

Gender Action Plan III – 2021-2025
Country Level Implementation Plan – CLIP Suriname

1. Context for EU action gender equality and women's empowerment in the country

Suriname has made several international commitments to gender equality, including the ratification of CEDAW and the adoption of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women. Regionally, Suriname is also involved in policy programmes of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which have all incorporated the goals of the CARICOM Gender Equality Indicators (GEI) for gender equality and/or sustainable development.

In 2018, Suriname published the National Report on the Status of Women and Men to assess gender inequalities between women and men. The country's National Development Plan 2017-2021 and its Gender Vision Policy Document 2021-2035, compliment the constitutional rights of citizens to gender equality.

However, gender disparities remain widely prevalent in Suriname, as is the case in other neighboring countries. While prevalence statistics/data are scarce, available information suggest that Suriname is among the CARICOM countries with the highest rates of violence against women and girls, notably domestic violence¹. Several locally established CSOs have tried to address the issue of gender disparities (including with EU thematic funding) by using a multi-stakeholder collaborative approach involving policy makers, local leaders and community actors.

Gender-based violence is not approached integrally in Suriname. Some forms of violence receive more attention than others. Attempts have been made to strengthen national legislation to protect citizens from all forms of violence and not to leave violence unpunished.

Data from the Criminal Intelligence Service (DCIV) for 2010 – 2015 show that gender-based violence, in particular domestic violence, has not decreased, despite ratification of the Convention of Belém do Para in 2002. Women still make up the majority of victims of domestic violence, with physical violence among women aged 21 – 40 years on the rise.

Gender inequalities also persist in the forestry sector, where there are significantly less women in forest value chains, including in managerial positions or positions requiring the use

¹ Regional technical consultation on the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Investment Plan, 2019.

of machinery. Women are often confined to harvesting and micro retailing activities, despite research in other countries substantiating the positive role women can play in enhancing sectoral productivity.

Further, women, especially indigenous and tribal peoples populating Suriname's forest, are often confined to domestic roles such as collecting water, gathering and producing food, harvesting crops and producing non-timber forest products (NTFP). This is why they are particularly affected by the impact of climate change, in addition to extreme poverty. Yet, it is also because of their close involvement in essential tasks necessary for the subsistence of their communities that they have the knowledge and understanding required to adapt to climate change and provide valuable input for mitigation processes and solutions. This rationale will help to guide gender mainstreaming in the Suriname forest partnership cooperation.

The CLIP was developed in consultation with public, private and civil society actors (as for the CSO roadmap) in Suriname, guided by a small sectoral analysis on gender in forestry.

2. Selected thematic areas of engagement and objectives

The Suriname multiannual indicative programme (MIP) has only one priority area which is centred on forest partnerships. SDG 5 (Gender Equality) figures among the SDGs targeted by the MIP. Further, the MIP was developed under a gender lens, but one of the main challenges encountered during this process was the absence of sufficient information and data on sectoral gender inequalities. Among the four specific objectives (SO) identified for this forest partnership, *SO 2 - Enhance livelihood opportunities of forest communities*, will allow to mainstream gender by taking a closer look at women's involvement and participation in forest value chains. This will allow scope for the country action document, once written, to incorporate activities specifically targeting women's socioeconomic empowerment in the ambit of the forest partnership programme. Additionally, the MIP has paved the way for sex disaggregated and gender specific data to be used systematically in this forest partnership, as well as for the possibility of obtaining dedicated technical assistance to help mainstream gender equality. This constitutes an innovation in comparison to the previous country programme. One of the possible outputs of this type of support can be the much needed sector gender analysis on forestry, given the immense deficit in data and information on the topic in Suriname.

In this regard the MIP may be aligned with the following selected areas of engagement of the GAP III:

- 3.3 Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women
 - o Specific thematic objectives 1, 4 and 5
- 3.6 Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and digital transformation
 - o Specific thematic objectives 1, 2, 3, 4

Possibilities of aligning the Suriname forest partnership with similar programmes implemented by the Netherlands or France may be possible, as these are present in the country.

Civil society is envisaged as potential implementing partners of the forest partnership, considering that they are heavily involved in conservation, forest and environmental protection.

These considerations are for now tentative pending the development of the action document and financing agreement in which specific activities, modality, implementing partners and indicators will be defined for the next seven years.

3. Targeted action(s) supporting gender equality and women's empowerment

The Delegation will define concrete actions to promote gender mainstreaming in its next phase of cooperation with Suriname when drafting its action document. However, with the support of its Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy (HRDCS) as well as its CSO roadmap, the Delegation intends to have at least two action grants (funded by thematic allocations) in the next seven years which will specifically address gender equality, notably women's and girls' rights and empowerment. This is to support the enhancement of women's rights given the high rate of violence against women and girls (especially domestic violence) in Suriname. In so doing, there will be at least two G2 actions implemented in Suriname, with further scope for G1 actions through the forest partnership cooperation programme.

CSOs will comprise the main implementing partners, as they have the added value of cooperating and dialoguing with public agencies, local authorities and community leaders in the execution of their actions.

4. Engage in dialogue for gender equality and women empowerment

Policy dialogues surrounding the formulation and implementation of the action document for the country programme on forest partnerships will include the issue of gender mainstreaming. Possibility of financing activities supporting gender quality and mainstreaming through the Cooperation Facility will form part of dialogues. Direct resources mobilization and technical assistance to support capacity building in national gender budgeting may figure among activities proposed. Suriname's bureau of gender affairs (BGA) may be another public agency eligible for this type of technical support.

Capacity building of organisations working on gender equality is foreseen in the Suriname CSO roadmap. Policy dialogues with civil society operating in the ambit of the upcoming forest partnership, is also foreseen to ensure optimal levels of inclusivity and participation.

5. Outreach and other communication / public diplomacy activities

Indicate if possible the strategic communication/high level events on gender equality foreseen during the period 2021-2025 by the EU or in cooperation with EU MS.

The Delegation will continue its work with civil society organisations in promoting gender equality across Suriname. The Delegation has had notable successes with the NGOs Projekta and Tropenbos Suriname in the past and efforts will continue and further develop.

Collaboration and support will be maintained with the resident Dutch and French embassies in their outreach activities on gender equality and on LGBTI rights. The Delegation will complement these efforts with similar activities throughout the period.

Available resources for social media will be utilised.

6. Technical Facility and/or financial resources allocated to support GAP III implementation

The Cooperation Facility for Suriname will benefit from an envelope of approximately EUR 1.3 million. When the action document for this facility is being drafted, potential areas of support can be further defined. Thematic allocations (CSO thematic budget line and Human Rights and Democracy programme) will also address actions for women's and girls' rights and empowerment.