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**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 454,331 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% Chinese, 1% European.

In Togo, the lingua franca, is widely spoken and several cultural groups.

consisting of 42% Christian, 27% Hindu, 20% Muslims, such as Holi Phagva, Good Friday.

are related to these religions. Other public holidays are Christmas, Easter, and January 1, July 1 (Ab

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 implementation of a national gender policy, as well as in a gender mainstreaming policy. In spite of these constraints in collaboration with NGOs with the basis of domestic policy there was also special focus on poverty eradication

to formulate a gender policy and to finalize the national report reflecting the collaboration with the Ministry of Justice

DAW which is in a preparation phase. It will be a joint effort of Government and NGOs and it is being prepared by the National Movement (NVB), an NGO. An awareness-raising campaign on CEDAW, BPEA and WSSC, as well as the integration of women's issues in the national and international information

of the activities for 1999. Furthermore, a website will be set up to give information in Dutch on CEDAW, BPEA and WSSC. The website will also give information in Dutch on CEDAW, BPEA and WSSC

follow-up to the CIM/UNIFEM project which provided computers and internet access to women's groups in the Caribbean, in order to improve collaboration

as well as in the field of legislation a follow-up to the evaluation of the discriminatory laws by the Looi Foundation for Family Planning (in

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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

and all the efforts of the Lohi Foundation, which provides information on family planning, and contraceptive

mitted itself to several poverty eradication programs in

The Government of S

collaboration with donor organizations. In 1993 Dutch

Government to establish a NF 6 million fund for NGOs,

million is for food

programs. Out of the Dutch aid, the Government intends

2.5 million Dutch

guilders for a fund for women micro entrepreneurs, but b

the decreasing Dutch aid,

this cannot be implemented. To meet to the need for sma

formed micro

entrepreneurs, the credit union GODO provides loans to

in collaboration with

the Dutch NGO named Bilance.

community development

A micro project program enabling CBOs and NGOs to in

in April 1999, after some 62 micro

projects was financed by the European Union

is on its way. It will be necessary to

projects had been carried out. A new financ

CBOs. In collaboration with the IDB, a Community Development Fund is being set up. This

is a Government priority area. It was stated in the 1996

As part of the elections in 1995, an increase in women in politics led to the increase of women in parliament from 0% to 16%. The number of women on the nomination lists also increased. The development of a training manual after a pilot training of two local council 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 level positions to initiate legislation will be implemented by the foundation in Suriname in 1999 with funding of PRO LEAD.

According to the Government's policy on gender, the first woman Attorney General and the first woman judge were elected in 1996. The first woman Speaker of Parliament was recently appointed (1998). There is one woman Minister and one woman Under Minister.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is awaiting the implementation of the RPPA. Different policies are being developed to achieve equality in the spheres of gender, but it is not co-ordinated and not achieved. There is a trend within the police that leads to an increase of the number of women within the police department, and the first woman has already been appointed. Including gender training in the training on violence against women is a priority. In 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 Service has a female face since most of the beneficiaries are women and children. Male nurses, however, are scarce and their number has increased. Men still dominate in this field. There are 50 women and 154 men doctors.

Government officials will be trained in June 1999. As part of an attempt to increase awareness in gender and gender equality.

This has to do with the fact that since 1995, the attention on public education as part of the implementation of gender equality. Women organizations are active in certain projects. There are gender pages in the newspapers.

Public awareness increased after the first structural conference on 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 national level. The first woman was 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 disaggregated 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 actions in the main industries, manufacturing 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 = SRG1000.

With this crisis a reconstruction program was implemented, consisting of economic measures in the budget with serious consequences for the population. For example, in 1999 the Medical Mission, which is responsible for the medical health services, had not yet received its subvention from the Government for 1999.

As a result of the economic crisis, there has been a rise in unemployment, followed by social eruptions since 1998, as part of which the government is facing serious economic problems.

In 1998, the gender budget is 1.5% of the budget of the National Budget.

US\$120,000 has actually been spent on gender projects during 1997 - 1999. Other projects in Suriname in collaboration with NGOs and Dutch Embassy, IDB, Bilanée, Mantacash and NO

are sponsoring women's projects in the area of women co-financing.

These NGOs and organizations are spending in Suriname. UNIFEM is implementing projects in the area of women co-financing.

entitled "Women and Youth" in Suriname using Dutch

Ministerial Committee (MTC) consisting of the Ministers of Planning, Home Affairs, which meets to discuss policy on gender policy. There is also a Regional Development, Social matters. Its discussions should use of the presence 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 taken 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, the government showed great concern and established a National Commission in 1995 to deal with rights matters. In 1997 the term of office of the members of this National Commission expired and no new members were installed. In 1998 a structure was set up within the President's Steering Committee for Youth Policy consists of the Under Minister of Social Affairs within the President's Cabinet, the Under Minister of Education, a representative of a children's NGO and a representative of the University.

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The goal of the 1998 is to detect and prevent all women's health problems. This is a major public health program that will help to reduce the burden of disease and improve the quality of life for all women. The program will focus on early detection and treatment of breast and cervical cancer, as well as other common health problems. It will also provide education and counseling to help women make informed decisions about their health. The program is a key part of the national effort to reduce the leading causes of death and disability among women.

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- See Annex - 2

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Women live longer  
Women per 1000  
are 120, 8% over  
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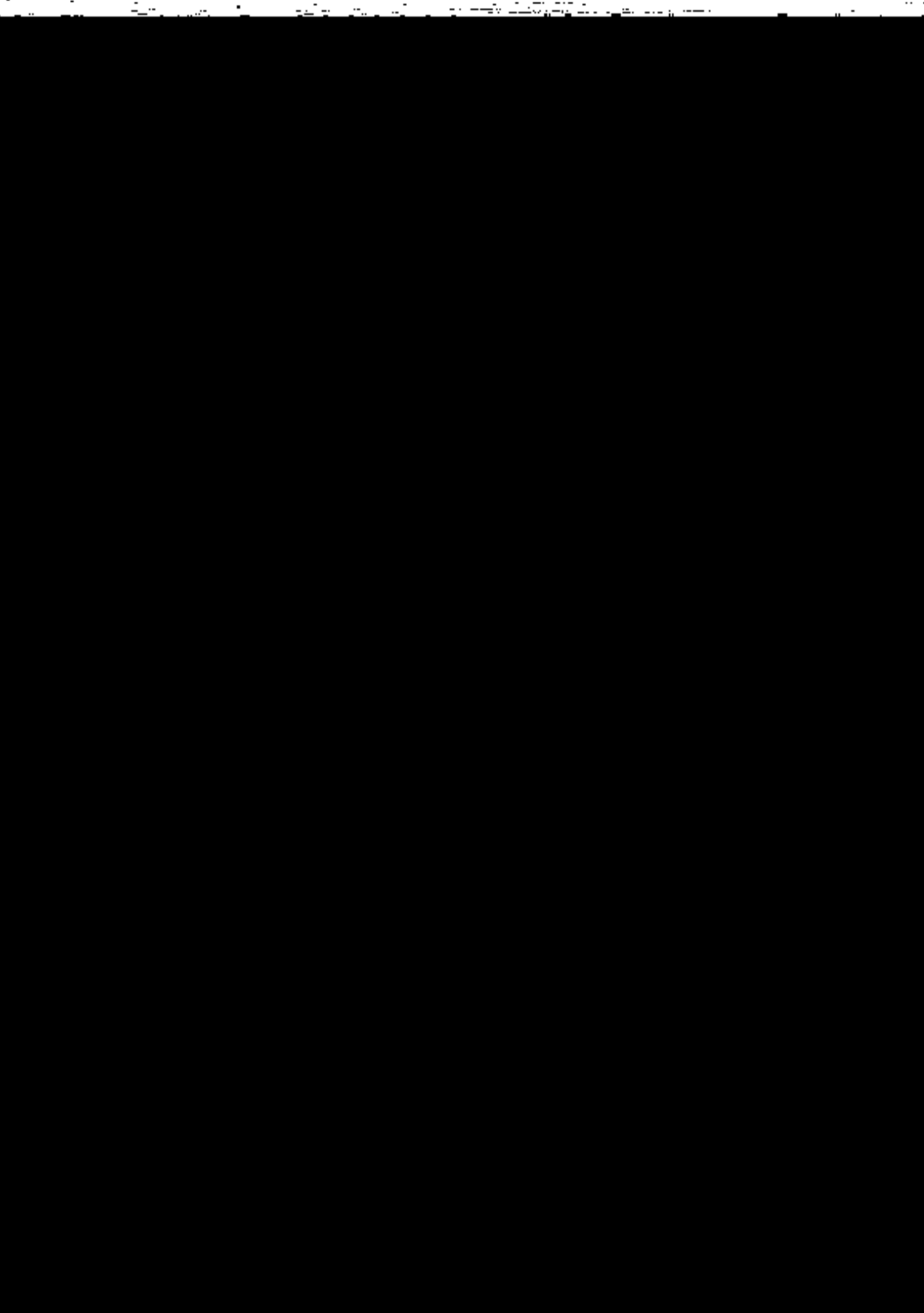
Training in how to deal with  
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violence in four more districts  
Integrate this training into the  
police curriculum.

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Implementation of various training for women

FUTURE COMMITMENT

Indication of whether men or women are men or women

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WOMEN IN POWER  
DECISION-MAKING

7.1 Data



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 The first was, age of women  
 and the first was, age of women  
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 A study was made of the  
 the woman's list  
 no receipt making  
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 Annex - II  
 There is a 30% quota for women  
 quota of 30% for women  
 women of 30%  
 In 1991, the first was, age of women  
 in parties & women  
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 one of women

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.



INSTITUTE FOR  
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HUMAN RIGHTS

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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 = 1074

age 13-16+ age 18-22+	1182 - 1280 = 2462
age 13-16+ age 18-22+	183
age 14-18+ age 18-24+	1182 - 1280 = 2462

Training College for  
Technical School Te  
OLNO part of HBO  
Academy of Arts  
AHKCO  
University of Surina

and sittings of the court in the period

Sittings of the court
20
17
10

22	11
98	58

ANNEX - 2 -  
Indecency offenses  
June 1 - December  
Indecency  
Rape  
Physical  
Indecent assault  
Sexual offences  
Other  
Total

arranged by dossiers and sittings of the court in

Dossiers	Sittings of the court
39	33
18	12
29	23
34	14
120	62

Indecency  
1997  
Indecency  
Rape  
Physical  
Indecency  
Sexual  
Other  
Total

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

Indecency  
the per

m	w	total	m	w	total	High qualified staff	Total
13278	8491	21769	61%	49%		987	22291
and qualified staff      2020-2021							12220
High qualified staff							203
Total							12220

in making progress in Suriname      participation of women

