

# Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean



Paramaribo market: FrankvandenBergh

## The Situation in Suriname

March 2023<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This profile provides an overview of the legal and social context affecting persons with disabilities to support the Government and the [World Bank's commitments on Disability Inclusion](#) adopted in the Global Disability Summit in 2018, and the institution's Environmental and Social Framework. The profile is based on a literature review of publicly official available documents but especially based on the World Bank Regional Report 'Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development. This is a joint World Bank product co-financed by the Canada Caribbean Resilience Facility. The brief was prepared by a team led by María Elena García Mora and Naraya Carrasco that included Camilo Vargas Sosa, Melissa Zumaeta, Cristina Leria, Miguel Garza and Linda Anderson-Berry. It includes significant inputs from Sanjay Agarwal, Melike Egilmezler, María Inés García Calderón (edit) and Iván García Estébanez (design). For additional inquiries on disability inclusion in LAC, task teams, and/or country teams, through the project/country Social Development Specialists, should reach out to the regional focal point on disability inclusion in LCR, María Elena García Mora ([mgarciamora@worldbank.org](mailto:mgarciamora@worldbank.org)). For inquiries on disability inclusion globally, please contact the WB Disability Advisor Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo ([cmclainnhlapo@worldbank.org](mailto:cmclainnhlapo@worldbank.org)).

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Support the Government of Suriname to establish platforms and mechanisms to include persons with disabilities at all levels of consultation and planning.
- Strengthen disaggregated data collection, target awareness campaigns for the participation and identification of persons with disabilities, training for enumerators, and focused analytics.
- Support the Government of Suriname to participate in International and Regional platforms for disability-inclusive disaster risk management to enhance the national response to the impacts of climate change.

### I. Objective

The objective of this note is to identify national entry points to strengthen the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Suriname. This note was prepared to accompany the operationalization of the regional report '[Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development](#)'.<sup>2</sup> It is meant to help guide the Government and the World Bank to strengthen disability-inclusion at the country level, and is not an exhaustive analysis on disability-inclusion in the country.

<sup>2</sup> García Mora, María Elena, Steven Schwartz Orellana and Germán Freire. 2021. *Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Although the regional report establishes that the inclusion of persons with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean has progressed in the last two decades, much remains to be done to achieve their social and economic inclusion. In general, persons with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean are more likely to be poor and vulnerable, have fewer years of education, have poor labor market indicators, and are more frequent victims of discrimination, among many other gaps.

## II. Persons with Disabilities at a Glance

As with other Caribbean countries, the population growth rate has slowed, and the population is aging rapidly. If this trend continues, it is estimated that the population will begin to decrease after 2030 (Figure 1). The National Census of Population and Housing was conducted in 2012. Disability data were collected based on the Washington Group's classification system and indicators. Data and official reports have been published in the official language, Dutch, and an analysis and commentary has been published in English.<sup>3</sup> This analysis indicates that 12.5 percent of the population has at least one disability.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, according to ABS (2014), who conducted the Census, 12.3 percent of the population has a disability. This differs from the data from an IADB Survey for 2016–2017 which showed that persons with disabilities make up 9.2 percent of the population.<sup>5</sup> Both surveys show that there are more women than men with disabilities, and that difficulty in seeing (even with glasses), walking/climbing stairs, and in upper body functions are the most common types of disabilities. They further showed that disability increases with age both in number and as a proportion of the population.

In 2018, the Suriname Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing with the General Bureau of Statistics, as part of the Global MICS Program, with technical and financial support from UNICEF. With a focus on adults aged 18–49 years and applying the Washington Group methodology, the report concluded that 5.6 percent of males and 4.9 percent of females experience functional difficulties in at least one domain.<sup>6</sup> Data showed that most people have one or two disabilities and that persons with disabilities tend to have lower levels of education than those without disabilities.

**TABLE 1. Indicators for Persons with Disabilities vs. Persons without Disabilities**

	Persons with disabilities (%)	Persons without disabilities (%)
Percentage of children attending school (6–14 years old) (Mitra, S. and Yap, J. 2021)	82 (some difficulty), 69 (a lot of difficulty)	94
Percentage of persons aged 15–64 who have completed upper secondary education (ILO 2020)	8	13
Percentage of persons aged 15–64 that are economically active (ILO 2020)	42.3	57.9
Employment rate (ILO 2020)	39.9	53.2
Access to the internet	n/a	n/a
Household access to cellphones	n/a	n/a

**TABLE 2. Disability by type – expressed as a percentage of the total number of persons with disabilities in 2012 and 2016–7.**

Type of Disability	Census 2012 % of persons with disabilities	SSLC 2016–2017 % of persons with disabilities
Difficulty seeing	67.9	70.0
Difficulty hearing	17.4	12.7
Difficulty walking	29.5	23.2
Difficulty remembering	17.0	0.0
Difficulty with self-care	11.0	0.0
Difficulty with upper body function	21.2	0.0
Difficulty with communication	8.9	9.0

Source: 2020 Employability of People in Suriname- A Baseline study by the International Labour Organisation and the Ministry of Labour, Suriname.

<sup>3</sup> Antonius-Smith, C.C.F. (2016) Gezondheid in Suriname: een analyse van chronische aandoeningen, beperkingen en sporten in 2012.

<sup>4</sup> International Labour Organization (2020). *Employability of people with disabilities in Suriname - A baseline study by the International Labour Organization and the Ministry of Labour, Suriname*. International Labour Organization, Office for the Caribbean - Port of Spain: ILO, 2020, p. 20.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p. 21

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF (2019) *Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women: MULTIPLE INDICATOR CLUSTER SURVEY 2018 Findings Report*, July, 2019. Available at: <https://statistics-suriname.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Suriname-MICS-6-Survey-Findings-Report.pdf>

**TABLE 3. Persons with disabilities by gender and data source – expressed as a percentage of the total population.**

Census 2012		SSLC 2016–2017	
Male	Female	Male	Female
10.5	14.2	7.7	10.7

Source: 2020 Employability of People in Suriname- A Baseline study by the International Labour Organisation and the Ministry of Labour, Suriname.

**TABLE 4. Gender and Disability – expressed as a percentage within each age cohort.**

Age	Males	Females	Total
<15	1.7	1.7	3.4
15–64	5.5	7.5	13.0
>64	20.3	28.9	49.2
Total all ages	5.6	7.5	13.1

Source: 2020 Employability of People in Suriname- A Baseline study by the International Labour Organisation and the Ministry of Labour, Suriname.<sup>7</sup>

Population growth in Suriname is slowing, and at the same time, as people are expected to live longer, the population is aging. Disability increases with age, and it is expected that in the future there will be an increase in both the number and proportion of persons with disabilities. Currently 7 percent of the population is over 65 years old and it is estimated that by 2050, 14.2 percent will be above that age.<sup>8</sup>

### III. Poverty and Vulnerability

Poverty levels in Suriname are high to extreme. Various indicators estimate a rate between 47 percent and 70 percent of the population. Although no official figures on the poverty

and vulnerability of persons with disabilities are available in Suriname, it is known that persons with disabilities in Latin America and the Caribbean are more likely to live in households that are poor, and are overrepresented among the vulnerable. In LAC, about 1 in 5 people living in extreme poverty has a disability, and approximately 70 percent of households with persons with disabilities are vulnerable to falling into poverty.<sup>9</sup> Accordingly, a Report from 2021<sup>10</sup>, found that adults with all types of functional difficulties in Suriname are more likely to experience multidimensional poverty than those with no difficulty. Specifically, 21 percent of persons with some difficulty, and 25 percent of those with a lot of difficulty experience multidimensional poverty, compared with 16 percent for people with no difficulty.

### IV. Education

Education is free and compulsory for children aged 6–12 years with educational opportunities available for both younger and older children. The system is constrained by poor infrastructure and a lack of trained teachers. Nevertheless, disability data from 2021 indicates that 94 percent of persons with no difficulty have attended school while 82 percent of persons with some difficulties and 69 percent of persons with a lot of difficulty have also attended school at some level.<sup>11</sup> An analysis by the International Labour Organization<sup>12</sup> showed that persons with disabilities tend to have lower levels of education than those without disabilities, and noted that while attendance was similar, there seemed to be obstacles to the completion of their studies for persons with disabilities. Completion rates are lower for persons with disabilities, starting from lower secondary education.<sup>13</sup> A substantial proportion of persons with disabilities attend tertiary education (14.8 percent) but the completion rate seems lower for persons with disabilities than for the rest of the students (4.6 vs 6.1). According to the 2014 Census, 16.8 percent of persons with disabilities have no education.

<sup>7</sup> International Labour Organization (2020). *Employability of people with disabilities in Suriname - A baseline study by the International Labour Organization and the Ministry of Labour, Suriname*. International Labour Organization, Office for the Caribbean - Port of Spain: ILO, 2020, p. 20.

<sup>8</sup> Figure Demographic pyramids for Suriname, projections 2020 and 2050. Source: <https://www.populationpyramid.net/suriname/2050/> based on [Census data](#)

<sup>9</sup> García Mora, María Elena, Steven Schwartz Orellana and Germán Freire. 2021. *Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

<sup>10</sup> Mitra, S. and Yap, J. (2021). *The Disability Data Report*. Disability Data Initiative. Fordham Research Consortium on Disability: New York

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> *Employability of people with disabilities in Suriname - A baseline study by the International Labour Organization and the Ministry of Labour, Suriname* International Labour Organization, Office for the Caribbean - Port of Spain: ILO, 2020

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

## V. Skills, work, and labor outcomes

Since its establishment in 2017, The Alliance for Decent Work for People with Disabilities has supported fair work and entrepreneurship for persons with a range of disabilities. A number of government departments and private sector business interests are working within a well-supported framework to improve both opportunities and conditions for meaningful employment. Inactivity, rather than employment rates, explains the exclusion of persons with disabilities from the labor market in LAC. When persons with disabilities seek employment, they tend to find work in low-skilled positions, especially in urban areas. The economic impact of having a household member with disabilities is also evident through higher unemployment rates of heads of households.<sup>14</sup>

An ILO (2020)<sup>15</sup> report shows that most people with disabilities are not active in the labor market (57.7 percent inactivity rate vs 42.1 percent of persons without disability) and do not seek work. For those who actively seek employment, the employment rate is substantially higher than for those who do not (53.2 percent vs 39.9), but so too is the unemployment rate (4.7 percent vs 2.4). This study also shows that persons with disabilities mostly work as salaried workers (as do those without disabilities) and are less likely to find informal employment than persons without disabilities (46.3 vs 53 percent). Conversely, they are more likely than the latter to have a permanent written contract but less so to have a written temporary one (52 percent). They are more likely to have no contract (77.9 percent) compared to persons without disabilities (74.9 percent). In terms of industries, persons with disabilities are mostly employed in manufacturing, wholesale and retail, education (especially women), administrative and support services, public administration and defense, and in construction. They are also more concentrated in mid-to-low-skilled occupations, although less so than those without disabilities.<sup>16</sup>

## VI. Voice and Agency

Excluded groups lack voice and agency because they are denied platforms to speak, and participate in making decisions. In Suriname, the legal framework contains restrictions or exclusions on the right to vote for persons with disabilities, specifically for persons with intellectual or psychosocial

disabilities. The Constitution of the Republic of Suriname (1987, amended 1992) Article N° 58, stipulates that people shall be debarred from the right to vote where “by virtue of an irrevocable judicial decision, have lost the right to dispose of or administer their property on account of insanity or imbecility.” Further, the Electoral Law (1987) Article N° 6 provides that persons are excluded from exercising their right to vote where they are “under an irrevocable court order on account of insanity or frailty of intellectual facilities” and have “lost control over their property.”

Lastly, persons with disabilities might be denied the right to stand for office, have no legally stipulated assistance when voting, and the representation of persons with disabilities in the legislature by way of quota or other positive measures is not required.

## VII. Disaster Risk Management

Disaster management legislation is in draft form and has not been approved, and thus does not have force of law. The Constitution of Suriname makes no specific provisions for disasters. However, it does contain general provisions for emergencies. It mandates the President to declare a State of Emergency to maintain external and domestic security in case of danger or threat in any part of Suriname. The National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR) was established and became active in 2006, and was appointed as the Coordinating Institute for the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in 2012. In addition to developing draft Disaster Management Legislation, a primary NCCR responsibility is to set up a Comprehensive Disaster Management System.

Current NCCR practice is that a District Commissioner is appointed for each District with the responsibility to develop a Disaster Response Plan. The Disaster Response Plans from all the districts will then make up the National Disaster Response Plan. Because of the size of Suriname, and the differences in population density, NCCR strategy is based on enabling the population at district and community level to be ‘First Responders’. In the envisioned structure, the District Commissioner is the Head of the Disaster Committee in the district, and central to the response network. There is no inclusion of persons with disabilities or their representative

<sup>14</sup> García Mora, María Elena, Steven Schwartz Orellana and Germán Freire. 2021. *Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

<sup>15</sup> International Labour Organization (2020). *Employability of people with disabilities in Suriname - A baseline study by the International Labour Organization and the Ministry of Labour, Suriname*. International Labour Organization, Office for the Caribbean - Port of Spain: ILO, 2020.

<sup>16</sup> See ILO (2020) p.11. Available at: [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/---sro-port\\_of\\_spain/documents/publication/wcms\\_740355.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---americas/---ro-lima/---sro-port_of_spain/documents/publication/wcms_740355.pdf).

bodies in any Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policy development or planning processes.<sup>17</sup>

Some Suriname relevant institutions in the field are: 1) The Cabinet of the President is responsible for the National Coordination Centre for Disaster Management (NCCR),<sup>18</sup> 2) The Ministry of Defence is responsible for Disaster and Emergency Planning, 3) The Ministry of Health is responsible for Disaster resilience planning, 4) The Ministry of Public Works is responsible for the Suriname Meteorological Department, and 5) The Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment is responsible for the Climate change adaptation policy.

## VIII. Legal and Policy Framework:

Suriname guarantees the inclusion and full exercise of the rights of persons with disabilities through the following international legal instruments: 1) Suriname ratified the United Nations Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2007 but not the Optional Protocol, which establishes an individual complaint mechanism for persons with disabilities. 2) Suriname is committed to the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) of 2015, which pledge that “no one will be left behind” and to “endeavor to reach the furthest behind first”, who the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. Disability is referenced in the SDGs, and specifically in parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, and data collection and monitoring of the SDGs. Commitments and goals are being operationalized and delivered through the country’s National Economic and Social Development Plan (2013–2025). 3) Suriname signed the [Paris Agreement](#) (2015) in 2016. This was ratified and entered into force later the same year. This builds on the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and acknowledges that all countries, in their efforts to mitigate the risks of climate change, should respect their obligations on human rights, including “the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations.” 4) Suriname has committed to [The Sendai Framework for DRR 2015–2030](#), which recognizes persons with disabilities and their representatives as essential stakeholders in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and acknowledges

the importance of disability inclusive disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and the need for accessible technology and communications. The UNDRR 2017 Data Readiness Review<sup>19</sup> which reviews and reports on data for the indicators to measure global targets of the Sendai Framework, and identify current gaps, notes that a range of data are disaggregated by disability. This includes the number of injuries, deaths and missing persons, dwellings, and the number of people whose livelihoods were disrupted or destroyed by disasters.

At the regional level, Suriname has not yet signed the [Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities](#) (CIADDIS) of 2007,<sup>20</sup> which is the first regional legal framework for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>21</sup> Suriname has been a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) since 1995. In 1997, Heads of Government of CARICOM signed [the Charter of Civil Society](#) which addresses the rights of persons with disabilities in its Article N° 14: “Every disabled person has, in particular, the right a) not to be discriminated against on the basis of his or her disability; b) to equal opportunities in all fields of endeavor and to be allowed to develop his or her full potential; and c) to respect for his or her human dignity so as to enjoy a life as normal and full as possible.” Furthermore, Suriname signed the [Declaration of Pétion Ville \(2015\)](#), along with the 15 CARICOM States to reiterate their commitments to implement the CRPD.

Suriname has not defined the term “persons with disabilities” in any national legislation. The Ministries of Social Affairs and Labour both use the United Nations definition for legal and practical purposes. This definition declares that “People with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments, which in interaction with various barriers may hinder full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.” There is no general disabilities law in Suriname. Also, Suriname has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in 2017 but has not reported to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the body of independent experts which monitors implementation of the Convention by the State Parties). Moreover, the [Constitution of Suriname](#) does not specifically prohibit discrimination against

<sup>17</sup> Based on semi-structured interview with Humphrey Blinker: Acting Service and Disaster Management Manager December 2020

<sup>18</sup> Web page: <http://www.nccr.sr.org>

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.preventionweb.net/files/54718\\_saintvincentandthegrenadinesvct.pdf](https://www.preventionweb.net/files/54718_saintvincentandthegrenadinesvct.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Signatories and Ratifications. A-65: *Inter-American Convention On The Elimination Of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Persons With Disabilities*. Available at: <https://www.oas.org/juridico/english/sigs/a-65.html>

<sup>21</sup> While both the CRPD and the CIADDIS are international instruments designed for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, they differ in their respective understandings of disability. The CIADDIS merges the medical model of disability with some elements of the social model of disability.



Photo: BartCo

persons with disabilities, although it does establish specific protections for persons with disabilities in employment:

- *Article N° 29. Duties of the State Concerning the Rights of Employees - It is the duty of the State to indicate the conditions for work, remuneration and rest to which employees are entitled, especially by: ...supplying special protection at the workplace for women during and after pregnancy, for minors, disabled persons and for those who are engaged in work which demands special efforts or who work in unhealthy or dangerous conditions.*
- *Article N° 50. The policy in relation to social security for widows, orphans, the aged, the disabled and incapacitated workers shall be laid down by law.*

The Suriname Alternative Care Act (2014) established minimum standards for services, provisions, and institutions for persons with disabilities. This applies to and is implemented through registered alternative care institutions. The Employment Policy - Resolution N° 7541 set up the 'National

Advisory Council on Policy for the Disabled'. Furthermore, The Multiannual Development Plan for 2012-2016 states that specific government policies will increase social security and other social protections for the most vulnerable segments of the population. This includes persons with disabilities but makes no direct reference to DRM or CR. The national building codes do not provide that persons with disabilities have access to buildings. Building safety is the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications (PWT&C). Suriname uses the 1996 version of the Caribbean Unified Building Code (CUBIC), developed by the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. There is currently no national database or registry of persons with disabilities. However, in June 2019, [The Alliance for Decent Work for People with Disabilities \(the Alliance\)](#)<sup>22</sup> developed a database to match jobseekers with disabilities with potential employers, and to guide them in their efforts to start their own companies. Also, the Ministry of Social Affairs maintains a register of persons with disabilities who receive government support. This is incomplete for DRR planning at all levels. Article N° 24 of the UNCRPD recognises the right of persons with disabilities to education and requires State Parties to provide an inclusive education system at all levels, and lifelong learning. The Government of the Republic of Suriname recognizes this aspiration and strives to provide free primary education for every person. However, the government cannot guarantee the full application of the provisions under Article N° 24 on the grounds that the educational system is still far from inclusive.

## IX. World Bank Engagements on disability inclusion in Suriname:

No engagements for World Bank projects on disability-inclusion in Suriname have been identified.

Neither the Suriname Performance and Learning Review (PLR)<sup>23</sup> of the last Country Partnership Strategy nor the Country Partnership Strategy FY15-19 specifically mention the inclusion of persons with disabilities. A Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD)<sup>24</sup> is being prepared and will be finalized in 2023.

<sup>22</sup> In February 2018, the "Alliance for Decent Work for People with Disabilities" was established to support persons with disabilities and include them in the labour market. The Alliance is an initiative of the Association of Surinamese Businesses (VSB), which is supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in partnership with the Ministries of Labour, Social Affairs and Housing, Trade, Industries and Tourism; the NGO's Nationale Stichting voor Blinden en Slechtzienden in Suriname (NSBS); Stichting Unu Pikin; Kennedy Stichting; Stichting Wan Okasi; Stichting Productieve Werkeenheden Suriname (SPWE); Stichting Arbeidsmobilisatie en Ontwikkeling (SAO); and Suriname Trade and Industry Association/ Vereniging Surinaams Bedrijfsleven (STIA/VSB). The aim of the Alliance is to realize Decent Work and entrepreneurship for disabled people.

<sup>23</sup> Provides an assessment of progress toward the objectives of the country partnership strategy (CPS).

<sup>24</sup> The Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) is a report produced by the World Bank for a partner country (usually every five years). It determines how a country can end poverty and boost shared prosperity, and the challenges that stand in the way of those twin goals. Source: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/collections/51faed2a-0a03-5122-8e91-7d9e28a0a3f6>

## X. ANNEXES

### Annex 1. Relevant Figures

The regional report does not contain relevant figures for Suriname.

### Annex 2. Legal framework analysis

A legal and institutional analysis of 30 countries across the Latin America and the Caribbean region<sup>25</sup> examined the strengths and weaknesses of existing national frameworks with respect to the World Bank's commitments on disability inclusion. The principal purpose of the data is to support research and policy discussions about how the legal and institutional framework

influences the social inclusion of persons with disabilities and their meaningful participation in society. In analyzing existing national legal frameworks on disability inclusion, the principal benchmarks used in the study are (a) the universally ratified Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; (b) the World Bank's Ten Commitments to Disability-Inclusive Development; and (c) the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, and the accompanying Good Practice Note on Disability. There is insufficient information for an in-depth analysis of the legal and institutional framework, but existing protections are described in section VIII above and in the Table below.

	Suriname (SU)
<b>1. Principle of non-discrimination. Does the legal framework...?</b>	
1.1 Recognize the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of disability?	Insufficient information
1.2 Recognize the duty to provide reasonable accommodation as an element of non-discrimination?	Insufficient information
1.3 Apply to private enterprises/companies?	Insufficient information
1.4 Include physical, mental, intellectual and sensory impairments?	Insufficient information
1.5 Devote specific protection to women/girls with disabilities?	Insufficient information
1.6 Devote specific protection to children with disabilities?	Insufficient information
1.7 Devote specific protection to older persons with disabilities?	Insufficient information
1.8 Devote specific protection to indigenous persons with disabilities?	Insufficient information
1.9 Cover direct and indirect discrimination?	Insufficient information
1.10 Provide for measures to prevent, eliminate or compensate any form of discrimination on the basis of disability?	Insufficient information
<b>Does the Constitution...?</b>	
1.11 Expressly prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability?	Insufficient information
1.12 Include protections for persons with disabilities among provisions on fundamental rights?	Insufficient information
1.13 Reflect a social model orientation of disability?	Insufficient information
<b>2. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society. Does the legal framework...?</b>	
2.1 Recognize the effective participation of persons with disabilities in society on an equal basis?	Insufficient information
2.2 Provide equal opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres?	Insufficient information
2.3 Recognize the right of persons with disabilities to be actively involved in decision-making processes concerning issues relating to persons with disabilities?	Insufficient information
2.4 Recognize the equal capacity before the law of persons with disabilities?	Insufficient information
2.5 Promote training of public servants on the rights of persons with disabilities?	Insufficient information

<sup>25</sup> García Mora, María Elena, Steven Schwartz Orellana and Germán Freire. 2021. *Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Path to Sustainable Development*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

Suriname (SU)	
<b>3. Accessibility. Does the legal framework...?</b>	
3.1 Recognize the principle of universal access?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.2 Recognize access to communication?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.3 Is sign language recognized as an official national language or otherwise given official recognition?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<b>3.4 Access to physical environment and transport</b>	
3.4.1 Mandate universal access for public buildings and other public facilities (private/government offices) including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces, and including accessibility standards for public buildings?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.4.2 Mandate universal access to transport infrastructure and services?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.4.3 Provide subsidized access to transport?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.4.4 Mandate reasonable accommodation to access public services?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<b>3.5 Access to Information</b>	
3.5.1 Mandate public information for persons with disabilities in accessible formats and technologies without additional cost? (including Braille, tactile communication, audio, plain-language, human-reader, augmented modes, etc.)	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.5.2 Allow for the use of alternative modes of communication and other accessible means for official interactions (i.e. use of sign languages, Braille, etc.)?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.5.3 Mandate accessibility of information and technology including electronic services?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.5.4 Provide accessibility standards for audio-visual media?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<b>1. Education. Does the legal framework...?</b>	
1.1 Expressly recognize the principle of an inclusive education system and articulate the aims of inclusive education?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
1.2 Prohibit the exclusion of persons with disabilities from the general education system?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
1.3 Cover all levels of education for persons with disabilities?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
1.4 Ensure access of persons with disabilities to the general education system?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
1.5 Include reasonable accommodation of individual student's requirements?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
1.6 Support persons with disabilities, including individualized support within the general education system?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<b>2. Health. Does the legal framework...?</b>	
2.1 Provide persons with disabilities with health services of the same quality and standard of free or affordable health care as provided to other persons?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
2.2 Provide persons with disabilities with reproductive health care?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
2.3 Provide persons with disabilities with health services specifically to minimize and prevent secondary disabilities?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
2.4 Mandate funds/public programs for rehabilitation services?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
2.5 Recognize free and informed consent of persons with disabilities and establish ethical standards for the provision of public and private health care?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<b>3. Work and Employment. Does the legal framework...?</b>	
3.1 Prohibit discrimination in the workplace, including conditions of recruitment, hiring and employment, and safe and healthy working conditions?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.2 Mandate the employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.3 Establish a quota system for the employment of persons with disabilities in the public sector?	<b>Insufficient information</b>



	Suriname (SU)
3.4 Promote the employment of persons with disabilities in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures which may include affirmative action programs, incentives and other measures?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.5 Mandate reasonable accommodation in the workplace?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<b>4. Participation in political and public life. Does the legal framework...?</b>	
4.1 Contain restrictions or exclusions on the right to vote for persons with disabilities, such as an exclusions based on legal capacity?	<b>Yes</b>
4.2 Persons with disabilities might be denied the right to stand for office on account of discriminatory criteria that exclude them.	<b>Yes</b>
4.3 Guarantee equal and effective access to voting procedures, facilities and materials in order for persons with disabilities to vote, including reasonable accommodations and other measures for accessibility?	<b>No</b>
4.4 Include representatives of persons with disabilities in the legislature by way or quotas or other positive measures?	<b>No</b>
4.5 Expressly mandate assisted voting for persons with disabilities, including selection of an assistant of their own choosing?	<b>Partial</b>
4.6 Provide for voting for persons who are in long-term institutions or home-bound?	<b>No</b>
4.7 Include accessibility standards for the internet?	<b>No</b>
4.8 Accessibility standards for polling stations?	<b>No</b>
<b>5. Social Protection. Does the legal framework...?</b>	
5.1 Recognize disability-related expenses in social protection programs?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
5.2 Recognize the right of persons with disabilities to access public housing programs?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
5.3 Prohibit discrimination in access to and supply of goods and services?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<b>6. Protection in situations of risk. Does the legal framework...?</b>	
6.1 Ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk/emergency including armed conflict, public health emergencies, humanitarian emergencies and natural disaster?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<b>1. National Monitoring</b>	
1.1 Does the State designate focal points in Government to implement the Convention?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
1.2 Does the State coordinate within Government to facilitate related actions in different sectors and at different levels?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<b>2. Establish an independent monitoring body</b>	
2.1 Does the State have an independent framework to implement the Convention?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
2.2 Does the designated framework meet the requirements of independence?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
<b>3. Participation in monitoring</b>	
3.1 Has the State taken measures to involve civil society?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.2 Has the State taken measures to involve persons with disabilities?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.3 Has the State taken measures to include gender perspectives?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.4 Does the state allow for persons with disabilities to participate in public matters?	<b>Insufficient information</b>
3.5 Does the State allow for participation in the monitoring process and the preparation of the State report?	<b>Insufficient information</b>

### Annex 3. Stakeholder mapping<sup>26</sup>

There are a range of government bodies, representative bodies and organisations that support persons with disabilities in Suriname – information on websites and that has been made available through a key informant interview is in the Dutch language – more research is still needed.

- The Alliance is the organisation that represents persons with disabilities across a range of government functions mostly concerning employment. There is no reference to DRM functions in the Alliance documents or web-based information researched for this report.
- The National Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired: this institute supports persons with visual disabilities to become independent citizens in society. Staff work with stakeholders to offer education, care and guidance, and disseminate information to promote the acceptance and inclusion of persons with visual disabilities.
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Housing protects the rights of persons with disabilities, provides financial support and maintains a register of those who receive government support.
- Ministry of Labour protects the employment rights of persons with disabilities.
- Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (MOESC) is responsible for education policy for children and juveniles, including those with disabilities. MOESC works with the private sector to reform vocational training, especially for children with disabilities. More schools for Special Education are being planned and existing schools will be made more accessible for those with a disability. The Foundation Training Projects for Juveniles with Disability in Suriname aims to teach skills to children and juveniles (14–20) with learning disabilities so that they can contribute to the labor market and engage more productively in society.
- Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications (MPWT & C) and Tourism is responsible for compliance with building codes and building safety regulations, and communication infrastructure (radio, television, mobile, etc.).
- The Alliance for Decent Work for People with Disabilities (The Alliance) was established in 2018 as a joint initiative of the Association of Surinamese Businesses (VSB), government ministries, and organisations advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities, and is supported by the United Nations Development Program. It aims to promote employment and entrepreneurship among

persons with disabilities in Suriname, and has launched a database to match employers with employees.

- [The Caribbean Development Bank](#) has launched the Disability Assessment Project (2018) to develop evidence-based projects and services for disability mainstreaming in the region. The project seeks to provide robust disability data in social, economic, and political domains; examine the differential impacts of disability and their intersection with other vulnerabilities associated with sex, age cohort (children, youth, elderly and working age), ethnicity, and race (as relevant); identify constraints and enablers to equal participation of persons with disabilities compared with persons without disabilities in growth sectors of the formal and informal economy; and examine vulnerabilities to natural disasters, economic shocks and climate change.

### Annex 4. Glossary - Empower with words

- Language used on disability varies across countries and cultures. In a country context, it is useful to ask persons with disabilities what words and phrases they prefer. It is also important to find out whether an individual is willing to disclose their disability. When describing an individual, do not reference his or her disability unless it is clearly pertinent to the issue or story.
- It is recommended to use ‘person-first language’, which puts the person before his or her impairment (a person who uses a wheelchair, a person with visual impairment) which is in line with the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).
- The use of terms such as “handicapped”, “a person suffering from...”, “mentally retarded”, “able-bodied/normal”, “the disabled”, “the blind”, “paraplegic”, “wheelchair-bound” are not recommended. Disability is not an illness and hence it is important to refrain from using terms such as healthy versus sick.

The following brief glossary provides guidelines to portray individuals with disabilities in a respectful and balanced way with language that is neutral:

- Person(s) with disabilities
- Person who is blind/ or person with visual disabilities
- Person who is deaf/ person who is deaf or hard of hearing/ person with hearing disabilities: Many people in the Deaf community prefer the use of a lowercase “d” to refer to audiological status and the use of a capital “D” when referring to the culture and community of Deaf people.

<sup>26</sup> This is a living document that is constantly being updated. Therefore, the stakeholders may change from time to time. Following appropriate accessibility features (sign interpretation, closed caption) is key to see that persons with disabilities can efficiently and openly participate of meetings and consultations.

- Person who is deaf/blind
- Person with mobility/physical disabilities
- Person using a wheelchair/a wheelchair user
- Person with intellectual/developmental disabilities
- Person with albinism
- Person with short stature or little person
- Person with psychosocial disabilities
- Person with Down syndrome
- Organization of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)
- Assistive devices (white cane, hearing aid, wheelchair, tricycle).