

Building the future of Suriname



“Strengthening the judges from the public prosecution service in dealing with violence against children”



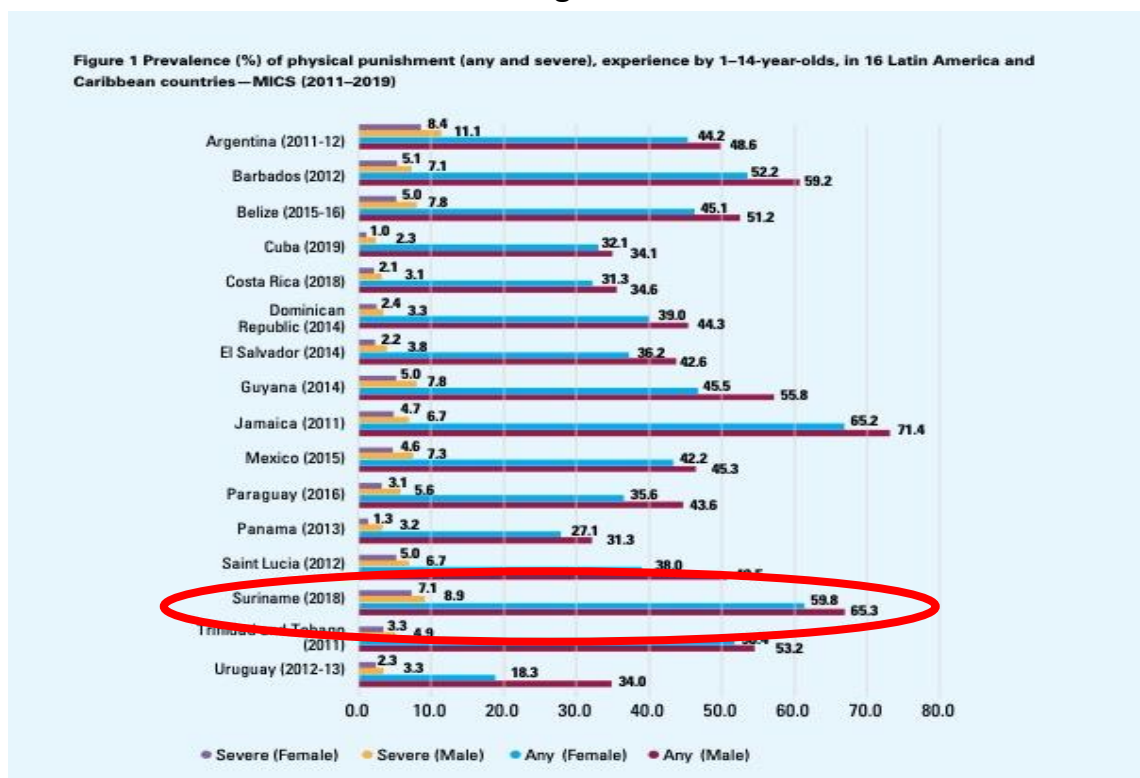
November 2023

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Background

Suriname is a developing country in south America plagued by corruption and poverty. 600.000 people live in Suriname of which 200.000 children. Child abuse is a major problem in Suriname. Regionally Suriname is second to Jamaica in victims of child abuse (figure 1)¹. According to figures from 2017², in Suriname at least 70.000 children become victims of violence every year. Unfortunately, the majority of these victims never receive the guidance and therapy they need. Research shows that children who remain in violent situations have an increased risk of poor school performance, committing suicide and developing chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease and certain types of cancer later in life³. The judges of the prosecution service in Suriname are trying to improve how they handle child custody cases involving child abuse but lack the expertise and proper training. This project aims to empower these professionals and in so doing improve the systems response to child abuse. This is one of the main goals of the Kibos foundation ⁴.



¹ From: www.unicef.org/lac/media/29036/file/Violence-against-children-in-Latin-America-and-the-Caribbean-2015-2021.pdf

² van der Kooij, I. W. (2017). Child abuse & neglect in Suriname

³ Felitti VJ, Anda RF et al Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. Am J Prev Med. 1998 May;14(4):245-58. doi: 10.1016/s0749-3797(98)00017-8. PMID: 9635069.

⁴ www.kibos.nl

Primary objective:

1. Organise a 1 day seminar with the aim of equipping 20 judges of the prosecution system In Suriname. Technically, the whole is assisted by a multidisciplinary team consisting of a child abuse paediatrician, a nurse, a child and youth psychologist and two social workers, all affiliated with the Kibos foundation. The 20 participants will be trained in:
 - What the short and long-term effects of child abuse are
 - What the physical and emotional symptoms of child abuse are
 - Interpretation of medical findings
 - Culture sensitive communication with children during the trial
 - Referral system in cases of child abuse

Secondary objective:

2. Form a cohort (using objective 1) for follow-up on these professionals.

Time schedule

Activity	Period
Selection of the professionals who will be participating in the seminar	1 st week of February 2024
Develop training packages regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing child abuse. • Culturally sensitive communication in case of suspicion of child abuse. • Interpretation of medical and emotional findings in cases of child abuse • Referral system in cases of child abuse. 	January - March 2024
Logistics and reservations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference room rental including laptop and projector for 8 hours • Drinks and snacks for 20 participants • Notepads and pens for 20 participants • 20 Certificates 	1 st -3 rd week of February 2024
Trainers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 trainers for 3 sessions of 2 hours each 	1 st week of May 2024

Administration regarding registration and correspondence	February 2024-June 2024
Seminar	1 st week of May 2024
Supervision/mentoring and evaluation session	1 st week of June 2024

Financial Plan

Activity	Price EURO	PRICE USD	Status
Selection of the professionals who will be participating in the seminar	In kind	In kind	
Develop training packages regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizing child abuse. • Culturally sensitive communication in case of suspicion of child abuse. • Interpretation of medical and emotional findings in cases of child abuse • Referral system for Cases of child abuse in Suriname. 	1580 EURO	1695 USD	No funding
Logistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference room rental including laptop and projector for 8 hours • Drinks and snacks for 75 participants • Notepads and pens for 75 participants • 75 Certificates 	1839 EURO	1973 USD	No funding
Trainers	1500 EURO	1609 USD	Trainers ready

• 3 trainers for 3 sessions of 2 hours each			
Administration regarding registration and correspondence	In kind	In kind	
Supervision, mentoring and evaluation session	In kind	In kind	
Total costs	4919 EURO	5277 USD	No funding

Management structure and procedures

Partners:

The Kibos foundation will prepare and coordinate the project in close collaboration with:

The ministry of justice and police, for their access and expertise with the public prosecution service in Suriname.



Figure 2. First training of the judges of the public prosecution service in Suriname, November 2022

Risks

1. Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging key stakeholders, the judges is crucial for the success of the study. Ensuring their buy-in, collaboration, and support will facilitate the smooth implementation of the project and pave the way for potential future scaling.

Mitigation strategies

1. Stakeholder Engagement:

- a. Identify and engage key stakeholders early on.
- b. Organize regular meetings to update stakeholders and gather their input.
- c. Actively document and share the learnings and challenges encountered during the study. This will contribute to scaling up of the program in the near future.

Impact

The impact of a project in strengthening judges of the public prosecution service in Suriname can be significant in several ways:

1. Capacity Building: The project offers an opportunity to build local capacity in dealing effectively in child custody cases involving of child abuse. This capacity-building aspect contributes to the long-term sustainability in the management of child abuse in Suriname.
2. Policy and Advocacy: The findings and recommendations from the pilot project can inform policy development and advocacy efforts related to the prevention, detection and management of child abuse in Suriname.



***There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than
the way in which it treats its children.
-Nelson Mandela***