

## 2. SDG 6 focused WASH sector situation analysis

The SDG targets aimed at WASH are 6.1 - 6.3:

6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.

Suriname is working on these targets by undertaking the following key WASH activities<sup>3</sup>:

- There was a consensus that an intersectoral water task force should be created to discuss priorities and operationalize them across the different ministries involved.
- Creating and leading a multi-disciplinary coordination platform on water resources management and water and sanitation services, or a Water Task Force working group. The platform, or taskforce/working group, would provide an overview of rules and responsibilities in water and sanitation service provision and water resources management and drive the action plans and recommendations arising from the workshop forward.
- **Policy and Strategy:** to define a 2030 Vision for water and sanitation for Suriname, which can provide a long-term strategic horizon for planning and priorities, for all future governments.
- **Capacity development:** to develop a Capacity Development Plan for the sector, and a Human Resources Management Plan in the public sector, based on the objectives of the 2030 Vision.
- **Decentralization:** accelerating decentralization efforts and test service delivery approaches that are suitable where currently no service providers exist

The Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water is currently being measured by the proportion of the population using a basic sanitation facility which is not shared with other households and where excreta is 'safely disposed in situ' or treated off-site. Excreta from improved pit latrines and septic tanks that is never emptied (or don't know if ever emptied) or is emptied and buried in a covered pit is classed as 'safely disposed in situ'. 'Improved' sanitation facilities include: flush or pour flush toilets to sewer systems, septic tanks or pit latrines, ventilated improved pit latrines, pit latrines with a slab, and composting toilets.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> A coordination platform for the Water Sector in Suriname: Follow-up from the WASH BAT in Paramaribo in October 2019 February 11th, 2021

<sup>4</sup> Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2018 - Survey Findings Report

**Proportion of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities in Suriname, 2000, 2006, 2010 and 2018<sup>5</sup>**

Population	2000	2006	2010	2018
Urban	99.1	97.9	97.8	98.7
Rural Coastal	98.3	91.6	94.1	93.7
Rural Interior	30.5	33	41.5	61.4
<b>Total Suriname</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>89.9</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>94.5</b>

**Proportion of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities per District, 2010 and 2018**

District	2010	2018	<i>Change</i>
Paramaribo	97.9	98.5	0.6
Wanica	98.3	98.9	0.6
Nickerie	99.4	99.8	0.4
Coronie	98	99.6	1.6
Saramacca	83.4	97.3	16.7
Commewijne	94.2	97.9	3.9
Marowijne	88.4	85.5	-3.3
Para	91.6	91.1	-0.5
Brokopondo	55.5	71.7	29.2
Sipaliwini	37	51.1	38.1
<b>Suriname</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>

The tables above represent SDG 6 sanitation data from the General Bureau of Statistics.

<sup>5</sup> SDG 6 sanitation data from the General Bureau of Statistics

### 3. National WASH sector SDG 6 vision, objectives, targets and future projects

Suriname is working hard on creating and optimizing policy to better the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) sector. Proof of this can be seen in the establishment of the Water Directorate at the Ministry of Natural Resources. Part of the mission statement of this directorate is gaining insight into and keeping track of criteria and changes in international water policy and the operation of the provisions in the various sector-related agreements and the timely reporting and advice on this (including ACTO, IWRM and others). Another one of the responsibilities of this directorate is to establish and maintain a sound coordination structure for integrated water management. This is why a new department has been set up, the Integrated Water Resource Management department. The department is responsible for the coordination of administrative and policy matters regarding integrated water management and the coordination of policy in the field of integrated water management with relevant actors and fulfilling a bridging function<sup>6</sup> between other stakeholders.

The goal is to work on capacity strengthening of water professionals in Suriname, in line with the Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Action Plan in 2022 in collaboration with the UNDP, GCCA+ Phase 2. The GCCA+ Phase 2 project will also support actions and processes leading to the coordination of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM). Another activity of the project, relating to the water sector is to assess and monitor current uses of surface water (incl. area and water quality) with the objective to determine proposed water quality standards. This will be done in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works. The project will also review and provide recommendations to improve existing regulatory framework on water management in light of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) requirements and support actions and process leading to coordination of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)<sup>7</sup>. The Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment is also an important member of the GCCA+ Phase 2 project.

In cooperation with the UNICEF, Suriname is currently also working on exploring the possibility of forming a coordination platform for Water. There have been several workshops with stakeholders to find out how this platform should be created, where roles and responsibilities were discussed. A limited number of priority actions also had to be set and the stakeholders had to specify which organization would take the lead on each. And finally, the scope of the coordination platform was discussed.<sup>8</sup> After the workshops the consultants made a draft Terms of Reference (ToR) document to solidify the information, which after approval will be used to set up the coordination platform.

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<sup>6</sup> Taakstelling en Toelichting Ministerie van NH 260820 v.04

<sup>7</sup> GCCA+ 2022 Workplan

<sup>8</sup> Suriname WASH & WRM coordination platform - FEB2021 - v7\_11 febr 2021

The government's policy is always aimed at safeguarding the availability of good, healthy and affordable drinking water in the interest of healthy development of the community. In the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6, Clean Water and Sanitation for all to be achieved by 2030, there will be a need to increase awareness among policy makers, society as a whole, with a special emphasis on young people, women and disadvantaged areas. Around 2030 the implementation of integral management of water resources should be a fact, as well as the accessibility of water for all Surinamese. As a result, the establishment of a directorate specifically focused on water policy, which goes beyond mere water supply, is of paramount importance.

The guiding principle for the drinking water policy is the further realization of the recommendations as contained in the Suriname Water Supply Master Plan 2011 – 2024 and its updating. To this end, new sources will again be tapped in 2022 and the water supply network will be further expanded with, among other things, the extraction of surface water, in order to guarantee the drinking water supply for Suriname. The replacement and expansion of the water supply network in the relevant districts will also be continued. In the coming years, the emphasis will be placed on optimizing the installed infrastructure (pipelines, sources and purification) as well as expanding the number of connections realized throughout Suriname.

In guaranteeing good and safe drinking water for society, the government is supported by the Surinamese Water Supply Company (SWM) and the Water Supply Service (DWV). Due to the takeover of the water stations in the coastal plain of Suriname from 2017, the SWM now bears responsibility for the water supply in almost the entire coastal plain, while the DWV mainly operates in sparsely populated areas (districts) and inland.

In 2022, the Water Directorate will make the necessary preparations for the implementation of an integrated water management system and management plan. The draft laws that have already been prepared will be reviewed and presented to the National Assembly (DNA) for consideration:

1. "Supervision of Drinking Water Quality" (with Explanatory Memorandum);
2. "Groundwater Act" (with Explanatory Memorandum);
3. "Groundwater Protection Areas" (with Explanatory Memorandum).

These draft laws will serve as first instruments for the Water Directorate for a better management structure of the water resources in Suriname. Furthermore, the development of a 'National Water Marketing and Export Strategy' for Suriname will be started. This strategy will mainly have to help guide the export potential of our water to the region and elsewhere and create a source of income for Suriname from exporting water.

The national report on the status of IWRM implementation 2020<sup>9</sup> in Suriname generated the following results based on SDG indicator 6.5.1, partially because there is no formal policy regarding IWRM in Suriname yet:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Average Scores</b> (all values rounded to nearest whole number)
Section 1 Enabling environment	21
Section 2 Institutions and	22
Section 3 Management instruments	33
Section 4 Financing	17
<b>Indicator 6.5.1 score</b> <b>= Degree of IWRM</b> <b>implementation (0-100)*</b>	<b>23</b>

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<sup>9</sup> Country Survey Instrument for SDG Indicator 6.5.1 - The Foundation Waterforum Suriname

## 4. Eliminating Inequalities

As per MICS 2018<sup>[1]</sup> Suriname still sees disparities in the WASH sector, mostly in the field of sanitation. At national level 89% of households make use of improved sanitation facilities which are not shared with other households. There is a high inequality by area: 94% for urban households versus 47% for the interior. Furthermore, 22% of the interior households has no sanitation and 16% of the existing sanitation is classified as unimproved. There is still high level of open defecation in the interior district Sipaliwini; at least one third of the households.

	Users of improved sanitation facilities					Users of unimproved sanitation facilities					Open defecation (no facility, bush, field)	Total	Number of household members
	Not shared <sup>1</sup>	Shared by		Public facility	Missing/DK	Not shared	Shared by		Public facility	Missing/DK			
		5 households or less	More than 5 households				5 households or less	More than 5 households					
<b>Total</b>	88.6	4.2	0.8	0.6	0.2	2.7	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	2.1	100.0	30512
<b>Area</b>													
Urban	93.7	3.8	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0	22383
Rural Coastal	88.4	4.6	0.4	0.3	0.0	4.7	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	100.0	5408
Rural Interior	47.1	6.9	4.1	3.2	0.2	13.2	1.6	0.6	0.7	0.1	22.2	100.0	2722

When it comes to basic drinking water, at national level 98% of the population has access to basic drinking water. The rural interior area has the lowest level of access (91%). Only 57% of the households are using drinking water free from contamination. Looking at basic hygiene, we see that the availability of a handwashing facility on premises with soap and water at national level and by area is about 65%. About 8% of the households did not have a place to wash hands using soap.

	Percentage of household population using:													Basic drinking water, sanitation and hygiene service	Number of household members		
	Drinking water				Sanitation				Handwashing <sup>a</sup>								
	Basic service <sup>1</sup>	Limited service	Unimproved	Surface water	Total	Basic service <sup>2</sup>	Limited service	Unimproved	Open defecation	Total	Basic facility <sup>3</sup>	Limited facility	No facility			No permission to see other	Total
<b>Total</b>	97.5	0.7	1.0	0.9	100.0	88.6	5.9	3.4	2.1	100.0	63.8	7.5	8.1	20.7	100.0	56.0	30512
<b>Area</b>																	
Urban	98.5	0.7	0.8	0.0	100.0	93.7	5.1	1.2	0.1	100.0	62.4	6.2	8.8	22.6	100.0	56.2	22383
Rural Coastal	96.7	0.8	1.6	1.0	100.0	88.4	5.3	6.1	0.2	100.0	68.8	8.7	5.0	17.5	100.0	59.8	5408
Rural Interior	90.6	0.3	1.4	7.7	100.0	47.1	14.3	16.3	22.2	100.0	65.2	16.0	7.9	11.0	100.0	30.7	2722

Comparing various population subgroups show that the poorest households and households where the heads have the lowest educational level, have the lowest access to basic drinking water, while households belonging to the richest quintile or household where the heads have the highest educational level, have relatively higher access to water.

Nationally 96% of women in households indicate they have a private place at home to change and wash during their menstruation. Whereas nationally, 93% of women indicate that they use appropriate material during menstruation and 89% indicate they have a private place and appropriate material. This percentage is just 76% for the rural interior. Around 19% of

## 5. Water, sanitation and hygiene financing

The Special Fund for Dutch Aid (SFDA) provided €16 Million for Suriname to finance some of the projects outlined in the 2002 Coastal Master Plan, however the assistance was insufficient to undertake all the investments identified. In addition, the recommendations have since become outdated, and are now targeted for update by the government of Suriname.<sup>11</sup>

In 2021, the GCCA+ Phase 2 project from the UNDP made \$1,012,000 available to Suriname for improved regulatory framework, awareness and capacity for sustainable management and use of mangroves and coastal ecosystems and \$478,000 for improved knowledge on the Surinamese mangroves and on the effects of climate change on the coastal ecosystem and wider coastal area and increased capacity of Nickerie and Coronie districts for effective and immediate gender responsive climate actions. This project also includes research in hydrology and water quality.<sup>12</sup> In 2022 Suriname will keep working with the GCCA+ Phase 2 project. The budget that has been agreed upon is \$2,128,500. In this year the focus will still be on the aforementioned activities, but also on executing robust awareness programs on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) for policy makers and media.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Meerjaren Ontwikkelingsplan 2022-2026 van de Republiek Suriname

<sup>12</sup> Revised GCCA+ 2021 Workplan\_Final

<sup>13</sup> GCCA+ 2022 Workplan final draft revision Apr 2022