



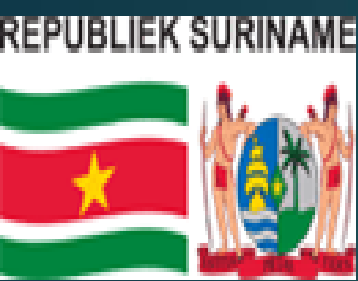
Gender mainstreaming the National Drug policy of the Republic of Suriname

THE PROGRESS, CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD



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- ▶ The Gender Policy of the Republic of Suriname
- ▶ Gender Mainstreaming the Drug Policy
- ▶ Progress in the Mainstream Process
- ▶ Current Challenges
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Gender Policy of the Republic of Suriname

- ▶ Enacted in march 2011
- ▶ National gender policy has the main goal of achieving gender equality / equality in Suriname.
- ▶ 5 Priority Areas
 - Education and training
 - Labor, income and poverty reduction
 - Violence
 - Health
 - Decision-making



GENDER MAINSTREAMING THE NATIONAL DRUGPOLICY



National Anti – Drugs Council

- ▶ The Council is appointed through a presidential resolution as the coordinating Body for drugs demand reduction, supply reduction, alternative, integral and sustainable development programs, control measures, international cooperation and program evaluation.
- ▶ In January 2018 the new members were installed
- ▶ Main goal is the revision of the National Drugs' Master Plan 2018 – 2022.



Policy Document

- ▶ Expired National Drugs Master Plan 2011 – 2015
- ▶ No special attention for women
- ▶ the Standards for Inpatient Care of Drug Addicts stipulates the respect of all national and international human rights. Women rights are human rights
- ▶ 2005 : 2 women treatment centre
- ▶ 2018 : only a detoxification clinic for women but no treatment centre



Progress in the mainstream process



WOMEN AND ILLICIT DRUGS

- ▶ Women as users and abusers
- ▶ Women as handlers, dealers and distributors
- ▶ Infectious diseases, pregnancy
- ▶ Women and children women specific drug prevention



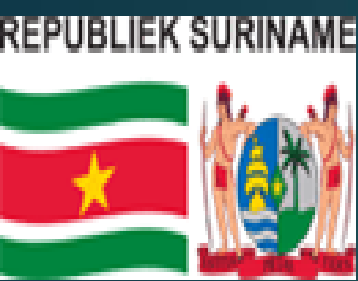
Women in Treatment

- ▶ 2014: 1 woman total of 85 persons
- ▶ 2015 : 13 women total of 230 persons
- ▶ 2016 : 1 woman, total of 129 persons



Treatment Centers

- ▶ **Psychiatric Centrum Suriname**
 - ▶ Detoxification (Residential)
 - ▶ Policlinic Addictions (non Residential)
- ▶ **Stichting de Stem (Residential)**
- ▶ **Stichting Geloof en Nieuw Leven (residential)**
- ▶ **Stichting Victory Outreach (Residential)**
- ▶ **Stichting Liefdevolle handen (non residential)**



The Loving Hands Foundation

- ▶ Only organization with focus on woman and girls
- ▶ Developed special prevention programs for the these target groups – “I am Special” and I am a Pearl”
- ▶ For their key populations (drug abusers and sexworkers) they developed the harm reduction program (provide condoms and health related products)



Changes in Demand Reduction

| <i>No</i> | <i>Drugssoort</i> | <i>Increase or decrease</i> | <i>Used by</i> |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>1</i> | <i>Cocaine – crack cocaine</i> | <i>Strong increase</i> | <i>Adults</i> |
| <i>2</i> | <i>Cannabis</i> | <i>Strong increase - in Yammie</i> | <i>Youth (13-20 yrs)</i> |
| <i>3</i> | <i>Alcohol</i> | <i>Slight decrease Increase in combination use</i> | <i>Adults</i> |
| <i>4</i> | <i>XTC</i> | <i>increase</i> | <i>Young adults(20 yrs and up</i> |
| <i>5</i> | <i>NPS</i> | <i>Don't know</i> | |



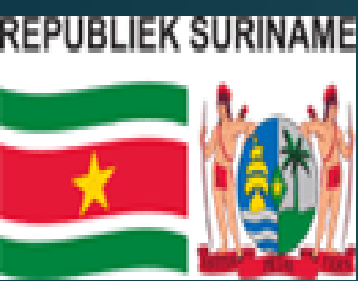
Challenges

- ▶ Empowering the most vulnerable
- ▶ Assisting remote communities in dealing with drug related issues
- ▶ Collecting and analyzing of data
- ▶ Creating safe havens for women and children
- ▶ Synchronizing the legal and policy framework
- ▶ How to decrease the numbers of men and women in the illicit drug sphere



The Way Forward

- ▶ Encourage the National Anti- Drug Council to always look at the drugs issue through a gender lens more specifically in all matters of research, analysis, planning, interventions and projects.



The way forward

- The Addiction Clinic for women
- Incorporate woman issues in the drafting of the new master plan
- Prevention focus on vulnerable women
- Peer educators for woman with special emphasis on culture and language
- Single parent homes



Sources

- ▶ National Multi Year Development Plans 2006-2011, 2012-2016, 2016-2021
- ▶ National Anti Drugs Entity papers and documents
- ▶ UNODC Resolution 59/5 Mainstreaming a gender perspective in drug-related policies and programmes
- ▶ Un Women Policy Brief: A Gender perspective on the impact of Drug Use, the Drug trade and drug control regimes
- ▶ Marieke Heemskerk & Ine Apapoe, Gender Equality, Gender Relations and the Position of women in Suriname, A situation Analysis, 2011



Sources

- ▶ OAS, Women and Drugs in the Americas, A policy working paper, 2014



THANK YOU!

The Republic of Suriname
The Directorate of National Security
The National Anti-Drugs Council