Suriname’s experience with Gender statistics
Outline of Presentation

• Definition of Gender Statistics
• Gender statistics in Suriname
• Main Topics
• Sources
• Outcome / Main Achievements
• Challenges / Data Concerns
Definition of Gender Statistics

Gender statistics are statistics that try to reflect adequately the disparities between women and men in all relevant areas of life.
While we work, we always have to keep in mind the attributes of Good Statistics

1. **Relevance** (they meet the needs & priorities expressed by (current and potential) users – mind you this does not mean the NSO has to do everything the users want.

2. **Accuracy** (the degree to which the information correctly describes the phenomena it was designed to measure/ Note: If the process is not random the focus is on reliability

3. **Timeliness** (the delay between the end of the reference period, and the date of availability)

4. **Punctuality** (difference between actual date and pre-established date)

5. **Accessibility and Interpretability** (conditions of physical access and Meta data)

6. **Comparability** (use of accepted international Standards and guidelines)

7. **Coherence** (No inconsistencies allowed)

8. **Comprehensiveness** (All that is intended to be covered should be covered)
Gender indicators

- Gender Indicators are statistics that have specific relevance for *particular policy areas* and may be used to *formulate policy*, but also to *monitor policy* and hence conclude whether policy has been *successful or not*. 
Prior to Gender Statistics in Suriname

History ... 1

• 1999 Regional Statistical Offices and Close Liaison between United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and Statistics Department of the Caricom Secretariat prepared activities that were undertaken to initiate the project:

“CARICOM Programme on Strengthening Capacity in the compilation of Social/Gender and Environment Statistics and Indicators in the CARICOM Region”
Prior to Gender Statistics in Suriname

History ... 2

• 2000 the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians (SCCS) had a project proposal of the same name which was endorsed

• Beginning of a successful project:

“Social & Gender Statistics and Environment Statistics” (ICT Statistics was added at a later stage)

• Gender Assessment: CARICOM – Capacity- Building in Statistics, ISTAT & IDB in 2019 helped GBS to evaluate and improve the publication
Gender Statistics in Suriname

• Suriname is considered a best practice country in the CARICOM Region regarding the production and dissemination of Gender Statistics, producing a publication in all odd years.


• New Publication (10th) ETA: 4th Quarter 2021
Overview of Publications
Overview of Publications & Publication Download

Downloads:

Publications

Metadata / Indicators
GBS Publications containing Social & Gender Statistics and Indicators

• Selected Statistics about Women and Men in Suriname (Formerly, “Selected Gender Statistics”, Published every odd year)
• Census
• Statistical Yearbook, published annually
• Households in Suriname (Published every 2 years)
• Traffic and Transport Statistics (Published every two years)
• Demographic Data (Published every two years)

It is ‘Social Data’ broken down by sex.
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<td>58</td>
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### Timeline to produce Gender statistics publication (every two years)

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<th>Planned Period</th>
<th>Actual Period (most of the time)</th>
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<td>Jan – Feb</td>
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<td>Data collection</td>
<td>Feb – April</td>
<td>Feb – June / July</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Data processing</td>
<td>Feb – June</td>
<td>Feb – June / July / Aug</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Lay out &amp; Finalizing</td>
<td>June – July</td>
<td>August / September</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Feedback from Management</td>
<td>July- August</td>
<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Feedback Process</td>
<td>August – September</td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Dissemination</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>November / December</td>
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Main Topics - 2019

• Education
• Population
• Health
• Labor, Employment & Unemployment
• Crime
• Public Governance
• Social Protection
## Data Sources

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<th>Data sources</th>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Ministry of Education, Anton de Kom University of Suriname, Academy of Arts, Polytechnic College, Training College for Teachers of Vocational Schools, Ministry of Labour, The General Bureau of Statistics/GBS (Tertiary education)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Ministry of Health, Bureau for Public Health (BOG), National Aids Program (NAP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice and Police, Bureau Gender Affairs Suriname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Public Governance</td>
<td>Government website, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Regional Development,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Analysis

• The subject "Analysis by a National Statistics Office" is still controversial, since the border between statistical analysis and policy analysis can easily be crossed

• Since 2019 GBS has included a brief analysis
Gender & SDG

• Gender is crosscutting
• Start data collection on SDG Goal 5 and all the indicators
• We asked all the data sources during the Gender assessment with ISTAT and CARICOM what SDG data they were collecting and that data we tried to put in our publication
• Since 2017 Suriname is part of the CARICOM Technical Working Group on SDGs who worked on the CARICOM Core set on SDGs.
• GBS staff also went to Regional and International workshops regarding data collection for the SDGs
• The MICS 6 data provides a good baseline for some of the SDGs (MICS 6 fieldwork conducted during 2018)
Data Flow - ABS

**Data Providers**
- Government
- Enterprises
- Households

**Data Users**
- Students
- Scientists
- Researchers
- Unions
- Enterprises
- Government
- National Organizations
- International Organizations

**QUESTIONNAIRES**

**SURINAME**

- Data Collection
- Data Processing
- Data Validation
- Publications
Data Dissemination – ABS

- Online Data Base
- Public Relations and Information Unit
- Press Release
- Publications (Hard Copy)
- Publications (Soft Copy /Online)
- Pres conference
- E-Mail
- Website
Outcome / Main Achievements of Gender statistics publication by GBS

• Publication every odd year

• Expansion of the publication since it was first published

• Considered best practice in the CARICOM Region
Challenges / Data Concerns

- Need for line ministries and agencies to work closely and collaborate with the NSO to ensure high quality data
- Data mostly only available at National level
- Data availability from some sources by sex
- Data is not always collected in the same way so as to enable comparability
- People who are/were responsible don’t work at the data department anymore / Staff turnover
- No access to micro data, only administrative data in table format
- More training needed in data collection for the SDG indicators for the NSO’s and the ministries
- The NSO relies a lot on administrative data. Most of the SDG Indicators are not collected by any Ministries or the NSO. So there will be data gaps for some of these indicators.
- For some SDG indicators there is no data available and the standard surveys do not collect data to compile these indicators. A specialized Survey is needed to collect this data. Lack of financial and human resources makes it hard to have specialized surveys
- Although Suriname does not have a National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) yet, there is a good collaboration with GBS and the stakeholders of the government and the private sector and also with the UN agencies
2021: Proposals & Future Plan of Action within the GBS

• Because of the modest design of the publication, it is suitably named: Selected Gender Statistics / Selected Statistics about Women and Men in Suriname, but it is hoped that constructive criticism and continued stakeholders involvement will enable the GBS to keep improving it.

• GBS tries, wherever possible and as much as possible, to collect and present all statistics, but often depends on various external institutes and organizations. All these institutions and organizations must collect and tabulate their data as much as possible by sex.

• Collect more SDG data

• Calculate more ratio’s for e.g. employment & unemployment rates together with House Hold Survey department

• Next publication → Election 2020 Data, Voters etc. by sex and district collaboration together with the Bureau Gender Affairs Suriname

• 10th publication planned for the 4th quarter of 2021
Personal Experience

- There is not a specific department for gender statistics
- Only 1 person involved, with “haphazard” assistance
- That person also manages to work on other work area’s/projects/activities
- Personal Face to Face meetings with Data Sources are a good way to ‘Shop’ for available data that had not yet been published by the GBS (currently COVID-19 problems)
- The CARICOM/ISTAT intervention to improve the publication was really a good assessment
- 2021 publication will hopefully be better than the ninth
“Statistical thinking will one day be as necessary for efficient citizenship as the ability to read and write”

Thank You

ABS website:  www.statistics-suriname.org
ABS E-mail:  info@statistics-suriname.org

Stichting Algemeen Bureau voor de Statistiek