



# United Nations Suriname Annual Results Report

## 2023



DECADE  
OF  
ACTION



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# FOREWORD

## BY THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR

It is my pleasure to present the UN Annual Results Report 2023 on the work of United Nations system in Suriname. This report highlights the achievements of over 14 UN agencies, funds, and programmes supporting Suriname's sustainable development. Suriname, rich in natural resources and on the brink of economic growth, offers many opportunities. However, achieving a modern, prosperous future requires collaborative efforts from the Government, private sector, and civil society, along with partnerships and tested technical solutions.

The UN in Suriname focuses on long-term development and is advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations. We believe that good policies, good governance, and addressing inequalities benefit everyone. Our MSDCF priority areas include Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience, Equality and Well-being, Climate Resilience and Sustainable Natural Resource Management, and Peace, Safety, Justice, and Rule of Law. In 2023, we made progress in each of these areas.

In the area of economic resilience, FAO supported Suriname in enhancing MSME competitiveness in agriculture, contributing to several Sustainable Development Goals. Initiatives included promoting new technologies and enhancing pineapple production. The ILO's Decent Work Country Programme promoted social justice and decent work through capacity-building initiatives.

Reliable data is essential for achieving SDGs in education and health. Key initiatives included releasing an educational data yearbook, improving the Education Management Information System, and developing an Electronic Health Record system. UNICEF and PAHO-WHO supported various data-driven health initiatives, including mental health studies and suicide surveillance systems.

UNDP finalized the National Digital Strategy (NDS) 2023-2030, promoting inclusive development. UNESCO advanced the AI Caribbean Policy Roadmap, reflecting post-Covid regulatory frameworks.

The "Leaving No One Behind" Joint Programme focused on improving the livelihoods and food security of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. Initiatives included a pilot highland rice production project and agroforestry training, promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

The UN in Suriname prioritized immunization coverage and mental well-being. Initiatives included improving vaccine storage, developing a National Immunization Plan, conducting a children's mental health study, and revising mental health policies.

In addressing the problem of Chronic and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), PAHO-WHO supported the Ministry of Health in implementing the HEARTS initiative to combat cardiovascular disease and to strengthen NCD monitoring.

Additionally, the Ministry of Health, PAHO-WHO, and UNAIDS took steps towards better HIV management, although challenges remain with a high incidence-prevalence ratio.

Education and Early Childhood Development remained a priority. The Ministry of Education, supported by UNICEF and UNESCO, focused on foundational learning and early childhood development, addressing post-pandemic challenges.

The Government advanced school feeding programs and nutrition initiatives with UN support, establishing school gardens and ensuring access to safe drinking water.

Social Protection, Child Welfare, and Disability Inclusion efforts included finalizing the Decent Work Country Programme, analyzing child welfare budgets, and supporting business development for people with disabilities.

To improve Migration Management, IOM supported training programs for Government employees, developed a migration policy framework, and established a diaspora engagement policy. Similarly, the UN in Suriname focused on the needs of Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management remained a critical area of cooperation. Suriname, with UN support, made significant strides in enhancing climate resilience and disaster preparedness, ensuring water security, and improving climate reporting. Initiatives included developing a Climate Sensitive Hydrogeological Model and establishing Mining and Training Extension Centers to promote mercury-free technologies.

Improved access to water, sanitation and health (W.A.S.H.) services was delivered to over 3,000 people in remote communities, improved coordination between state institutions and UN agencies, and addressed flood response and cyanide pollution concerns.

We were also active in the area of Human Rights and Rule of Law and the UN supported the establishment of the National Human Rights Institute and enhanced institutional capacity for transparent and inclusive electoral processes.

A dedicated effort was made by all agencies to empower women and girls, address the needs of persons with disability, also promote youth initiatives and voices of Indigenous and Tribal communities.

I am proud of our work. I thank our dedicated UN country team and all staff for their professionalism and dedication.

However, none of this progress would be possible without the engagement of national partners, the private sector, and the donor community whom I want to sincerely thank for the close partnership and constructive cooperation.

As we move forward towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, it is crucial to focus on key transitions, including jobs, food systems, education, digitalization, energy transition, and climate.

The United Nations remains a committed partner to Suriname, and together, we can create a prosperous and inclusive future.



**JOANNA KAZANA-WISNIOWIECKI**  
United Nations Resident Coordinator  
and representative of the  
UN Secretary-General in Suriname



# UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM IN SURINAME

The work of the United Nations is implemented by a dynamic team of fourteen (14) agencies, funds, and programmes working under the leadership and coordination of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the Secretary General's designated representative for development operations in the Republic of Suriname.

Of the fourteen (14) UN agencies, funds and programmes, six (6) have a physical presence in Suriname.

	United Nations Population Fund
	International Organization for Migration
	Pan American Health Organisation - World Health Organisation
	United Nations Children's Fund
	Office Of The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	United Nations Development Programme

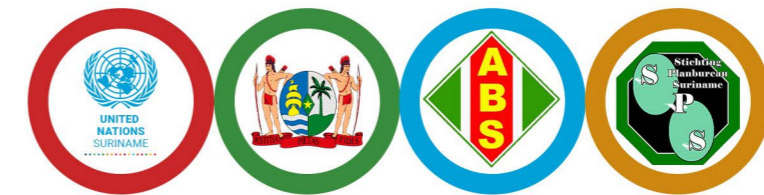
The following eight (8) UN agencies, funds, and programmes conduct operations in Suriname from regional and international offices.

	United Nations Environment Programme
	International Labour Organization
	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
	World Food Programme
	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

# 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 UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022 – 2026, which is in turn operationalized through the Country Implementation Plan (CIP). At country-level, the UN country team, in partnership with Government entities, steers the implementation of the CIP.

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 JNSC is co-led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business, and International Cooperation and the UN Resident Coordinator. The JNSC also consists of the following members: the Planning Bureau (Stichting Planbureau Suriname), and the General Bureau of Statistics (Algemeen Bureau voor de Statistiek).



The United Nations is grateful to our development partners, including international financial institutions, donor governments, and development agencies who continued to support the United Nations in Suriname in 2023. Civil society organizations continue to be a critical partner of United Nations Suriname across all four priority areas of the MSDCF 2022 – 2026. The United Nations also wishes to express its gratitude for the close cooperation with youth groups such as the Youth Advisory Group of the UNFPA, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors, the National CARICOM Youth Ambassadors, the National Youth Institute and UNICEF volunteers.





# PRIORITY AREA 1

## SHARED PROSPERITY AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

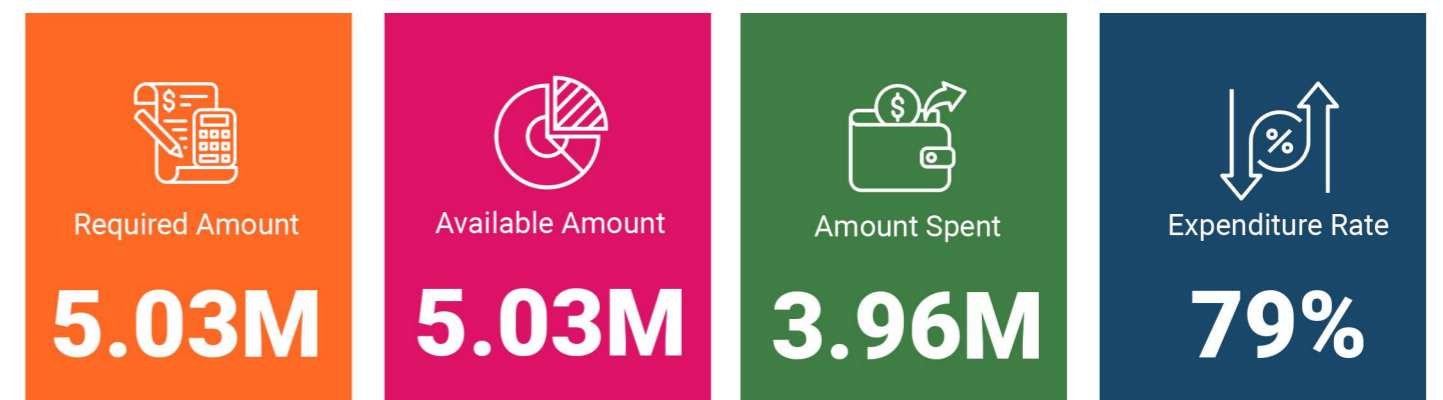
PRIORITY AREA 1 PRIORITIZES ACTIONS FOCUSED ON FOSTERING MORE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES. THE UNITED NATIONS WORKED WITH NATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO IMPLEMENT BOLD SOLUTIONS TO INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS FOR MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY AND SAFETY, AND ADDRESS CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES IN THE SURINAMESE LABOUR MARKET.



### PARTNERS

Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries  
 Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management  
 Ministry of Education, Science & Culture  
 Ministry of Labour & Youth  
 Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven (VSB)  
 Fish Inspection Institute  
 Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdekUS)  
 International Monetary Fund (IMF)

**10**  
 Projects &  
 Programmes



# CATALYZING MSME COMPETITIVENESS AND ENHANCING PRODUCTION IN AGRICULTURE



35 stakeholders engaged in knowledge sharing on ISO standards for cassava production.

Suriname's commitment to enhancing production and competitiveness for micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in the agriculture sector significantly advances several Sustainable Development Goals. In 2023, **FAO** supported the **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries** in enhancing the resilience and competitiveness of the sector by strengthening the capacities of MSMEs and integrating them into regional and national value chains, thereby contributing to Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). MSME growth in the agriculture sector drives progress on Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), as MSMEs are significant employment generators and income sources for the poor and vulnerable, such as women and youth in Indigenous and Tribal communities.

In 2023, Suriname took concrete steps to improving production practices and adherence to standards such as ISO and HACCP to enhance food safety and security, directly contributing to Goal 2 (Zero Hunger). FAO led a significant knowledge exchange in cassava production, involving 35+ stakeholders. This initiative focused on refining cassava cultivation techniques and adhering to ISO standards, elevating the quality and efficiency of production practices nationwide.



219 agriculture entrepreneurs benefited directly from matching grants.



13,027 items delivered to grantees.



50 beekeepers / honey producers trained in HACCP standards.



35 members of the Value Chain Platform participated in fairs for Producers and Exporters.

Furthermore, the EU-funded **Suriname Agriculture Market Access Project (SAMAP)** facilitated the promotion of high-value products through two National Fairs for producers and exporters, enabling the participation of over 35 grantees and Value Chain Platform (VCP) members. This initiative, conducted in collaboration with the **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries** and the **Ministry of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship, and Technological Innovation**, amplified market access for Surinamese entrepreneurs, fostering economic growth. Additionally, SAMAP achieved remarkable procurement milestones, delivering 13,027 items for 219 beneficiaries of the Matching Grant Facility (MGF), showcasing its commitment to supporting MSMEs and driving sustainable development. This accomplishment garnered presidential recognition, affirming SAMAP's pivotal role in Suriname's agricultural landscape. SAMAP also extended its reach to empower 50 beekeepers and honey producers through comprehensive training in HACCP.

5 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point



30 cooperatives empowered for enterprise development.

In 2023, **ILO** and **FAO** continued to take concrete steps to align their Cooperative Capacity Building Programmes with the country's Decent Work Country Programme, aiming to bolster the resilience and productivity of MSMEs and cooperatives. Launched under SAMAP, this innovative initiative aimed to enhance the capabilities of over 30 cooperatives, fostering enterprise development and offering pathways to alleviate poverty in rural regions, accelerating progress under Goal 1 (No Poverty). This initiative which focuses on management, performance, governance, and productivity, also equips cooperatives, including at least five women-led entities, with essential skills necessary for success. Leveraging globally-recognized training approaches such as My.Coop and Start.Coop, the initiative aligns with Suriname's Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP).



3 value chains established.



40 loan officers trained in agro value chain risk assessment.



Credit Guarantee Funds re-operationalization.

Furthermore, the **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries** implemented several initiatives to further strengthen the agricultural sector, including establishing Value Chain Platforms for Cassava, Fruit and Vegetables, and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), reviving the Credit Guarantee Fund, and training financial professionals. Establishing Value Chain Platforms marks a significant stride as these platforms serve as dynamic hubs fostering collaboration and innovation throughout the value chain, ultimately enhancing productivity and market access for farmers and producers. In addition, the re-operationalization of the Credit Guarantee Fund Suriname stands as a pivotal moment in facilitating access to finance for local entrepreneurs. Aiming for widespread impact, a High-level Seminar on Credit Guarantee Funds convened policymakers and financial sector institutions, laying the groundwork for informed decision-making and strategic partnerships. Furthermore, the training of forty (40) loan and risk officers from eight (8) banks in agro value chain risk assessment and finance underscore a commitment to building expertise and resilience within the financial sector. These combined efforts are poised to catalyze sustainable growth, foster economic empowerment, and elevate Suriname's position within the global agricultural landscape.

## INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY



Pilot cutting-edge digital framework developed.

Suriname recognizes the importance of innovative and sustainable production technology, which is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Effective data management in crop production and animal husbandry leads to better resource utilization and sustainable practices, directly supporting Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 13 (Climate Action). By optimizing value chains, these technologies enhance economic growth (Goal 8) and empower sustainable industries (Goal 9). Furthermore, innovative e-commerce platforms democratize market access, aiding in Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). In this regard the **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries** made progress in 2023 by revolutionizing agricultural data management to foster an innovative e-commerce system for the agricultural sector. **FAO** collaborated with the **Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries**, to pioneer a pilot project to develop a cutting-edge digital framework. This framework will revolutionize data management in crop production and animal husbandry by enabling seamless collection, analysis, and sharing of vital information. Additionally, it will pave the way for the creation of an innovative e-commerce system, fostering connections between buyers, sellers, large farmers, exporters, and e-commerce companies.

The **AgriFood Systems Transformation Accelerator (ASTA)** programme, jointly implemented by **FAO, UNIDO, ILO, and UNFPA**, worked to drive advancements in Suriname's agrifood systems through its innovative approach to pineapple chain development. As part of this program, a Horticulture Innovation Hub is scheduled to be established in 2024: this Hub will act as a dynamic platform focused on enhancing pineapple production by offering year-round training and implementing organic practices. Field trials conducted under the ASTA program aim to boost yields and drive sustainability, propelling innovation within the agricultural sector.



233 farmers capacity strengthened in pineapple production and gender equality.



> 300 farmers enhanced production sustainability.

The ASTA programme has also played a crucial role in structuring innovative financial mechanisms; by engaging with financial entities like **Trust Bank Amanah (TBA)** and **National Development Bank (NOB)**, the program is working to tailor concessional loan instruments and microfinance programs to support pineapple farmers. Through ASTA, the capacity of 233 farmers was strengthened, focusing on pineapple production, gender equality, and participatory decision-making. Additionally, a legal framework and governance structure were established to support institutions in ensuring continued services. The introduction of modern organic pineapple practices, including soil health enhancement techniques, has benefited over 300 pineapple farmers, enhancing production sustainability. Furthermore, assessments of digital traceability platforms and identification of potential buyers for organic farmers highlight the program's commitment to market access and visibility.

## SUPPORTING DECENT WORK AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT

Agenda 2030 places decent work for all, and the **ILO's** mandate and purpose of social justice, at the heart of policies for sustainable and inclusive growth and development. Decent work is linked to social inclusion, allowing individuals to contribute meaningfully to their communities and economies. Ultimately, achieving Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) is fundamental to building resilient economies and fostering a sense of dignity and purpose among workers, which contributes to the broader objectives of Agenda 2030.

In February 2023, **ILO** and tripartite partners continued efforts to advance social justice and promote decent and productive work opportunities with the signing of a new four-year Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP). This is the third Programme for Suriname and forms the main vehicle for delivery of ILO support. Through the DWCP, Suriname increases its capacity in jobs, productivity, and sustainable growth; livelihoods, human capital, and a skilled workforce; as well as labour market governance and labour rights. Two months into the implementation of the DWCP, the ILO Caribbean Decent Work Team hosted the Suriname Decent Work Monitoring Committee for a one-week DWCP Monitoring and Oversight Workshop in April 2023 in Trinidad. As a result, thirty (30) persons participated in a learning opportunity that delved into the principles and tools for effective monitoring and oversight. The Committee has notably enhanced its understanding of how to meet the requirements outlined in the DWCP Results Framework. This success, alongside progress made in other areas of the DWCP, signifies an advancement towards the goal of promoting decent work for all in Suriname.





# PRIORITY AREA 2

EQUALITY, WELL-BEING AND LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND



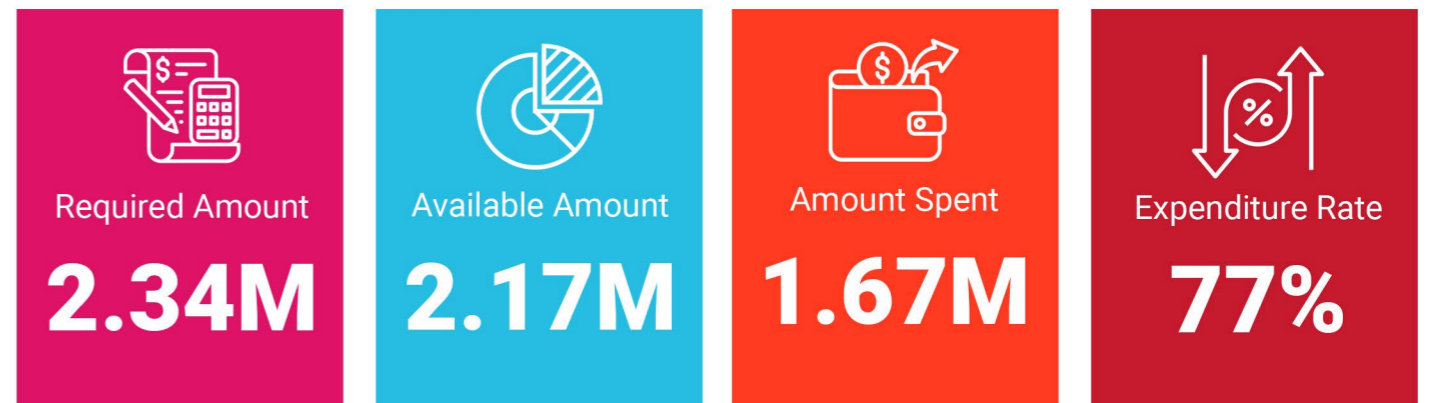
PRIORITY AREA 2 EMPHASIZED EQUALITY, WELL-BEING, AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS. INITIATIVES WITHIN THIS AREA FOCUSED ON THE MOST MARGINALIZED SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY, SUCH AS YOUTH, WOMEN, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, AS WELL AS INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES, TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND. CENTRAL TO THESE EFFORTS WERE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES AND LAWS, WHICH ENSURED FAIR ACCESS TO QUALITY SOCIAL PROTECTION AND HEALTH SERVICES THAT WERE RESPONSIVE TO SHOCKS AND GENDER NEEDS.



## Partners

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- 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 Housing
- Ministry of Education, Science and Culture
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and International Business
- 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
- Stichting Projekta
- Amazon Conservation Team (ACT)
- Stichting Lobi
- University of West Indies
- Bureau of Public Health (BOG)
- Regionale Gezondheidsdienst (RGD)

**25**  
Projects & Programmes



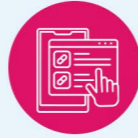
## IMPROVED DATA, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, AND CAPACITY FOR EVIDENCE BASED POLICY



Educational data and earbook finalized.



Improved Education Management Information System.



Electronic Health Record (EHR) system developed.

Enhancing data capacity for evidence-based policy is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly within Education and Health. Reliable data enables policymakers to identify gaps, monitor progress, and prioritize interventions in areas where they will have the most significant impact. In education, data can inform strategies to improve literacy rates, reduce gender disparities, and ensure inclusive quality education (Goal 4). In Health, data analysis can support disease surveillance, early detection and management. In Suriname particularly, it has the potential to improving maternal health, reducing mortality rates, and promoting well-being for all ages (Goal 3).

In 2023, the United Nations continued supporting the improvement of data and information systems, to support evidence-based policymaking. In collaboration with **UNICEF**, the **Ministry of Education** finalized and released the educational data and statistical yearbook for 2019 – 2021. Additionally, the Education Management Information System web portal was further improved, aligned with the ongoing structural reforms. **UNICEF** also supported the further analysis of the social protection floor, the dissemination of the poverty data, the mental health study and the mapping of care institutions.

In the area of Health, **PAHO-WHO** worked to promote the digital transformation of Suriname's health care systems. In collaboration with the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** and the **Ministry of Health**, the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system was developed. This initiative involved defining comprehensive functional and non-functional requirements tailored to the specific needs of Suriname's healthcare environment. As a result, a core dataset was specified, crucial for interoperability with the Health Information Exchange Platform, enabling the sharing of pertinent health data and facilitating population-based statistical analysis.



4 High-Level participants' capacity strengthened to accelerate health digital transformation.

**PAHO-WHO's** support extended to training Surinamese participants at the Relacsis 4.0 regional event in Sao Paulo, Brazil, accelerating the digital transformation and fostering the development of a Regional Plan for Information Systems for Health (IS4H) for the years 2024 – 2030. **PAHO-WHO** also provided technical assistance to strengthen the health sector's capacity for implementing a self-harm and suicide surveillance system. Through collaborative efforts, including the establishment of working groups and the development of data collection tools, **PAHO-WHO** mobilized resources to conduct a situational analysis and establish the surveillance system, addressing critical public health concerns.



1 HEARTS App for real-time data collection established.



General Bureau of Statistics benefited from technical support in conducting the upcoming CENSUS.

**PAHO-WHO** supported the establishment and operationalization of the HEARTS app, a patient information portal designed for real-time data collection acting as a clinical tool for cardiovascular risk and hypertension management. HEARTS is the regional adaptation of the World Health Organization's Global Hearts Initiative, which will be the model for risk management for cardiovascular disease (CVD) in primary health care in the

Region of the Americas by 2025. It takes a public health and health systems approach to systematically introduce simplified interventions at the primary health care level and focuses on hypertension as a clinical entry point. The initiative involved training data entry personnel and facilitating the sharing of health information among primary healthcare service providers, **ADEK University** and the **Ministry of Health**.

**UNFPA** played a key role in securing funding for the National Census which is a crucial element of Suriname's national development efforts as it helps quantify demographic, social and economic data and information, key to data-driven decision making. The forthcoming Census, scheduled to take place in the third quarter of 2024, promises to provide demographic insights crucial for informed policymaking and resource allocation.

Despite challenges posed by delays in Census execution which affected the implementation of **IOM's** Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), ongoing collaboration between IOM and the Government stakeholders aims to address these issues and ensure effective implementation in the future, reflecting a commitment to adaptability in pursuit of comprehensive data-driven solutions for Suriname's development challenges.



National Digital Strategy finalized.

Anchored within Agenda 2030, digital technology is a fundamental force for change, reshaping economies, Government, and civil society – thereby impacting almost every aspect of sustainable development. In order to deliver an accessible, transparent, safe and secure digitally transformative environment in Suriname, **UNDP** supported the finalization of a National Digital Strategy (NDS) 2023 – 2030, which was derived from an inclusive process over the course of 2023. The Strategy showcases transformative outcomes and was handed over to the President, marking a milestone in promoting inclusive development and a critical step towards digital transformation in Suriname.

**UNESCO's** efforts in the Caribbean focused on advancing the preparation of an updated version of the AI Caribbean Policy Roadmap. This updated document reflects the post-COVID context, new regulatory frameworks, rapid advances in AI and increased interest as more Caribbean SIDS countries explore digital transformation strategies. The Roadmap was presented during the 19th Caribbean Internet Governance Forum organized from 22 – 24 September 2023 in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago by the Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU).

## COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ANALYSIS TO ENHANCED FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS OF ITPS

The involvement of Indigenous and Tribal peoples (ITPs) is key to achieving the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals. On the one hand, these communities hold valuable knowledge and traditions that provide solutions to major challenges, including those related to sustainable natural resource management, climate resilience, and promoting food systems. On the other hand, their exclusion and marginalization threaten the central tenet of the 2030 Agenda – to leave no one behind.

Enhancing food security and livelihoods of ITPs is crucial to achieving Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. For ITP communities, who often live in remote and vulnerable areas, improved food security means not only access to sufficient and nutritious food but also the preservation of their traditional agricultural practices, which are vital for their culture and autonomy. Strengthening their livelihoods through sustainable practices contributes to their economic independence and resilience against climate change.

In 2023, through the **Leaving No One Behind Joint Programme**, jointly implemented by **UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women** and **FAO**, a foundation was laid for a shift in the regulatory and policy framework for Indigenous and Tribal communities, marked by a data-driven, collaborative and inclusive approach. **UN Women** and **FAO** engaged with 36 ITP to conduct a Comprehensive Situational Analysis and Needs Assessment, identifying challenges of sustainable livelihoods and enhanced food security among Indigenous and Tribal communities. This Analysis led to findings related to food security, the economic situation, socio-cultural issues, access to goods and services, health and wellness issues, gender-based and other forms of discrimination, and included recommendations for addressing these challenges.



1 Comprehensive Situational Analysis and Needs Assessment finalized.



36 ITP participants were engaged in Situational Analysis and Needs Assessment.

Furthermore, through the Leaving No One Behind joint programme, **FAO** supported a pilot of highland rice production in the Indigenous village of Washabo in Western Suriname. The initiative encouraged women from neighboring villages, Apoera and Section, to actively initiate highland rice cultivation as well, bolstering positive momentum, and bringing to life a peer solidarity support system and production network among Indigenous female farmers. Innovative, climate smart, environmentally friendly agricultural production practices were also introduced in the village of Donderskamp where five (5) farmers including two (2) female farmers were trained in Agroforestry and currently function as champions for agroforestry in their community.

## ENHANCING IMMUNIZATION COVERAGE, AND PROMOTING MENTAL WELL-BEING ACROSS SURINAME



Roll out of a high-level advocacy actions to improve immunization coverage.



5 solar powered safe vaccine storage established.



Review of National Immunization Program completed.

Immunization coverage is crucial for achieving Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) by preventing disease outbreaks and reducing child mortality. Immunization is one of the most cost-effective health interventions, and expanding coverage is vital for protecting populations against vaccine-preventable diseases. Meanwhile, mental well-being, essential for overall health, supports several SDGs, including Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), by enabling individuals to lead productive and fulfilling lives. In 2023, the United Nations accelerated progress on Agenda 2030 by enhancing health outcomes through prioritization of both immunization coverage and mental well-being.

In the area of immunization, **UNICEF** and the **Ministry of Health** rolled out high-level advocacy actions to address the critical need for improved immunization coverage, particularly emphasizing routine immunization schedules. **UNICEF's** assistance extended to ensuring safe vaccine storage and distribution, even in remote regions, through technical support and the procurement of essential equipment. Similarly, **PAHO-WHO** provided crucial support by evaluating the National Immunization Program and developing a comprehensive National Plan of Action (2024 – 2027) to strengthen immunization efforts, especially among marginalized communities.



1 Children's Mental Health Study concluded.



Revision of the Mental Health Policy.

In the area of mental health, **UNICEF** spearheaded a study on children's mental well-being, aiming to identify factors influencing well-being and to develop tailored interventions. **UNICEF** facilitated access to free psychological services and launched a Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) alliance program. **PAHO-WHO** supported efforts by revising mental health policies and fostering discussions for comprehensive health strategies. These collaborative initiatives signify a significant step towards improving both physical and mental health outcomes, ensuring a resilient future for Suriname's population.

## STRENGTHENING HEALTH SYSTEMS AND PREPAREDNESS



National Strategic Plan for Nursing developed.



Launch of a pilot Perinatal Health Information System.



Updated guidelines for respiratory virus response.

In collaboration with the **Ministry of Health, PAHO-WHO** made significant strides in fortifying the nation's healthcare system and readiness for future health-related challenges. Initiatives spanned various fronts, starting with the development of a National Strategic Plan for Nursing (2023 – 2028), which introduces comprehensive training programs and educational materials to elevate nursing education and leadership. Simultaneously, the successful launch of the Perinatal Health Information System pilot at crucial medical centers signifies progress in maternal and newborn care, with strengthened IT infrastructure and healthcare worker training. Moreover, efforts to enhance respiratory virus response have equipped the **Ministry of Health** and the **National Central Lab** with updated guidelines and capacity building measures. Noteworthy achievements include the **National Influenza Center's** collaboration with the CDC, underscoring advancements in global health security.



Health Promotion Strategic Plan developed.



Health Financing Process Matrix Implemented.

Furthermore, the approval of a National Health Promotion Strategic Plan (2024 – 2028) highlights a concerted effort to address social determinants of health, laying the groundwork for a dedicated Health Promotion Unit. In tandem, strides towards malaria elimination and the implementation of a National Tobacco Control Strategy demonstrate a holistic approach to public health. The implementation of the Health Financing Process Matrix and subsequent development of a Health Financing Policy Brief signifies a commitment to strengthening health financing for Universal Health Coverage.

## PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CHRONIC AND NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES



10 health staff empowered to develop clinical guidelines.



25 persons capacity strengthened for NCD M&E system data entry.



30 healthcare workers benefited from integrated health equity and social determinants workshops.

Addressing chronic and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is vital for achieving Agenda 2030 as it directly impacts Goal 3 by reducing premature mortality and improving overall health and well-being. Effective management and prevention of NCDs also contribute to economic stability and poverty reduction (Goal 1) by decreasing healthcare costs and enhancing workforce productivity. NCDs, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases, are considered leading concerns and causes of death and disability. It is crucial to tackle these diseases to enhance life quality, reduce healthcare costs, and promote healthier populations, all crucial aspects of sustainable development and prosperity.

In 2023, the **Ministry of Health**, with support from **PAHO-WHO**, spearheaded transformative initiatives yielding commendable results. Through national workshops facilitated by **PAHO-WHO**, a broad spectrum of implementers gained valuable insights into the HEARTS initiative and its pivotal role in cardiovascular disease prevention and control. Since embracing the initiative, the Ministry of Health has implemented it across numerous primary care facilities countrywide. **PAHO-WHO's** technical support to the **Ministry of Health** was instrumental in integrating cardiovascular disease prevention and control into existing healthcare services, focusing on hypertension management at the primary health care level. This support encompassed training for health staff, development of clinical guidelines, awareness-raising campaigns, and the establishment of monitoring mechanisms. Additionally, concerted efforts have been made to strengthen the NCD monitoring and evaluation system, with the implementation of HEARTS protocols and the training of data entry personnel further enhancing data-driven decision-making processes.

To address the multifaceted challenges posed by both noncommunicable and communicable diseases, **PAHO-WHO** conducted training workshops for health stakeholders and policymakers. These workshops focused on integrating a Health Equity and Social Determinants perspective into primary healthcare programs, emphasizing NCD prevention and control while addressing infectious diseases. Capacity-building initiatives for Primary Health Care teams underscored the importance of understanding the behavioral risk factors contributing to disease burden and the need for quality care delivery at the primary care level.

## CONTINUED PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV

Addressing HIV is critical for achieving the SDGs, particularly Goal 3, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being by ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030. Efforts to combat HIV also intersect with Goal 1 (No Poverty) by reducing the economic burden on affected individuals and communities, Goal 4 (Quality Education) by enabling children to stay in school, and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by ensuring equitable access to healthcare and support services for all, particularly marginalized and vulnerable populations.

In 2023, the **Ministry of Health**, **PAHO-WHO**, and **UNAIDS** continued to make progress in the fight against HIV. Technical assistance facilitated the implementation of new pediatric treatment schemes and bolstered coordination through the Country Cooperation Mechanism. The Annual HIV Symposium served as a crucial platform for knowledge exchange. **UNAIDS's** mid-term review of the National Strategic Plan (NSP) identified areas for improvement, guiding strategic adjustments. Epidemiological data generated using the UNAIDS EPP-Spectrum tool informed decision-making.

According to the most recent data reveals that 7,200 people are living with HIV in Suriname. Only 50% of these people have been diagnosed, 44% of whom are on ART and just over a third of them have a suppressed viral load. The net result has been an increase in new HIV infections and HIV-related mortality. The incidence-prevalence ratio is 6.37, well above the transition threshold of 3%. This indicates that the management of the HIV epidemic in Suriname requires significant improvement. Based on the findings of the mid-term review of the National Strategic Plan (NSP), it was recommended to revisit and rationalize the management, coordination, and implementation structure for the HIV program to ensure that it is in line with the implementation requirements of the NSP.

## EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



>7000 children benefited from parental support programs.



45 teachers' capacity strengthen to provide multi-language education.



1 Multi-Year Education Policy developed.



150 lower secondary schools benefited from educational materials.



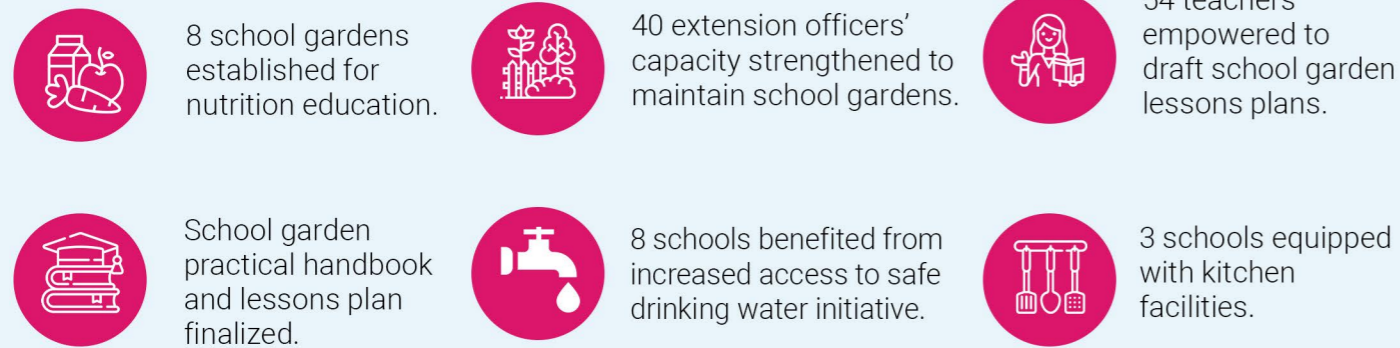
Existing National Competency framework reviewed.

**Education and Early Childhood development** lays the foundation for lifelong learning and well-being, aligning with Goal 4 (Quality Education). These foundational stages of learning are critical for cognitive development, setting the trajectory for an individual's future learning and life outcomes. Investing in early education helps to break the cycle of poverty, fosters gender equality, and prepares a skilled workforce, driving progress across all SDGs. Hence, the **Ministry of Education's** commitment to enhancing foundational learning and early childhood development is a strategic investment in the nation's future and a vital component of global efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

In 2023, the **Ministry of Education** continued to take proactive measures to address the educational challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on foundational learning and early childhood development. Leveraging outcomes from the Transforming Education Summit, the Ministry of Education spearheaded advocacy efforts leading to the endorsement of the Commitment to Action on Foundational Learning. This pivotal initiative birthed a program aimed at enhancing teachers' capacity for emergent literacy instructions, bolstered by **UNICEF's** support in creating safe and nurturing learning environments. Concurrently, concerted efforts have been directed towards improving access to quality early stimulation and learning, marked by capacity-building endeavors for preschool and day-care staff. **UNICEF's** initiatives have successfully engaged an estimated 7,000 children aged 2.5 to 4 years through parental support programs, leveraging both face-to-face sessions and online platforms.

Furthermore, **UNICEF's** collaboration facilitated the development of a new multi-year education policy through stakeholder consultations, ensuring a holistic approach to educational reform. Transition strategies from basic education to lower secondary have also been prioritized, evident in the successful completion of the Basis level course in French by 45 teachers from 10 schools along the Marowijne border with French Guyana. Notably, extra-curricular programs and skills development initiatives in subjects such as language, math, and life skills education have been implemented, benefiting students across various districts. **UNICEF's** provision of readers and educational materials has further augmented content delivery uniformity across 150 lower secondary schools, supported by capacity-building workshops for school leaders and teachers. Additionally, **UNESCO's** contributions have enriched teacher professional development and technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs, while also reviewing national competency frameworks related to ICT and digital competencies of teachers. Through collaborative efforts, Suriname's education landscape is undergoing transformative enhancements, ensuring equitable access to quality education for all.

## ADVANCING SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS AND NUTRITION GUIDELINES



Initiatives focusing on the advancement of school feeding programs and nutrition contribute directly to Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). These programs ensure that children have access to nutritious meals, which is fundamental for their physical and cognitive development, directly impacting their ability to learn and thrive in school (Goal 4). Furthermore, by establishing strong nutrition guidelines, these initiatives contribute to the creation of healthier populations and the reduction of health disparities, supporting the broader aim of the Sustainable Development Goals to foster well-being.

In 2023, the Government advanced the school feeding and nutrition programs by integrating small farmers into the programs. In collaboration with **FAO**, this initiative involved contracting farmers as part of a sub-project to support the establishment of the feeding program whereby school gardens were set up in eight (8) schools. These gardens served as educational tools for food and nutrition education, and they also demonstrated climate-resilient agricultural practices and technologies. A total of forty (40) Surinamese extension officers underwent a training, focused on the installation and maintenance of school gardens, which was led by the **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**.

In addition, fifty-four (54) teachers from participating schools received training on draft school garden lesson plans. Following an evaluation workshop after the test phase, both the practical handbook and the school garden lesson plans were finalized. To further enhance the school environment, taps were installed in eight schools (8) to ensure access to safe drinking water. Additionally, three (3) schools were equipped with kitchen facilities and sinks. To promote the importance of drinking water and maintaining clean water sinks, educational posters and leaflets were developed and student awareness sessions were conducted to reinforce the message.

**WFP** also played a key role in fostering Suriname's participation in global efforts to combat childhood hunger. In September 2023, Suriname joined the School Meals Coalition (SMC), which is a global initiative aimed at ensuring that every child has access to nutritious meals in school by 2030. This coalition brings together governments, international organizations, and private sector partners to expand and improve school meal programs worldwide. Suriname's commitment was further solidified by the **Minister of Education's** presence at the first global SMC Summit, demonstrating the country's leadership and focus on this crucial issue.

## ADVANCING SOCIAL PROTECTION, CHILD WELFARE, AND DISABILITY INCLUSION



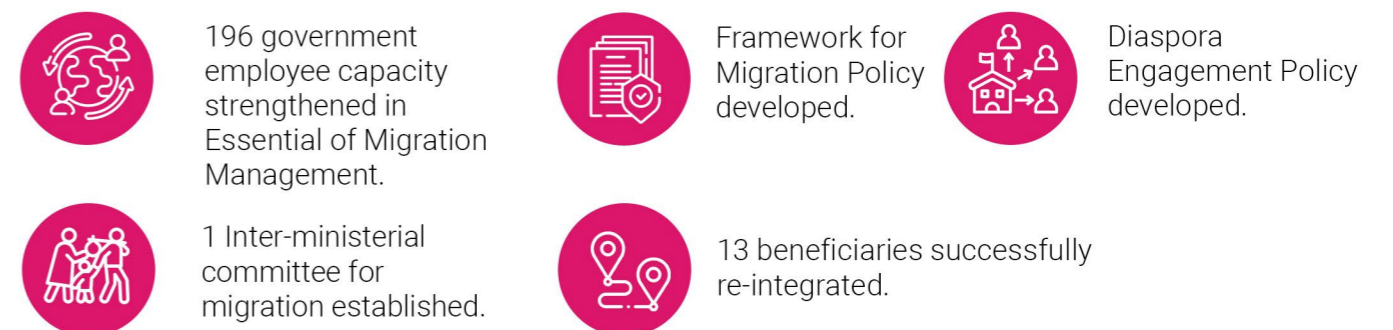
Advancing social protection, child welfare, and disability inclusion is crucial as it embodies the commitment to leave no one behind. This advancement ensures that all individuals, especially the most vulnerable receive the support necessary to live dignified lives. It aligns with multiple SDGs such as Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 4 (Quality Education), Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities). By fostering inclusive societies that provide equal opportunities and protect rights, these efforts contribute to building resilient communities where every person can participate fully and benefit from sustainable development.

In 2023, significant steps were undertaken to strengthen Suriname's social protection systems and empower vulnerable groups. **ILO** has been instrumental in guiding the Government towards a comprehensive reform of its social protection system. Through ongoing technical guidance and collaboration under the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP), Suriname aims to develop a universal, adequate, and responsive social protection system aligned with international standards. Participatory workshops and bilateral meetings facilitated by **ILO** have engaged policymakers and stakeholders, including ministries and social partners, to address the needs of vulnerable populations, including children, women, youth, people with disabilities, and workers in the informal economy.

Meanwhile, **UNICEF** focused on analyzing budget allocations and generating evidence to inform social policy action, particularly regarding child welfare. Strategic analyses of budgetary trends and assessments of local district offices provided crucial insights for directing **UNICEF's** programmes towards areas with the greatest need.

Furthermore, **UNDP** empowered eight (8) micro-entrepreneurs who are facing unique disability challenges with targeted support for business development. **UNDP** also contributed towards a strategic investment empowering the **Kennedy Foundation**, dedicated to the education of hearing-impaired students. Essential support was also extended for the construction of a greenhouse, aiming to augment the Foundation's capabilities and contribute to a sustainable environment for the school community.

## ENHANCED CAPACITY FOR MIGRATION MANAGEMENT



Enhanced government capacity for migration management is vital to the achievement of the SDGs because it strengthens the ability to deal with the complexities of migration. By improving legal frameworks, policies, and institutional mechanisms, governments can ensure that migration contributes to economic growth, social inclusion, and cultural enrichment, aligning with Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong institutions). Enhancing capacity for migration management is essential for protecting the rights of migrants, facilitating their integration, and enabling them to contribute fully to both their home and host societies, thereby advancing the broader agenda of sustainable development.

In 2023, the Surinamese Government's capacity in migration management was further strengthened with support from **IOM**. A comprehensive training program was implemented across three (3) distinct training sessions, whereby a total of 169 government employees were equipped with essential knowledge and skills. Notably, 115 female and 54 male participants benefited from these sessions. The training covered a spectrum of critical topics, including migration management, conversations on migration, xenophobia, gender-based violence, and the inclusion of migrants.

Additional noteworthy achievements included the development of a Framework for Migration Policy in tandem with the Government of Suriname and the finalization of a Diaspora Engagement Policy. Additionally, an Inter-Ministerial Committee for Migration was established, underscoring the commitment to coordinated governance in this domain. IOM also facilitated two Essentials of Migration Management (EMM) training courses for government personnel, further enhancing their preparedness and expertise.

In a concerted effort to combat trafficking and facilitate the (re)integration of vulnerable populations, **IOM** spearheaded successful support initiatives. Working in conjunction with a network of partners, including social workers, the **Ministry of Justice and Police**, **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, and the **Ministry of Social Affairs**, **IOM** facilitated the (re)integration of 13 beneficiaries and provided crucial assistance to fourteen (14) victims of trafficking.

**UNDP** also supported the **Ministry of Justice and Police** by enhancing capacity in handling migration and human trafficking cases. Through this collaboration **UNDP** outlined a series of interventions encompassing technical, financial, and capacity-building support. These initiatives aimed to bolster data analytics, digitalization efforts, and inter-institutional coordination.

## SUPPORT TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

In supporting refugees and asylum seekers, the Government of Suriname, with support from **UNHCR** has made significant advancements to provide international protection to refugees and asylum-seekers through various initiatives. In 2023, **UNHCR** concluded a one-week registration and protection monitoring mission in Paramaribo and Nickerie. This mission served as a crucial step towards understanding and addressing the needs of individuals seeking asylum. Furthermore, dialogue was initiated with key Ministries to discuss Suriname's creation of a national asylum system, indicating its proactive approach to refugee protection. Continuous support from international partners ensures that Suriname strengthens its protection space and asylum capacity in line with its obligations under the 1951 Convention. As a result of **UNHCR**'s efforts, there is a better understanding of the situation of persons with international protection needs in Suriname, paving the way for more effective support and protection in the future.



# PRIORITY AREA 3

## Resilience to Climate Change and Sustainable Natural Resource Management



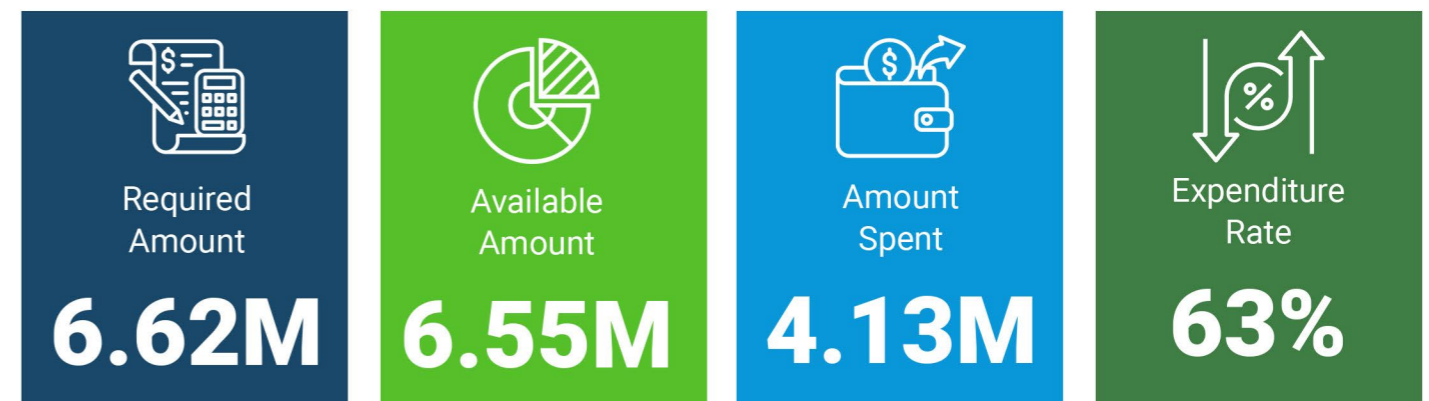
STRENGTHENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN SURINAME IS ESSENTIAL FOR MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF AGENDA 2030. THROUGH PRIORITY AREA 3, THE UN WORKED TO BOLSTER DISASTER RESPONSE, FOOD SECURITY, AND CLIMATE CHANGE AWARENESS, WITH TARGETED TRAINING PROGRAMS. COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS INCLUDED THE IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SECURITY PRACTICES, RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CLIMATE SENSITIVE HYDROGEOLOGICAL MODEL. THE PUBLICATION OF SURINAME'S FIRST CLIMATE STATISTICS REPORT DEMONSTRATED THE COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO EVIDENCE-BASED CLIMATE ACTION AND TRANSPARENCY, REINFORCING AGENDA 2030'S PRINCIPLES OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND PROGRESS TRACKING. IN THE ARTISANAL AND SMALL-SCALE GOLD MINING (ASGM) SECTOR, INITIATIVES PROMOTING MERCURY-FREE TECHNOLOGIES AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES, FURTHERED THE GOALS OF AGENDA 2030.



### Partners

Ministry of Natural Resources  
 Ministry of Spatial Planning & Environment  
 National Institute for Environment & Development (NIMOS)  
 World Wildlife Fund (WWF)  
 Stichting Bosbeheer en Bostoezicht (SBB)  
 Anton de Kom University of Suriname (AdekUS)

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# STRENGTHENING CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN SURINAME

 28 (14 M & 14 F) participants equipped with DRM skills.	 \$20M concept note developed for a resilience rice sector.	 Improved Water Security in Remote Areas.
 Climate Sensitive Hydrogeological Model developed.	 Automatic weather and water data stations established.	 District Disaster Management and Adaptation Plans revised.
 First Climate Statistic Report published.	 National Climate Agreement and action plan drafted	 Reporting to UNFCCC concluded

Strengthening climate resilience and disaster preparedness in Suriname is pivotal to achieving Goal 13 (Climate Action), as it directly addresses the need to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. This focus is essential for safeguarding Suriname’s vulnerable populations, preserving biodiversity, and ensuring the sustainability of its economic development. Enhancing resilience and preparedness also intersects with other SDGs, such as Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), by securing food systems against environmental shocks; Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), by protecting water resources; Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), by making cities more resilient to disasters; and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), by fostering international cooperation in climate action efforts. Fortifying Suriname’s climate resilience is not only a matter of environmental urgency but also a comprehensive strategy to advance multiple interlinked SDGs.

In 2023, the UN continued to partner with the Government to further advance efforts in building resilient communities and developing proactive management strategies, to lessen the impact of climate change on people and ecosystems. **FAO** empowered stakeholders with essential skills to combat climate challenges through targeted training programs on Disaster Risk Management (DRM). Collaborating closely with the **Ministry of Agriculture, FAO** conducted a thorough assessment of climate change’s impact on agriculture which provides critical data for informed decision-making and strategic planning. This formed the groundwork for a proposal seeking Green Climate Fund support to bolster the rice sector’s resilience.

In a strategic move to address water security challenges, the Government partnered with **UNDP** and the **EU** on a project related to Integrated Water Resources Management. The September 2023 symposium marked the project’s culmination and highlighted a successful model for climate-resilient water management through international collaboration. **UNDP**’s multifaceted approach, goes beyond the symposium, providing remote communities with improved water management practices. This includes the installation of rainwater harvesting tanks, providing communities with reliable water sources, and the expansion of hydrological monitoring instruments. The development of a Climate Sensitive Hydrogeological Model for the Suriname River Basin enhances decision-making capabilities. **UNDP** collaborated with the **Caribbean Institute for Hydrology and Meteorology** to offer training programs, augmenting expertise in climate forecasting – an essential tool for proactive water management strategies. The establishment of automatic weather and water data collection stations, coupled with the development of a Climate Sensitive Hydrogeological Model, furnishes crucial information for informed decision-making at various levels. This data directly informs the update of pivotal documents such as the National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Determined Contribution, both at national and sub-national levels. Revised District Disaster Management Plans and locally developed Disaster and Adaptation Plans were also informed by this data.

Suriname celebrated a significant milestone in 2023 with the publication of its First Climate Statistics Report, a collaborative endeavor led by the **General Bureau of Statistics**, the **United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD)** and **UNDP**. This Report enhances the country’s capacity for evidence-based reporting on climate change indicators, aligning with its commitment to monitoring progress towards the SDGs. Moreover, regular reporting to the UNFCCC, including the 3rd National Communications and the 1st Biennial Update Report, underscores Suriname’s transparency and dedication to tackling climate change.

**UNEP** actively supported Suriname’s national leadership in this arena, with the **Ministry of Spatial Planning & Environment**, spearheading the drafting of the National Climate Agreement and its action plan. **UNEP** further bolstered Suriname’s efforts in addressing climate issues by supporting the operations of the National Ozone Office, ensuring its capacity to phasing of harmful hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and contributing to global efforts to combat ozone depletion. **UNEP** also provided capacity support to Suriname for its transparency reporting commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Furthermore, **UNESCO** supported the recent inscription of the Jodensavanne Archaeological Site on the World Heritage List to protect cultural heritage sites. This contributes directly to the safeguarding of cultural properties, ensuring their resilience and recovery in the face of disasters.

In addition, **WFP** supported **CDEMA** and the Government in the establishment of a Logistical Hub and Center of Excellence for emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation. This Hub will act as a prepositioning and response center and a trans-shipment point for relief items, whereby trained staff and equipment will be rapidly deployed for emergency operations. As a CDEMA participant, Suriname will receive financial resources and benefit from the rollout of the CDEMA Logistics Systems (CLS), enhancing its logistics management and operations.

## NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

 Mining and Training Extension Centers (MTEC) established.	 Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) finalized.	 Key Financial, Economic, Environmental, Health and Social Indicators identified.
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Effective natural resources management is essential for achieving the SDGs, as it supports Goal 15 by ensuring the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and preventing biodiversity loss. Additionally, it underpins Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and Goal 13 (Climate Action) by promoting water conservation, reducing environmental degradation, and mitigating the impacts of climate change. In the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector, responsible practices and capacity building for mercury-free technologies directly contribute to Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by reducing hazardous exposures. Moreover, these practices support Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by fostering sustainable livelihoods and Goal 13 (Climate Action) by minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2023, Suriname made significant progress in the ASGM sector through capacity building and adoption of environmentally friendly, mercury-free technologies aiming to reduce the negative impact of mining on biodiversity, forests, water, and the health of surrounding communities and miners. A collaborative effort between the **National Institute for Environment and Development (NIMOS)** and the **Alliance for Responsible Mining (ARM)** marked a crucial step in this direction and resulted in the establishment and operation of **Mining and Training Extension Centers (MTEC)** and demonstration sites dedicated to ASGM in the Brokopondo district. In 2024, these sites will serve as a practical training ground, showcasing and implementing responsible mining technologies.

Furthermore, a comprehensive roadmap for the ASGM sector’s transition towards sustainability has been established through the finalized Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) report. This analysis envisions a shift from the current “business as usual” approach to a model built upon Sustainable Ecosystem Management (SEM). The TSA outlines key actions and identifies crucial monitoring indicators across various aspects – financial, economic, environmental, health, and social. These indicators will track progress as the sector moves away from its current practices and towards a more sustainable future. The geographical focus of



this initiative lies within the Greenstone Belt Area, particularly in the Brokopondo, Marowijne, and Sipaliwini districts – regions known for their ASGM activities. This initiative, combined with the ongoing exploration of Nature-Based Solutions in the Brokopondo district, forms part of a broader, comprehensive strategy. Together, the TSA, the draft National Action Plan, and the Nature-Based Solutions project form a roadmap for addressing the ASGM sector's most pressing challenges: environmental pollution, threats to human health, and deforestation. Suriname's commitment to responsible mining practices demonstrates a proactive approach towards a sustainable future for the environment and for Suriname's citizens.

## COORDINATED EFFORTS ON W.A.S.H. (WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE)



> 3,000 people in remote Indigenous and Tribal communities gained access to W.A.S.H. services.



Improved W.A.S.H. coordination between the Ministry of Natural Resources and UN Agencies.



> 1,000 children benefited from a quick assessment and technical support to address concern about cyanide pollution.



> 200 children affected by flooding benefited from educational supplies, and emergency relief packages.

W.A.S.H. (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) is essential to Goal 6 as it ensures universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene facilities, thereby reducing waterborne diseases and improving overall health and well-being. W.A.S.H. is also deeply interconnected with various SDGs beyond Goal 6. For instance, ensuring clean water and sanitation directly impacts Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by reducing disease and promoting health. It also supports Goal 4 (Quality Education) by enabling students, especially girls, to attend school regularly and learn in a healthy environment. Furthermore, W.A.S.H. contributes to Goal 5 (Gender Equality) by alleviating the burden on women and girls who often collect water, and to Goal 13 (Climate Action) by promoting water conservation and resilience against climate impacts. Thus, W.A.S.H. is a foundational element that advances multiple SDGs simultaneously.

In 2023, in response to environmental challenges and urgent needs for clean water, the **Ministry of Natural Resources** collaborated extensively with the UN system to improve Suriname's W.A.S.H. sector, with a focus on Indigenous and Tribal villages across Suriname. These efforts were key to addressing water scarcity and ensuring equitable access to safe water and hygiene services, especially in rural areas. Furthermore, through the Plastic Footprint Network, over 3,000 individuals in remote Indigenous and Tribal communities gained access to vital W.A.S.H. services. W.A.S.H. coordination was significantly enhanced through collaborative efforts with UN agencies like **UNDP, FAO, UNFPA, and UN Women** whereby regular meetings took place ensure progress tracking and prioritization of interventions for communities urgently needing support.

W.A.S.H. efforts played a critical role during the 2023 floods in Suriname. **UNICEF** swiftly addressed immediate needs, partnering with the **Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands** and Medical Mission. Educational supplies were distributed to 200 children from affected schools, while emergency relief packages and protective equipment were provided to rural health-care workers and clinics. Additionally, UNDP's proactive approach in supplying water tanks to communities during this disaster demonstrates the UN's commitment to safeguarding public health and the environment. Furthermore, concerns over cyanide pollution in the Brokopondo District, prompted UN agencies like UNICEF to conduct quick assessments and provide technical support, benefiting approximately 1,000 affected children.



# PRIORITY AREA 4

PEACE, SAFETY, JUSTICE, AND RULE OF LAW



THROUGH PRIORITY AREA 4, SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENTS WERE MADE TO ENHANCE HUMAN RIGHTS, CHILD PROTECTION, ELECTORAL CONDUCT, AND GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES. THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE PROGRESSED, ALONGSIDE A REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE. IN THE AREA OF CHILD PROTECTION, EFFORTS WERE MADE IN TRAINING SOCIAL WORKERS AND EDUCATORS, RATIFYING CHILD PROTECTION CONVENTIONS, AND IMPLEMENTING YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS. ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS BENEFITED FROM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE TRANSPARENT PROCESSES, WHILE GENDER EQUALITY INITIATIVES FOCUSED ON IMPROVING PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING.



# WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY



## PARTNERS

- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Labour, Employment and Youth Affairs
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing
- Ministry of Justice & Police
- Cabinet of the President
- Office of the First Lady
- National Assembly (Parliament)
- Stichting Lobi Health Center

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## CAPACITY STRENGTHENING TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE



Legislative process progressed to establish National Human Rights Institute.



National Legal Framework reviewed to enhanced access to justice.

Human rights are integral to the Sustainable Development Goals as they provide a foundational framework for achieving equitable and inclusive development. By promoting human rights, the SDGs ensure that no one is left behind and that development efforts benefit all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances. This alignment reinforces the idea that sustainable development and human rights are mutually reinforcing and inseparable.

In 2023, Suriname worked diligently on the establishment of the National Human Rights Institute (NHRI) to bolster human rights and foster a culture of inclusivity. **UNDP** in collaboration with the **Ministry of Justice and Police**, was at the forefront of this endeavor, orchestrating awareness and sensitization sessions to engage various stakeholders in this transformative process. The Government made substantial progress through comprehensive capacity building initiatives led by **UNDP**. The legislative process has progressed to establish the National Human Rights Institute (NHRI), aligning with the Paris Principles, a crucial step towards fortifying the national human rights machinery. This landmark development signifies a concerted effort to engender a robust and sustainable system that engages both governmental and non-governmental entities in advancing the human rights agenda. Emphasizing this national commitment, **UNDP** prioritized sensitization efforts targeting civil society actors, facilitating knowledge exchange on the NHRI's core functions and legislative framework. The establishment of the NHRI promises improved identification and investigation of human rights violations, essential for safeguarding democratic electoral processes. **UNDP's** endeavors led to the review of the National Legal Framework concerning legal aid and service provision, particularly crucial for enhancing access to justice for marginalized groups such as Indigenous and Tribal communities and migrants. **UNDP's** engagement with civil society and key stakeholders, including media, CSOs, and marginalized communities, fostered dialogue on NHRI's operationalization, garnering invaluable insights and feedback. The establishment of Suriname's NHRI is not just a legal process; it is a transformative journey towards a just society that values and protects the rights of all its citizens.

## CHILD PROTECTION AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



Ratification of child protection conventions under review by the National Parliament.



25 social workers' capacity enhanced in safeguarding vulnerable children.



> 200 care coordinators, teachers, school administrators' capacity enhanced to combat forms of VAC and GBV.

Child protection and youth empowerment are essential to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16, which aims to end all forms of violence against children. In 2023, the Government made significant advancement in child protection and youth empowerment initiatives, aligning closely with the fifth and sixth combined Convention on the Rights of the Child's periodic reports. This underscores both the UN and Government's dedication to strengthened legislation, capacity, and protection systems, aiming to shield the most vulnerable from violence, exploitation, and abuse. In collaboration with **UNICEF**, strides were

made towards ratifying crucial child protection conventions, currently under review by Parliament. Concurrently, partnerships with institutions such as **ADEK University** facilitated the training of 25 social workers in child protection, enhancing the country's capacity in safeguarding vulnerable children. Support extended to the **Ministry of Education** bolstered efforts to combat various forms of violence against children (VAC) and gender-based violence (GBV) through comprehensive training programs benefitting over 200 care coordinators, teachers, and school administrators.



50% of all primary schools empowered to provide mental health support.



80 para-social workers equipped with tools to identify and respond to VAC and GBV cases.



Juvenile justice reform guidelines were established.



7 localities in 5 districts benefited from youth empowerment programs.

Progress was also made in enhancing child well-being across Suriname. Pedagogical and didactic skills enhancement initiatives were deployed in over half of all primary schools, empowering educators to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to students in need. At the grassroots level, around 80 para-social workers were equipped with tools for early identification and response to VAC and GBV cases, furthering preventive measures. **UNICEF's** commitment to fostering positive parenting practices manifested in awareness sessions aimed at nurturing strong parent-child relationships anchored in open communication and mutual respect. Concurrently, efforts to reform juvenile justice systems led to the development of guidelines for alternative measures for children in conflict with the law, promoting their reintegration into society. Through community engagement initiatives in seven (7) localities and youth empowerment programs in five (5) districts, **UNICEF** worked alongside governmental and civil society partners to challenge harmful social norms and behaviors.



1 Mapping exercise for children in residential care concluded.

During 2023, mapping exercises helped shed light on the placement of children in residential care, informing future advocacy and capacity-building endeavors. While legislative strides towards establishing an Ombudsperson for children are underway, **UNICEF** continues its unwavering advocacy and support to ensure the approval and implementation of this vital safeguard. Through its multifaceted approach, **UNICEF** remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting children and empowering youth in Suriname, laying the groundwork for a safer and more inclusive future.

## ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY ON ELECTORAL CONDUCT



Ministry of Home Affairs and Electoral Institutions' capacity enhanced for transparent and inclusive electoral processes.



Ministry of Home Affairs and Electoral Institutions benefited from technical assistance for the revision of the National Assembly Regulations of Order.

Enhancing institutional capacity on electoral conduct is fundamental for effective electoral systems, governance, and peacebuilding. Strengthening electoral management bodies is crucial for the integrity of elections, which in turn is essential for advancing Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). In anticipation of the forthcoming 2025 elections, the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and electoral institutions underwent capacity building initiatives aimed at ensuring transparent and inclusive electoral processes, thereby bolstering Government accountability and representation. **UNDP** played a pivotal role in this

endeavor through multifaceted interventions. Firstly, technical assistance from UNDP facilitated the revision of the **National Assembly's** Regulations of Order, aligning them with constitutional provisions and international best practices. This enhancement promises to fortify the legislative body's efficacy in fulfilling its mandates.



2 Electoral Management Body members capacity enhanced for legal accountability, and digital platforms for elections.

Additionally, fostering regional collaboration, two Electoral Management Body members participated in a specialized meeting focusing on legal accountability and leveraging digital platforms in elections. This exposure to international standards is poised to enrich Suriname's electoral practices. Furthermore, UNDP spearheaded stakeholder engagement sessions, acquainting relevant parties with new election preparation protocols stemming from recently enacted electoral legislation (October 2023). Such efforts ensure transparency and facilitate a seamless transition to the updated electoral framework. Through this comprehensive approach, UNDP's initiatives contribute to fortifying Suriname's electoral system, paving the way for enhanced efficiency, accountability, and representation in the democratic process.

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY



The National Assembly and Ministry of Home Affairs benefited from technical support to promote women's inclusion in policy making.

The Sustainable Development Goals prioritize protecting women and children, preventing gender-based violence (GBV), and achieving gender equality (Goal 5) as essential for global equity and sustainability. Empowering women and girls unlocks their potential, and can help break cycles of poverty and violence. Gender-based violence (GBV) not only violates human rights but traps communities, hindering overall progress. Effective prevention and protection measures are crucial. By dismantling these barriers and ensuring women's equal participation in society, countries can build safer, more inclusive communities, propelling progress across all SDGs and fostering a just and equitable world.

In 2023, concerted efforts led to advancements in gender equality and women's empowerment in Suriname. Through collaborative endeavors with the **National Gender Bureau** and **Ministry of Justice & Police**, progress was made in women empowerment through STEM skills development initiatives tailored for women from vulnerable backgrounds. Furthermore, a concerted push was made to elevate female participation in decision-making processes. Technical support extended to the **National Assembly (Parliament)** and **Ministry of Home Affairs** aimed to promote women's inclusion in policymaking and to ensure their active engagement in electoral processes. Notably, an assessment of the electoral landscape identified women as pivotal actors, prompting the proposal of gender-specific interventions for the upcoming elections.



284 children benefited from life skills training to build resilience against VAC and GBV

UNDP's support for women's groups facilitated livelihood enhancements and targeted service delivery in rural areas, addressing critical needs at the grassroots level. The Situational Analysis and Needs Assessment, which was conducted through the Leaving No One Behind programme, shed light on the challenges faced by Indigenous and Tribal communities in area of gender equality. UNICEF established platforms in seven (7) communities to challenge social and gender norms through impactful awareness campaigns. Additionally, efforts to safeguard children were bolstered, with 284 children benefiting from life skills training aimed at fortifying resilience against VAC and GBV. Through multifaceted collaborations and targeted interventions, tangible progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment was achieved, laying the foundation for a more inclusive and equitable society.







# COMMUNICATION AS ONE UN



## UN DAY SDG WALKATHON

On United Nations Day, the UNCT in Suriname jointly hosted an SDG Walkathon which attracted more than 300 participants representing UN agencies, Government partners, NGOs, Diplomatic Corps and youth. The Walkathon was an opportunity for UN agencies to showcase their vital work in Suriname, offering participants a chance to learn about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the ongoing efforts to achieve them. Along the 5km path of the Walkathon, several attractions were waiting for participants including games, quizzes and photo opportunities. The impressive turnout demonstrates a local interest in sustainability and an understanding of the Global Goals as well as their significance for Suriname's future.





## WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

In 2023, UNICEF organized a dialogue with young people in collaboration with Parliament to commemorate World Children's Day. This initiative was attended by several Parliamentarians including the Chair of Parliament with the main goal of raising awareness on critical issues affecting children's wellbeing, as well as to increase youth participation in policy dialogues and create platforms for youth voices.





# COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

2023 marked the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), marking a key moment to rekindle the hope of human rights and to commemorate one of the world's most ground-breaking international commitments. On December 11, 2023, the United Nations in Suriname hosted a candlelit concert to mark the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the iconic Corner House in Paramaribo. Co-organized with the **Ministry of Justice and Police**, the event gathered high-level Government officials, including the **Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation**, H.E. Albert Ramdin, members of the Diplomatic Corps, youth representatives, and human rights advocates. The evening featured various local artists and their creative expressions, including a poetic rendition of the Universal Declaration in Sranan Tongo, musical performances, as well as a sign language story, all of which illustrated the enduring values and principles of the Declaration.



**"The Universal Declaration shows the way to common values and approaches that can help resolve tensions and create the security and stability our world craves."**

-UN Secretary-General António Guterres



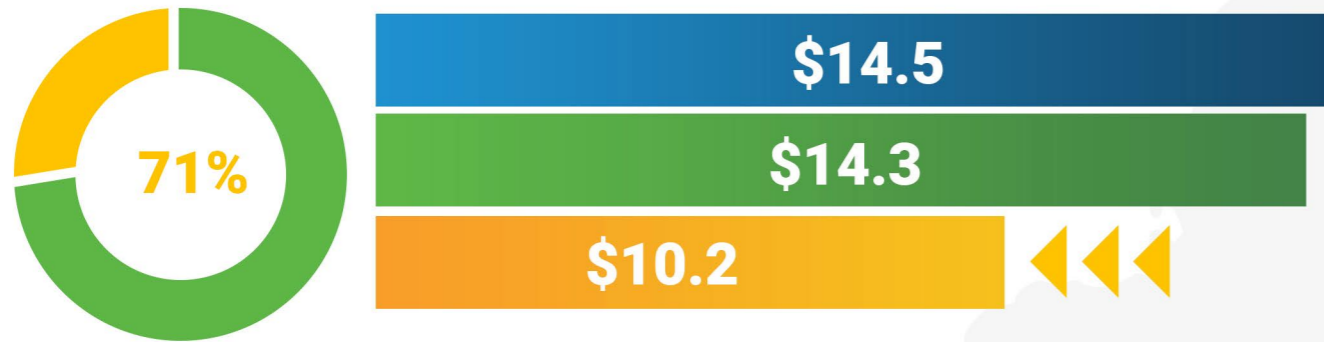
**FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL**





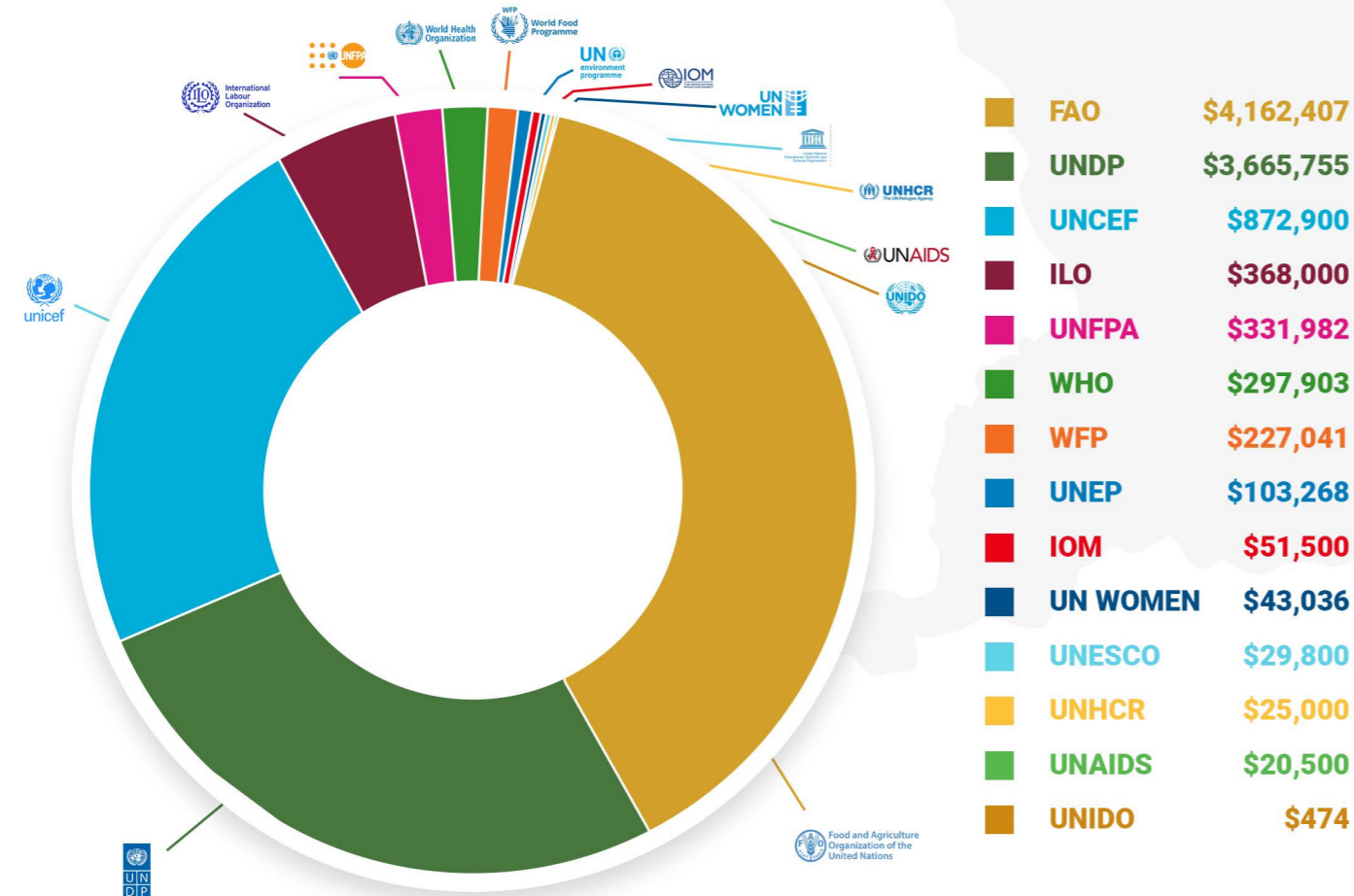
## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2023

In 2023, the second year of implementing the MSDCF 2022 – 2026 in Suriname, the UN's required budget was **\$14,542,518**. Total expenditure for 2023 was **\$10,199,566**, reflecting a delivery rate of **71%** across the four priority areas. The remaining available resources are rolled over to the 2024 Country Implementation Plan

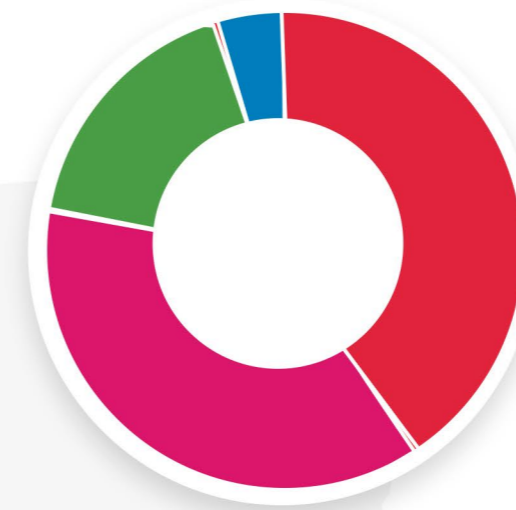


REQUIRED RESOURCES AVAILABLE RESOURCES EXPENDITURES

**2023 Total Expenditure \$10,199,566<sup>USD</sup>**

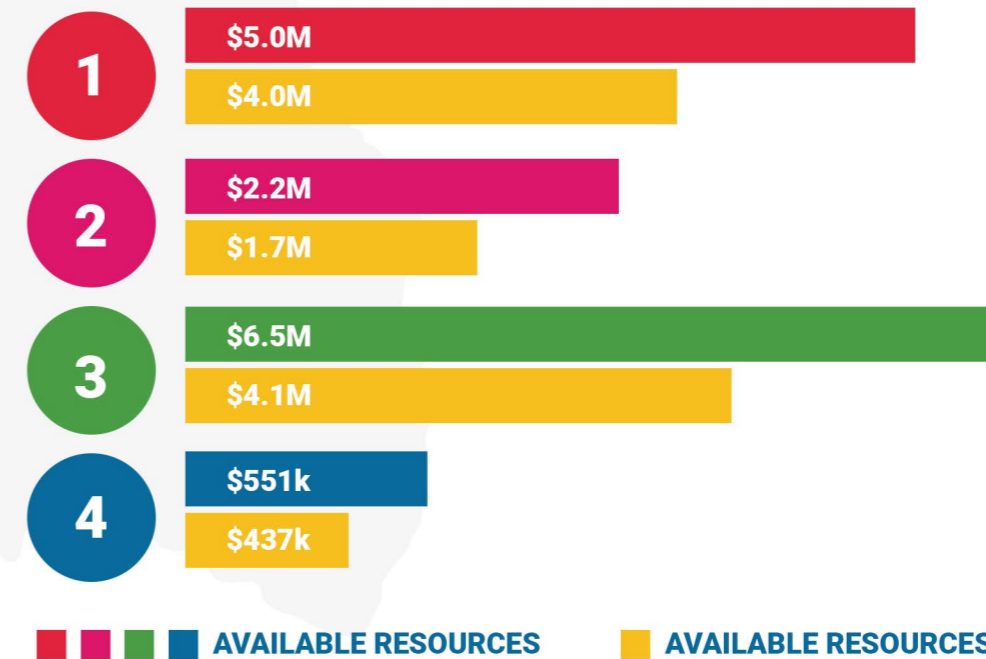


### 2023 TOTAL EXPENDITURE BY PRIORITY AREA

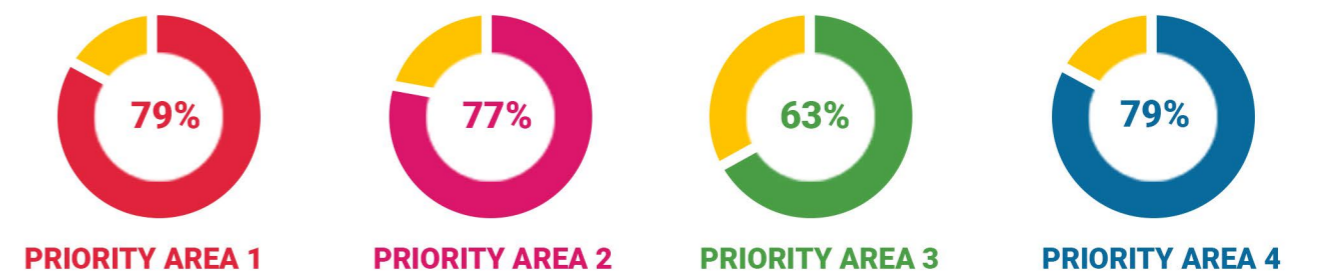


**PRIORITY AREA 1 \$4.0M**  
**PRIORITY AREA 2 \$1.7M**  
**PRIORITY AREA 3 \$4.1M**  
**PRIORITY AREA 4 \$437K**

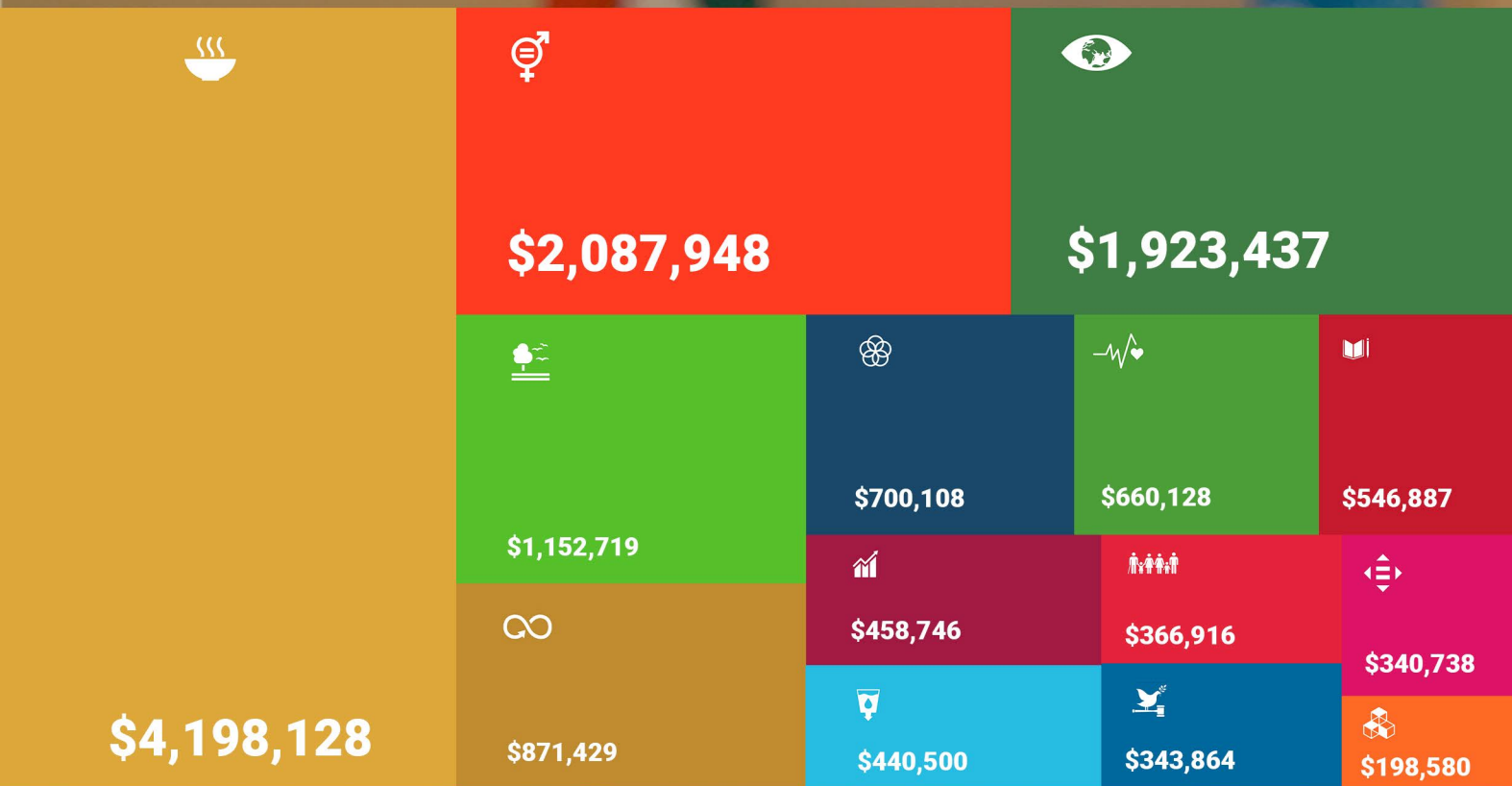
### PRIORITY AREA OVERVIEW



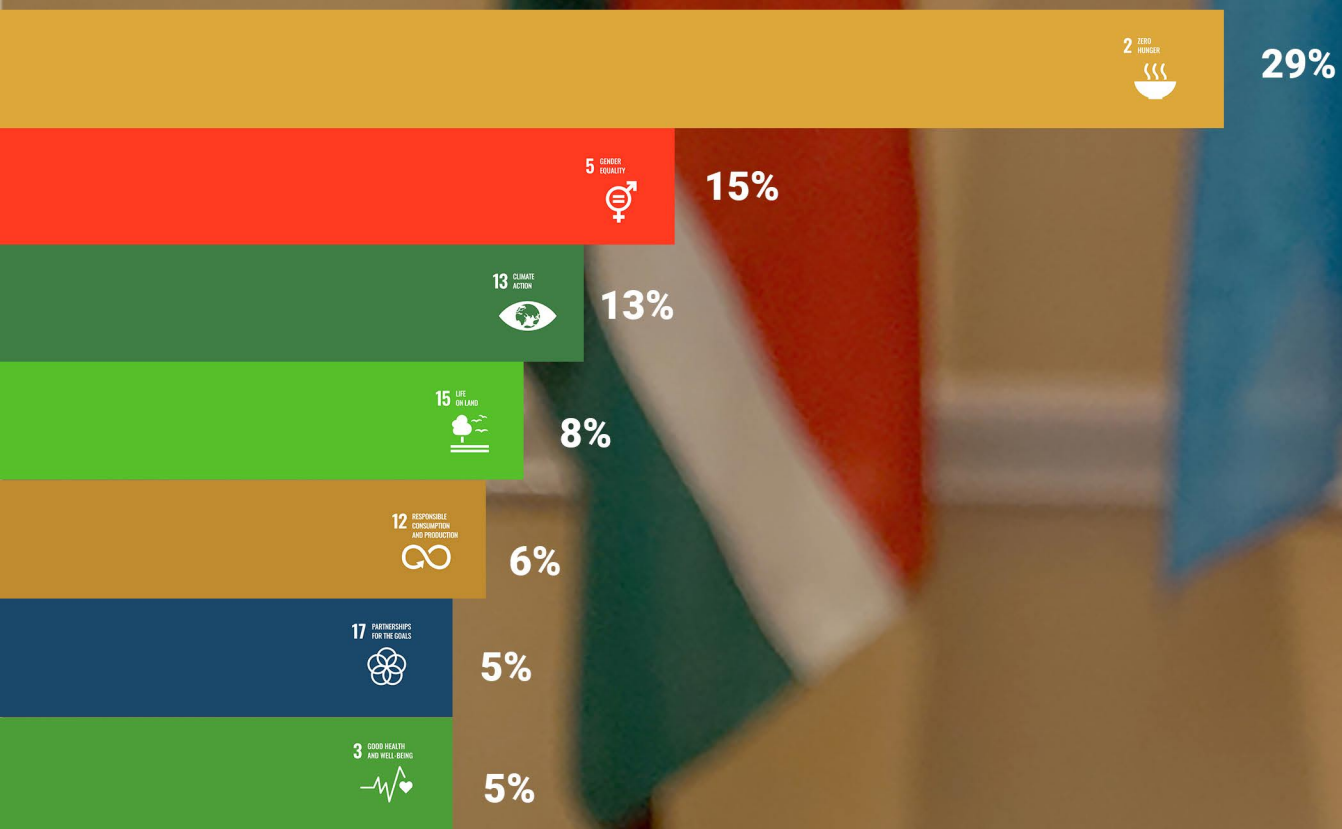
### 2023 DELIVERY RATE: 71%



# CONTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO THE SDGs



## TOP 7 SDGS GOALS TOWARDS WHICH FUNDS WERE ALLOCATED





## ACRONYMS ▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶

<b>ACT</b>	Amazon Conservation Team	<b>KAMPOS</b>	Organization for the six Maroon Tribes (Kwinti, Aluku, Matawai, Paamaka, Okanasi and Saamaka)
<b>AdeKUS</b>	Anton De Kom Universiteit Suriname	<b>LNOB</b>	Leaving No One Behind
<b>AFPs</b>	Agencies, Funds and Programmes	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>ARM</b>	Alliance for Responsible Mining	<b>MSDCF</b>	Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>ASGM</b>	Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining	<b>MTEC</b>	Mining and Training Extension Centers
<b>ASTA</b>	Agri-food Systems Transformation Accelerator programme	<b>NCA</b>	National Climate Agreement
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community and Common Market	<b>NCCR</b>	Nationaal Coördinatie Centrum voor Rampenbeheersing – National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management
<b>CARIPI</b>	CARIFORUM Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation Project	<b>NCD</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases
<b>CDA</b>	Contextual Development Analysis	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>CDEMA</b>	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency	<b>NID</b>	Non-Infectious Diseases
<b>CIP</b>	Country Implementation Plan	<b>NIMOS</b>	Nationaal Instituut voor Milieu en Ontwikkeling in Suriname – National Institute for Environment and Development
<b>COVAB</b>	Centrale Opleiding voor Verpleegkundigen en beoefenaren van Aanverwante Beroepen – Central Training for Nurses and Practitioners of Related Professions	<b>NTFP</b>	Non-Timber Forest Products
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child	<b>OKB</b>	Onafhankelijk Kiesbureau – Independent Electoral Bureau
<b>DPPA</b>	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team
<b>EFF</b>	Extended Fund Facility	<b>PAHO-WHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization – World Health Organization
<b>EMSAGS</b>	Environmental Management of Suriname Artisanal Goldmining Sector Project	<b>PMT</b>	Programme Management Team
<b>EnGenDER</b>	Enabling a Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience	<b>PRM</b>	Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
<b>EPHF</b>	Essential Public Health Functions	<b>PWD</b>	Persons with Disabilities
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>RGD</b>	Regionale Gezondheidsdienst – Regional Health Service
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility	<b>SAMAP</b>	Suriname Agriculture Market Access Program
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence	<b>SBB</b>	Stichting Bosbeheer en Bostoezicht – Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control
<b>GCCA+</b>	Global Climate Change Alliance	<b>SMT</b>	Security Management Team
<b>HFLD</b>	High Forest Low Deforestation	<b>SRH</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank	<b>UNAIDS</b>	United Nations Programme for HIV/AIDS
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization	<b>UN RCO</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund	<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>UNCG</b>	UN Communications Group
<b>IsDB</b>	Islamic Development Bank	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>ITP</b>	Indigenous and Tribal Peoples		
<b>JNSC</b>	Joint National Steering Committee		
<b>JP</b>	Joint Programme		

<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review
<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>UWI</b>	University of the West Indies
<b>VKI</b>	Viskeuringsinstituut - Fish Inspection Institute
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>VSB</b>	Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven – Suriname Business Association
<b>VIDS</b>	Vereniging van Inheemse Dorpshoofden in Suriname – Association of Indigenous Village Leaders
<b>W.A.S.H.</b>	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WWF</b>	World Wildlife Fund



## **The United Nations Office in Suriname**

United Nations House  
Gonggrijpstraat 25  
Paramaribo, Suriname

Tel. (+597) 421 417  
Fax: (+597) 425 136

[unsuriname@un.org](mailto:unsuriname@un.org)

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