking among micro entrepreneurs. The Women's Business Group (WBG) started a focal point for women micro entrepreneurs in September 1998 and the Institute for Women Entrepreneurs (IVVO) was established in December 1998. Both organizations provide guidance.</p> <p>WBG: guidance to 92 women in the cities Paramaribo, Moengo, Albina, and district Brokopondo (January - April 1999). WBG has 130 members.</p>	<p>Neither the Chamber of Commerce nor the two employer organisations have data on women ownership. The women micro entrepreneurs are mostly in the informal sector</p> <p>This is centralised in the capital city.</p> <p>Women in the far districts are not aware of assistance offered by WBG and IVVO.</p>	<p>Encourage data collection on business ownership by sex by the employers organisations.</p> <p>Encourage decentralization of the institutions for women entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Public education on existing institutions</p> <p>Encourage the National Statistics Bureau and the Foundation for Social Housing to collect the data.</p>
<p>1.2. AFFORDABLE HOUSING</p> <p>Equality of access to social housing</p>	<p>The criteria for social housing focuses on the size of the family and the present situation of the family. For example, the number of people living in the house they live in.</p> <p>Though figures are not available, it is said that women have priority in the social housing policy.</p>	<p>Lack of data</p> <p>Politics sometimes influence the allotment of houses.</p> <p>There is no clear definition of poverty on a national level.</p> <p>Poverty in the coastal area is different from poverty in the interior. The latter cannot be defined by financial income.</p>	

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF WOMEN	PROGRAMS	OBSTACLES	FUTURE COMMITMENT
<p>2.1. INCREASE ENROLMENT AND RETENTION RATES OF GIRLS</p> <p>School attendance</p>	<p>IDB "Suriname Education Study" February 1998 states (p.27):</p> <p>"Data on student enrolment by grade and data on student progression, repetition, and dropouts are not available for junior secondary schools." (p. 26)</p> <p>"Girls outnumber boys in primary and the academic tracks of junior and secondary education. (Annex A-1)</p> <p>In the interior, boys and girls did not attend school during the internal war 1986-1992.</p> <p>A school repair program was carried out with Dutch development aid.</p> <p>Because of the lack of day care facilities, women carry their children with them to their plot. In some cases girls need to look after their younger siblings.</p>	<p>Lack of national data.</p> <p>In the upper Suriname River area (in the interior) 61% of the children do not attend school. 23% of non-attendance was owing to social and cultural factors relating to boys and girls. Other reasons are financial 10%, school related 47%, transport 16%, socio-cultural factors in general 14%. This is the result of a survey:</p> <p>"Survey of out of school youth in the Marowijne District and along the Upper Suriname River" conducted for UNICEF by Kenki Skoro April 1998, p 57.</p> <p>The data do not tell about the effect on boys and girls separately. Due to social cultural habits, the distances between the small villages are large and the interior can only be reached by boats and air planes. A pilot on Day Care in the Marowijne Districts proved that women are not willing to pay or cannot pay for Day Care facilities.</p>	

<p>2.2. ERADICATE ILLITERACY AMONG WOMEN Literacy rate by sex</p>	<p>The latest literacy study is of 1980, and states that 90.8% of the Surinamese population is literate, of whom 90.0% men and 89.5% women (Situation Analysis of Women and Children, carried out for UNICEF by ICAD, 1995 p. 62)</p> <p>The war in the interior in the late 80s left a number of boys and girls in the interior out of the school system. While the deterioration of the economy has led to cuts in education spending. The present illiteracy rate is therefore estimated to be higher.</p>	<p>Lack of recent data</p>	<p>Conduct a study on the literacy of men and women, boys and girls.</p>
<p>2.3 IMPROVE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING Gender differential</p>	<p>See Annex-1</p> <p>There is an increase of women in non-traditional sectors, for example the Technological Faculty. Every year there is an information day on education programs for students. Yet, there are no actions taken to encourage girls, or to encourage the participation of women in technical professions.</p>	<p>Information on student programs is provided too late. Students are not aware that choices are already being made at secondary level, especially regarding the subject mathematics.</p>	<p>Improve student information on study programs and encourage girls to choose non-traditional training through public education.</p>

In the school-year 1996-1997, 5% of the students at technical school (secondary level) were girls. Most of the girls chose the subject electrical engineering and construction. (Study on Women in Technical Jobs; An Analysis of the Situation of Women in Technical Jobs, conducted by Shirley Defares for ILO under the auspices of the 'Women Workers' Rights project, February 1998, p. 11). 68 students at the Technological Faculty were women in 1990. This increased to 129 in 1995.

The IDB study on education, table A-18a, shows the following number of enrolments per program of study in 1996.

Planning Economics:
 male: 27 fem: 45

Business Administration:
 male:197 fem: 295

Sociology
 male:3 fem:21

Law
 male:280 fem: 516

Public Administration
 male:57 fem:71

	<p>Mining male: 40 fem: 32</p> <p>Agriculture male:43 fem:36</p> <p>Engineering male: 40 fem: 28</p> <p>Electrical Engineering male: 63 fem: 12</p> <p>Construction male: 56 fem: 4</p> <p>Medical faculty male: 170 fem: 179</p>		
Scholarships	NA		
Develop curricula	<p>The development of stereotype-free school material should be part of the improvement of the curricula of the primary level. The Ministry of Education has started discussions on updating the curriculum.</p>	No study on stereotyping in curricula has been carried out	<p>Include school materials that are free of gender-based stereotypes in the new curricula, starting at primary level</p>
Sexual and reproductive health	<p>Information on sexual reproductive health is part of the nature education curriculum, starting in the third grade of the primary school.</p>		

WOMEN AND HEALTH	PROGRAMS	OBSTACLES	FUTURE COMMITMENT
<p>3.1. TEENAGE PREGNANCY</p> <p>National committee</p>	<p>There is no committee, however, for more than thirty years the Lobi Foundation has been providing information on family planning and also provides contraceptives.</p> <p>Though an old law forbids the provision of contraceptives, Government recognizes the work of Lobi.</p> <p>Government charges Lobi with the coordination of family planning activities in the clinics of the Regional Health Services (RGD) and with the import of contraceptives. (CRC Initial Country Report of the Republic of Suriname, December 1997 p. 40)</p> <p>The RGD has polyclinics in the coastal area and the districts, with exception of the interior. (information provided by Rose Marie Pelser, Head of the Information Department of the Lobi Foundation)</p>	<p>Shortage of funds is a constraint to further decentralization of Lobi, especially to the outlying districts and the interior.</p> <p>There is a backlog in the adjustment of laws to meet international standards and also to meet the Constitution.</p> <p>The regular closing of RGD polyclinics and schools caused by strikes.</p> <p>Braindrain of qualified staff</p>	<p>Amendment of national law to meet international standards.</p>

Fertility	<p>Though data is not available, it is said that women in the interior and the rural areas are more fertile comparing to women in the cities.</p> <p>Total fertility rate for 1995 - 2000 is estimated 2.4. (PAHO health situation in the Americas, Basic Indicators 1997).</p> <p>In 1990-1995 it was 2.7. United Nations Households, Families and Childbearing in Latin America and the Caribbean, down loaded from the Internet).</p>		
<p>3.2 HIV/AIDS Change in numbers</p>	<p>Dr. Sadal from the Dermatological Service Provides the following data: 1997 Tested persons: 2128 Tested Positive: male 97 fem: 83 7 children (0-14 years) 1998 Tested persons: 2405 Tested positive: 85 1999 (first three months) Tested persons: 565 Positive Tested: 40 male 31 fem 2 children (0-14 years)</p>	Cultural habits	<p>Increase public education: an awareness raising campaign with special emphasis on those areas where cultural habits forbids use of a condom.</p>

Mental disorders	<p>Comparing to 1997 HIV/AIDS is increasing in general. The data on 1998 is not clear.</p> <p>The Statistical Yearbook 1997 p. 28, reports that 1637 accidents had taken place at work in 1996. The data again is not sex specific.</p> <p>There is at present a five-year papsmear project going on for the early detection of cervical cancer. This is a national project in which the Lobi Foundation works closely with the Regional Health Services and the Medical Mission, which covers health services in the interior. It allows women in the whole country to have free examinations for cervical cancer.</p> <p>The goal is to implement early detection to screen at least 75% of all women from 20 - 55 years.</p> <p>Going to the different neighbourhoods is part of the program. It is guided with public education to encourage women to have examinations. It also provides a questionnaire for women and health.</p>		<p>Encourage the Statistical Bureau to collect these data by sex.</p> <p>Continue the free papsmear program for another three years. Mother and child care services; guidance and advice during pregnancies and after giving birth.</p> <p>Continuation and extension of public education and training on gender, reproductive and sexual health and women's rights.</p>
------------------	---	--	--

	<p>Examined women on Cervical Cancer:</p> <p>1995: 11532 1996: 11893 1997: 11804 1998: 14047</p> <p>From 1997-1998 407 women were examined on breast cancer. (Information from Rose Marie Pelser, Lobi Foundation). Lobi also gives information on breast examination by teaching women how to examine themselves on a monthly basis.</p>		
<p>Health concerns</p>	<p>The infant mortality rate was 18 and the U-5 mortality rate was 23 per 1000 live births in 1996 (PAHO: Health situation in the Americas; Basic Indicators 1997). Life expectancy at birth is estimated 71.5% for girls and 69% for boys for the period 1995 – 2000. (PAHO: Health situation in the Americas; Basic Indicators 1997) The infant mortality rate per 1000 live births is estimated 24% for the same period</p>		

<p>Life expectancy</p>	<p>Life expectancy and infant mortality rate, 1995 - 2000 Latin America and the Caribbean; United Nations World's population Prosp. Life expectancy at birth 1996-2000: Women live longer than men. Women per 100 men aged 60 over are 120. 8% of population aged 60 years or over are women and 7% are men. (Information aged 60 and over 1997 form the population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, down loaded from internet) The care for elderly women is equal to the care for men. There are no special programs to meet to the needs of elderly women.</p>		
<p>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN 4.1. Collect data Sexual violence</p>	<p>PROGRAMS According to the report "They are Crying out for Help" conducted for the IDB by Culconsult in June 1998 68 of the 120 offences of the domestic violence cases reported to the police were sexual offences against women. See Annex -2</p>	<p>OBSTACLES According to the law, certain offences are only liable to prosecution when charges are filed (by the legal guardian of the victim in case of minors). If no charges are filed, the case is dismissed.</p>	<p>FUTURE COMMITMENT Revise existing legislation. Formulate a violence act.</p>

		<p>Even if the victim would want the perpetrator's prosecution, if the mother or legal guardian does not press charges, the court can do nothing (Culconsult, June 1998 p. 13).</p>	
<p>Statistics</p>	<p>To report on the survey of institutions in Suriname working in the field of relief and support to female victims of domestic violence Culconsult collected data on the institutes by using a questionnaire. Statistics were put at their disposal by government institutes within the Ministry of Justice, the Academic Hospital and some other GOs and NGOs. In general, data are not collected on a regular basis. 76,7% of domestic violence victims of 1997 were women. 37%, the highest is in the age-group 26 -35.</p>	<p>Violence in general: Lack of data. It is impossible to see a trend. Obstacles according to: 24 organizations: lack of funds 25 organizations: lack of supplies 12 organizations: lack of government policy In general Lack of experts; no network of organizations Lack of policy on violence against women.</p>	<p>Establish a network regarding violence against women. Formulate a solid policy as part of the gender policy. Provide funding for institutions that deal with this matter.</p>
<p>Deaths</p>	<p>There are no data available on deaths due to domestic violence. According to Grace the Mees, Director of the Foundation Stop Violence against Women, the number of reported cases of stalking is increasing.</p>	<p>There is no law on stalking. If the perpetrator is forbidden to come near the victim within a certain area, there is no punishment if the perpetrator does not adhere to this ruling (Grace de Mees).</p>	<p>Training of judges, lawyers and prosecutors.</p>

	<p>The foundation now has a special counseling group on stalking. In one case it has already led to the death of the victim. To deal with violence the foundation is involving religious leaders.</p>		
<p>Training</p>	<p>96 social workers from NGOs, GOs, religious organizations, women's NGOs, nurses, legal persons, foster homes, nurses of the elderly, airline services and 466 police officers were trained in how to deal with female victims of domestic violence. 10% were male and 90% female.</p>		<p>Training in how to deal with female victims of domestic violence in four more districts. Integrate this training into the police curriculum.</p>
<p>Spending</p>	<p>Expenditure: an average of US\$160,000 by government and international organizations in 1998.</p> <p>There is no information on the indirect costs regarding violence available from police, justice, and health.</p>		

WOMEN IN ARMED CONFLICT	PROGRAMS	OBSTACLES	FUTURE COMMITMENTS
<p>5.1. ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING</p> <p>Specific assistance to refugee women</p>	<p>Suriname went through an internal war from 1986 - 1992 between government forces and guerilla groups in the interior. As result of this, families were displaced in refugee camps in French Guiana. Others fled to Paramaribo and became squatters of unfinished low-income houses around the city of Paramaribo. There has never been any program to deal with this problem. The Foundation for Human Development carried out a mother-and-child project in the low-income housing project of Sophia's Last. There was no follow up to this project.</p>	<p>No data available</p>	
<p>WOMEN AND ECONOMY</p> <p>6.1 LEGISLATION</p> <p>Legal measures</p> <p>Gender wage differences</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>According to the law there is equal payment of men and women.</p>	<p>There is no information on and control of the actual situation</p>	

Access to men's professions		Few girls choose a technical, non traditional, profession.	Public education on technical and other non traditional professions.																		
	<p>Sector w m</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>State Oil</td> <td>11</td> <td>326</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bauxite</td> <td>7</td> <td>503</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electricity</td> <td>1</td> <td>475</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Water</td> <td>9</td> <td>644</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Telecom</td> <td>13</td> <td>329</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>41</td> <td>2277</td> </tr> </table> <p>Source: ILO Report: Defares. Defares states (pp. 19-20) that most of the women in technical jobs are on a high or mid-high level. The recruitment of men and women in technical jobs is equal. Women and men have equal opportunities for good jobs and promotions.</p>	State Oil	11	326	Bauxite	7	503	Electricity	1	475	Water	9	644	Telecom	13	329	Total	41	2277		
State Oil	11	326																			
Bauxite	7	503																			
Electricity	1	475																			
Water	9	644																			
Telecom	13	329																			
Total	41	2277																			
Self employment	<p>Government reserved US\$1.25 million out of the Dutch development aid for women micro entrepreneurs.</p> <p>The Productive Units Foundation is a government organization that provides guidance to starting micro entrepreneurs.</p> <p>There is no information available on micro entrepreneurs according to sex.</p>	<p>The political situation between Suriname and the Netherlands has made the implementation impossible.</p>																			

	<p>The credit union Godo provides loans to starting women micro entrepreneurs and for follow up projects for women micro entrepreneurs in collaboration with the Dutch NGO Bilance.</p>		
<p>Effective job training</p>	<p>The Women's Business Group and the Institute for Women Entrepreneurs (IWWO) provide guidance and training to women micro entrepreneurs. These organizations were established, respectively, in September and December 1998. Though no data are available, it is said that there is more training for female than for male entrepreneurs.</p>		
<p>Childcare services</p>	<p>There is a clear policy on childcare with rules for the existing day care center, but there is no law. Thus, anybody can start a daycare center whether or not the person is qualified. As part of the social housing policy, daycare centers were built within the social housing projects. For more than ten years</p>		

	<p>Government has not built any daycare centers. There is an increase of private daycare centers. The number of private daycare centers is unknown. Women in the rural area have Day care within family relations.</p> <p>The Diaconessenhuis Hospital has a day and night daycare center for its employees, that is also accessible to outsiders.</p> <p>By order of the Ministry of Home Affairs a study was conducted by Calconsult on the possibility for vocational training, which would include daycare facilities for persons following a training.</p>		<p>Implementation of vocational training for women.</p>
<p>WOMEN IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING</p> <p>7.1 Data</p>	<p>PROGRAMS</p> <p>The number of women in high-level positions within the government has increased. The number of women Permanent Secretaries increased from two in 1995 to four in 1999. There is one woman Minister and one woman Under Minister.</p>	<p>OBSTACLES</p> <p>There is no regular data collection and if there is data it is not sex-differentiated.</p> <p>The candidate list does not provide sex differentiation.</p>	<p>FUTURE COMMITMENT</p> <p>Indication of whether candidates are men or women.</p>

	<p>The first woman Speaker of the Assembly was elected in 1996. The first woman Attorney General and the first woman judge were appointed last year.</p> <p>A study conducted by L. Lewis for the women's NGO Projeckta has no recent data on women in decision-making positions. See Annex - 3</p> <p>There is no policy to meet the quota of 30% representation of women in politics.</p> <p>In 1991, there were three women in parliament, while in the 1996 elections 8 women were chosen, one of who became Minister.</p> <p>The Women's Parliamentary Forum advocates for the increase of women in decision-making positions. In the elections of 1996 an awareness-raising campaign was conducted to get women to vote on women. This campaign led to the increase of women candidates.</p>	<p>The traditional parties campaigned for the traditional way of voting, which meant voting on the first person on the list, which, in almost all cases, was a man.</p> <p>The executive boards of the political parties boycotted the campaign, preaching that women would lose their vote if they acted according to the campaign.</p>	
--	--	--	--

<p>TRAINING Opportunities to be elected</p>	<p>According to the law, men and women have equal rights to be elected. In practice, political parties have more men in high-level places than women. Nevertheless, in the elections of 1996 there was an increase of women on the parties' nomination lists.</p> <p>Government trained 36 high-level women civil servants in leadership skills. The Women's Parliamentary Forum has a training program to teach women skills to perform in politics and political institutes.</p>		<p>Follow-up training of women civil servants. Training of women to initiate legislation.</p>
--	--	--	---

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN	PROGRAMS	OBSTACLES	FUTURE COMMITMENT
Integration	There is an Intra-Ministerial Committee in which the Ministers of Home Affairs (responsible for gender policy), Social Affairs, Regional Development and Planning and Development Co-operation partake.	There was no co-ordinator of the Gender Bureau for 10 months. NGOs are divided in their opinion on representation for the NGO board.	Integration of gender into government policy. Establishment of an intra-governmental body. Establishment of an NGO board.
HUMAN RIGHTS Education	PROGRAMS For three years, NGOs and individuals conduct literacy programs for women in the interior. There is no government literacy program for women since 1984.	OBSTACLES No recent data on illiterate women.	FUTURE COMMITMENT
Training	NGO's provide information on human rights as part of empowerment training, gender training, training in marketing and other skills.	There are no data available.	
WOMEN AND THE MEDIA	PROGRAMS	OBSTACLES	FUTURE COMMITMENT

Equal participation

<p>Though there are no data available, the trend is that overall men are in management positions within the media. The editor-in-chief of the largest newspaper is a woman. Two radio stations have women in management positions.</p> <p>The National Gender Bureau trained 13 men and 20 women in December 1998. Gender training was part of the media training.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Radio program of Women's Parliament ForumA television program of the Women's Parliamentary Forum.Irregular TV-programs by several women's organizations.A quarterly women's magazine (Skwalle), published by the National Women's Movement.A regional paper with information on the regional co-operation with Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles. Other activities include public education on certain issues.Radio and TV- programs on actual news of the stations are accessible for women's organizations.	<p>No data</p> <p>The media activities are more directed on activities to be carried out instead at issues.</p> <p>Most of these media activities take place on an irregular basis.</p>	<p>Follow up gender training</p> <p>Increase public education on Beijing and CEDAW</p> <p>Increase awareness on gender issues.</p>
---	---	--

WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT	PROGRAMS	OBSTACLES	FUTURE COMMITMENT
<p>Opportunities for women</p>	<p>Nimos is the Institute for Environment and Development. A woman chairs this institute. It is the supporting institute of the National Environmental Board under the office of the President.</p>		<p>Regular collection of data</p>
<p>THE GIRL CHILD</p> <p>Remain in education system</p>	<p>PROGRAMS</p> <p>Girls remain longer in the education system than boys</p>	<p>OBSTACLES</p> <p>The planning department of the Ministry of Education has no qualified staff to collect data on a regular basis.</p>	<p>FUTURE COMMITMENT</p> <p>Extending the re-entry program and information to students on teenage pregnancies.</p>
	<p>Despite the efforts of the Lobi Foundation, teenage pregnancies are still high.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education has a re-entry program in collaboration with the foundation Jovroce (Young Women's Center).</p>	<p>Girls feel ashamed to go back to the same school.</p> <p>Fellow students do not know how to react to teenage mothers.</p> <p>Not all teachers know how to deal with the problem of teenage pregnancy in school.</p>	

ANNEX - 1 IDB report

Type of school/Level	Grade/Age	Student Enrollment male - female - total		
Technical College (NATIN)	grade 11-14 age 16-19	566	109	675
Commercial College	grade 11-13 age 16-18	372	702	1073
Advanced Teacher Training College JOL part of HBO	grade 13-17+ age 18-23+	442	897	1339
Training College for Technical School Teachers OLNO part of HBO	grade 13-16+ age 18-22+	51	0	51
Academy of Arts AHKCO	grade 13-16+ age 18-22+	n.a.	n.a.	183
University of Suriname	grade 14-18+ age 18-24+	1182	1280	2462

ANNEX - 2

Indecency offenses by dossiers and sittings of the court in the period
June 1 - December 31, 1996

Indecency	Dossiers	Sittings of the court
Rape	43	20
Physical indecent assault	21	17
Sexual offenses	12	10
Other	22	11
Total	98	58

Indecency offenses arranged by dossiers and sittings of the court in
1997

Indecency	Dossiers	Sittings of the court
Rape	39	33
Physical Indecent assault	18	12
Sexual offence	29	23
Other	34	14
Total	120	82

Indecency offenses arranged by dossiers and sittings of the court in
the period between January 1 - May 18, 1998

Indecency	Dossiers	Sittings of the court
Rape	28	18
Involuntary sexual contact (with proof of victim's powerlessness.)	6	12
Girls under 12 years	22	
Women under 14 years	10	6
Physical sexual abuse	50	
Sexual abuse		2
Other	11	4
Total	127	30

Source: "A Cry for Help" H. Malmberg

ANNEX-3

Civil servants in 1994

Qualified Staff	m	w	total	m	w
Low qualified staff	13278	8491	21769	61%	49%
Mid qualified staff	8026	3520	11546	70%	30%
High qualified staff	987	209	1196	83%	17%
Total	22291	12220	34511	65%	35%

Source: Inventory of the participation of women in decision making process in Suriname 1975 - 1997

L. Lewis.