

# First Millennium Development Goals Report



## Curaçao & Sint Maarten 2011



By the Governments of Curaçao and Sint Maarten  
in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program  
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*Participants and trainers at the MDG sensitization workshop, University of the Netherlands Antilles, Willemstad, Curacao, May 31, 2010.*



## List of acronyms

<b>ACS</b>	Association of Caribbean States
<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>ANG</b>	Antillean Guilder
<b>ART</b>	Antiretroviral Drugs Treatment
<b>BES</b>	Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba
<b>BNA</b>	Central Bank of Curaçao and Sint Maarten
<b>BoP</b>	Balance of Payment
<b>BON</b>	Bonaire
<b>BT&amp;P</b>	Bureau for Telecommunication and Postal Services (regulator)
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community
<b>CART</b>	Combined Anti Retroviral Therapy
<b>CBS</b>	Central Bureau of Statistics
<b>CBD</b>	Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>COHSOD</b>	Council for Human and Social Development
<b>CSO</b>	Central Statistics Offices
<b>CUR</b>	Curaçao
<b>CXC</b>	Caribbean Examination Council
<b>DESA</b>	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>DEVCO</b>	Department for Development Cooperation
<b>DEZ</b>	Department of Economic Affairs of the Island Territory of Curaçao
<b>DPP</b>	Department for Programs and Projects
<b>DPT</b>	Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus
<b>EEZ</b>	Exclusive Economic Zone
<b>EFZ</b>	Exclusive Fishery Zone
<b>EOP</b>	Island Zoning Plan with Zoning Regulations
<b>EPI</b>	Expanded Program Immunization
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EUX</b>	Sint Eustatius
<b>FBE</b>	Foundation Based Education
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GGD</b>	Island Public Health Department
<b>GPI</b>	Gender Parity Index
<b>HAVO</b>	Senior General Secondary Education
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus

<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology
<b>IFE</b>	Instituto pa Formashon den Enfermeria
<b>IMR</b>	Infant Mortality Rate
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Cycle 1, Form 1 and 2 (=is integral part of FBE)
<b>LDC</b>	Least Developed Countries
<b>LISP</b>	Low Income Shelter Project
<b>LVV</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>MED</b>	Ministry of Economic Development
<b>MMR</b>	Maternal Mortality Ratio
<b>MMR</b>	Measles, Mumps & Rubella (immunization)
<b>MOP</b>	Multi – Annual Development Plan
<b>MR</b>	Mortality Rate
<b>N/A</b>	Not available
<b>NGO</b>	Non Governmental Organizations
<b>OBNA</b>	Development Bank of the Netherlands Antilles
<b>OCT</b>	Overseas Countries and Territories
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization
<b>PdVSA</b>	Petroleo de Venezuela S.A.
<b>PPP</b>	Purchasing Power Parity
<b>REDD</b>	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
<b>SAB</b>	Saba
<b>SXM</b>	Sint Maarten
<b>SVB</b>	Sociale Verzekeringsbank
<b>SVP</b>	Youth Development Program (for 18-24 years old)
<b>TCT</b>	Ministry of Transport, Communication & Tourism
<b>T&amp;T</b>	Trinidad and Tobago
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNFCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNA</b>	University of the Netherlands Antilles
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteer Program
<b>VSBO</b>	Preparatory Secondary Vocational Education
<b>VWO</b>	Advanced Secondary Education

# List of explanations

**Adjusted net savings:** Rate of savings in an economy after taking into account investments in human capital, depletion of natural resources and damage caused by pollution, expressed as a percentage of gross national income (GNI). Negative adjusted net saving implies that total wealth is declining and that the economy is on an unsustainable path.

**Births attended by skilled health personnel:** Percentage of deliveries attended by personnel (including doctors, nurses and midwives) trained to give the necessary care to women during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period. Excludes traditional birth attendants, whether trained or not.

**Consumer price index:** Average price of a basket of goods and services purchased by households; the basket varies by country and may be fixed or may change at specified intervals. Changes in the consumer price index indicate the change in the real value (purchasing power) of money.

**Contraceptive prevalence rate, any method:** Percentage of women of reproductive age (ages 15–49) who are using, or whose partners are using, any form of contraception, whether modern or traditional.

**Debt service, public expenditure on:** Sum of principal repayments and interest actually paid in foreign currency, goods or services on long-term debt (having a maturity of more than one year), interest paid on short-term debt and repayments to the International Monetary Fund, expressed as a percentage of GNI.

**Degraded land, people living on:** Percentage of people living on severely and very severely degraded land. Land degradation is based on four aspects of ecosystem services: biomass, soil health, water quantity and biodiversity. Severe degradation indicates that biotic functions are largely destroyed and that land is non-reclaimable at the farm level. Very severe degradation indicates that biotic functions are fully destroyed and that land is non-reclaimable.

**Dependency ratio:** Ratio of the population ages 0–14 and ages 65 and older to the working-age population (ages 15–64), expressed as dependants per 100 people ages 15–64.

**Ecological footprint of consumption:** Amount of biologically productive land and sea area that a country requires to produce the resources it consumes and to absorb the waste it generates, expressed in hectares per capita.

**Enrolment ratio, gross:** Total enrolment in a given level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school age population for the same level of education.

**Enrolment ratio, net:** Enrolment in a given level of education of the official age for that level, expressed as a percentage of the total population of the same age group.

**Expected years of schooling:** Number of years of schooling that a child of school entrance age can expect to receive if prevailing patterns of age-specific enrolment rates were to stay the same throughout the child's life.

**Fertility rate:** adolescent Number of births to women ages 15–19, expressed per 1,000 women of the same age. Fertility rate, total Number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years and bear children at each age in accordance with prevailing age-specific fertility rates.

**Foreign direct investment, net inflows:** Net inflows of investment to acquire a lasting management interest (10 percent or more of voting stock) in an enterprise operating in an economy other than that of the investor. It is the sum of equity capital, reinvestment of earnings, other long-term capital and short-term capital, expressed as a percentage of GDP.

**Formal employment:** Wage and salaried workers, plus employers, expressed as a percentage of total employment.

**GDP (gross domestic product):** Sum of value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output, calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated capital assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Value added is the net output of an industry after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs. When expressed in US dollar terms, it is converted using the average official exchange rate reported by the International Monetary Fund. An alternative conversion factor is applied if the official exchange rate is judged to diverge by an exceptionally large margin from the rate effectively applied to transactions in foreign currencies and traded products. When expressed in purchasing power parity (PPP) US dollar terms, it is converted to international dollars using PPP rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GDP that the US dollar has in the United States. GDP per capita Gross domestic product (GDP) in US dollar terms, divided by midyear population. When expressed as an average annual growth rate, the least squares annual growth rate is used with constant GDP per capita data in local currency units.

**GNI (gross national income) per capita:** Sum of value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income (compensation of employees and property income) from abroad, divided by midyear population.

**Value added:** the net output of an industry after adding up all outputs and subtracting intermediate inputs. When expressed in PPP US dollar terms, it is converted to international dollars using PPP rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GDP that a US dollar has in the United States.

**Human Development Index (HDI):** A composite index measuring average achievement in three basic dimensions of human development—a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.

**Human Development Index—hybrid:** An index that uses the same functional form as the HDI but uses literacy and gross enrollment to build the education index and GDP per capita for the income indicator.

**Income poverty line, population below:** Percentage of the population living below the specified poverty line (PPP \$1.25 a day and the national poverty line). The national poverty line is the poverty line deemed appropriate for a country by its authorities. National estimates are based on population-weighted subgroup estimates from household surveys.

**Labour force participation rate:** Percentage of the working-age population (ages 15–64) that actively engages in the labour market, by either working or actively looking for work.

**Life expectancy at birth:** Number of years a newborn infant could expect to live if prevailing patterns of age-specific mortality rates at the time of birth were to stay the same throughout the infant's life.

**Literacy rate, adult:** Percentage of people ages 15 and older who can, with understanding, both read and write a short simple statement on their everyday life.

**Mean years of schooling:** Average number of years of education received by people ages 25 and older in their lifetime based on education attainment levels of the population converted into years of schooling based on theoretical durations of each level of education attended.

**Mortality rate, adult:** Probability per 1,000 that a 15-year-old person will die before reaching age 60.

**Mortality rate, infant:** Probability of dying between birth and exactly age 1, expressed per 1,000 live births.

**Mortality rate, under-five:** Probability per 1,000 that a newborn baby will die before reaching age five, if subject to current age-specific mortality rates.

**Mortality ratio, maternal:** Number of maternal deaths, expressed per 100,000 live births. Maternal death is defined as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days after terminating a pregnancy, regardless of the length and site of the pregnancy, due to any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy itself or its care but not due to accidental or incidental causes.

**Multidimensional poverty, intensity of deprivation:** Average percentage of deprivation experienced by people in multidimensional poverty.

**Net enrolment ratio in primary education:** the ratio of the number of children of official school age (as defined by the national education system) who are enrolled in primary school to the total population of children of official school age.

**Non income HDI value:** Value of Human Development Index computed from life expectancy and education index only.

**Official development assistance:** Disbursements of loans made on concessional terms (net of repayments of principal) and grants by official agencies of the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), by multilateral institutions and by non-DAC countries to promote economic development and welfare in countries and territories in part I of the DAC list of aid recipients, expressed as a percentage of the recipient country's GNI. It includes loans with a grant element of at least 25 percent (calculated at a discount rate of 10 percent).

**Physician density:** Number of medical doctors (physicians), including generalist and specialist medical practitioners, expressed per 10,000 people.

**Political freedom, democracy:** Score on the Democracy and Dictatorship measure of political regimes, which distinguishes between regimes in which executive and legislative offices are filled through contested elections and those in which they are not.

**Repetition rate, primary:** Number of primary school students enrolled in the same grade that they attended in the previous school year, expressed as a percentage of total enrolments in the school in the previous year.

**Seats in parliament held by gender:** Percentage of seats held by a respective gender in a lower or single house or an upper house or senate, where relevant.

**Tax revenue:** Total receipts from compulsory transfers to the central government for public purposes, including income and property taxes and excluding fines, penalties and most social

**Trained teachers, primary:** Percentage of primary school teachers who have received the minimum organized teacher training (pre-service or in-service) required for teaching at the primary level of education.

**Undernourishment, prevalence of:** Percentage of the population whose dietary energy consumption is continuously below a minimum dietary energy requirement for maintaining a healthy life and carrying out light physical activity with an acceptable bodyweight for attained height.

**Unemployment rate:** Percentage of the labour force (the employed and unemployed population) ages 15 years and older who are not in paid employment nor self-employed but who are available for work and have taken specific steps to seek paid employment or self-employment.

**Vulnerable employment:** Percentage of employed people engaged as unpaid family workers and own-account workers.



# Acknowledgements and Foreword

## Acknowledgements

This Millennium Development Goals (MDG) report for Curaçao and Sint Maarten is the first one to be produced and is primarily a baseline assessment on the status of progress towards the MDGs in these islands from 2001 to 2010. It is to inform the public and policymakers alike on the current situation and some measures that will be necessary to achieve the goals and targets by 2015 with the 2000 General Assembly Summit and the Millennium Declaration as the guiding framework. It analyzes the situation with baseline year 2001 till 2010 to the extent that data is available. It also details the participatory approach as part of the capacity development process for the ownership of the MDGs by national governments of Curaçao and Sint Maarten. Although some observations are noted which could form part of future policy orientation, the intention of the report is not necessarily to prescribe specific strategies although it gives some examples from the region. It is the hope that this analysis will inform wider debate for political commitments for policy actions, programs and projects as well as for building national capacity for improving and monitoring MDG outcomes by 2015. In view of the Addendum to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Guidance Note on Country Reporting on the MDGs of November 2009, the report takes note of the recommendations and attempts to strike a balance: as a public information, social mobilization and analyses of what has worked or not worked in the local context and relating those experiences to the new emerging realities of escalating inequalities, regional and local disparities and the new challenges of the food, fuel, climate change, global economic and financial crises.

As of October 10, 2010 Curaçao and Sint Maarten became autonomous countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands with equal status as the Netherlands and Aruba. Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius, the other three islands comprising the former Netherlands Antilles became overseas municipalities of the Netherlands. For the sake of comparison and in light of recent arrangements, the report focuses on the new countries of Curaçao and Sint Maarten but makes peripheral references to the sister islands which were until recently part of the same country.

Development of more detailed reports are recommended for the new countries Curaçao and Sint Maarten to deepen analysis of the local situations and provide specific, practical solutions. In order to achieve this, it would be necessary to conduct an in-depth trend analysis for each target to find out the types of policy and program planning, budget and financing and service delivery for effective implementation.

This report, coauthored by Agnette Kingswijk-Tobi and Okama Ekpe Brook would not have been possible without the preliminary preparatory work of various institutions and individuals including: the Central MDG Working Group, Island MDG Groups in Curaçao and Sint Maarten, and the individuals and groups who participated in the face-to-face interviews, field missions and peer reviews. The authors wish to recognize all the contributions from government, donors, communities, non governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, the media and the private sector. Particularly noted is the role played by independent consultant Mr. Roland van den Bergh from Curconsult who authored the draft report from which information was used for this report. Most of the statistics used in this report were obtained from the National Census of 2001 by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of the former Netherlands Antilles.

Special thanks to Jose Ursula, Loekie Morales, Evy Martis-van Arneman, the Island Focal points for Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius, former Department for Development Cooperation (DevCo) colleagues Ralph James (former Director), Edil Poulina, Jamila Romero, Margie Mauricia, Jarmila Juana; Central Bureau of Statistics colleague Mike Jacobs; Ministry of Economic Development Management Team Chairperson, Tamira La Cruz; Ministry of Economic Development colleagues guided by Ramon Chong; independent reviewers, Miriela Carolina, Central Bank of Curacao and Sint Maarten, Gilbert Cijntje, Intercontinental University of the Caribbean, Jacqueline Martis, Ministry of Social Affairs, Goretti Narain, National Committee for UNESCO and UNDP colleagues in Trinidad, Marcia De Castro, Edo Stork, Sandra Baptiste-Caruth, UNDP colleagues at the Regional Centre in Panama, Stefano Pettinato and Tammy Singer; MDG Support Team in New York, Gonzalo Pizarro and Kayla Keenan

and Elizabeta Hopic from UNICEF Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many other people worked behind the scenes to assist in the achievement of this report for which we are very grateful. Thank you.

The first part of this report describes the socio-economic situation on the two islands, in particular with regard to demographic changes (such as migration, aging), developments on the labour market and health related issues. Data from both the Census 2001 by the Netherlands Antilles CBS and more recent Labour Force Survey of 2009 and other market figures are analyzed. Internet sites (country information, Tourism, World fact book, CBS, etc.); Interviews; Documents were sourced from members of the MDG Working Groups as well as Statistical overviews from GGD (Curaçao Public Health Department).

The second component examines the Island Development Plans, the recommendations made by the World Bank (baseline year 2001) and the future outlook in the social and economic development of the two new countries if the eight Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved by 2015.

The Island Development Plans give a good insight into the social needs on the islands. Some of these needs are already being addressed but many remain to be tackled in government programs.



Speakers at the MDG Public lecture held at the University of Sint Maarten, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten, June 8, 2010.



## Foreword:

### **Prime Minister of Curaçao: Mr. Gerrit F. Schotte**

With the signing of the “United Nations Millennium Declaration” in September 2000 by 189 members of the United Nations, the leaders of these nations assumed a collective responsibility to work towards a significant improvement of the well being of the world community at large. Aforementioned Declaration centers around 8 goals. These goals are related amongst others to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the achievement of primary education, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the reduction of infant and maternal mortality, ensuring environmental sustainability, combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases and creating a global partnership for development.

The Netherlands Antilles was dismantled on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and new countries, amongst others Curaçao, emerged. As the first Prime Minister of Curaçao, my Government and I made a firm commitment towards the achievement of a higher standard of living and higher quality of life for all citizens of Curaçao.

As an autonomous country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Government of Curaçao will dedicate the necessary energy and designate the necessary means towards the achievement of the 8 goals. To achieve these 8 goals, my Government will also create the necessary conditions which could foster a balanced social and economic development in Curaçao.

It is with great pleasure that I inform that Curaçao is already on track with reaching the international standard for most of the goals. The challenge still remains to improve the health conditions, the further improvement of our education system and advance technology and investment in our environment.

In order to reach these targets, close cooperation and partnership with the local community at large, the private sector, academia and the media is of great importance to provide the highest possible level of well being for our country.

Together with regional and international strategic partners we will accelerate the process to reach these goals.

Rest assured that the presentation of this first Millennium Development Goals report for our island marks only the beginning of a new era in the further social and economic development of Curaçao.

Mr. Gerrit F. Schotte  
Prime Minister of Curaçao



## Foreword:

### **Prime Minister of Sint Maarten: Mrs. Sarah Wescot-Williams**

On October 10th, 2010 Sint Maarten became a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. With this new constitutional status, the Government of Sint Maarten can now directly join the international community of nations in pledging support for the Millennium Declaration initiated by the United Nations that gave the foundation for a global agenda for human development. This report provides a meaningful account of how Sint Maarten has already achieved many of the internationally agreed goals. For instance, Sint Maarten is on track and in certain cases surpassed the targets for education and healthcare. Nonetheless, these bright beacons are clouded by serious barriers reaching the MDG targets related to the areas of poverty, hunger, HIV /AIDS, and sustainable management of natural resources. It is therefore this government's intention to address these challenges in its upcoming National Development Plan to reach set targets by 2015.

The finalization of this first MDG progress report comes at an opportune time when our country is setting its objectives for its first National Development Plan, and our administration will use this report as a basis to set the country's vision with appropriate strategies to develop its socio-economic objectives for Sint Maarten. It will serve as a baseline for future planning, updating and monitoring. Furthermore it will provide us with a necessary guide to structure our development plans and the equitable allocation of our limited resources.

As a further testament to our commitment to achieve these goals, the Government of Sint Maarten assembled a dynamic MDG Working Group to act as a MDG acceleration team to further the Government's ownership, integration and supervision of our progress towards meeting the goals especially those in which we are lagging behind.

Sint Maarten's achievement of its new constitutional status was built on the tenets of perseverance, commitment, and cooperation. It is with these principles in mind that we intend to join the international community to enhance our country's standard of living for the people of Sint Maarten and those of this world.

Mrs. Sarah Wescot-Williams  
Prime Minister of Sint Maarten



## Preface:

### **UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten: Dr. Marcia De Castro**

The publication of this first Millennium Development Goals (MDG) report marks an historic moment in the partnership between the United Nations Development Program with the government of the former Netherlands Antilles and now the governments of the new countries of Curaçao and Sint Maarten. It recognizes a relationship that spanned four decades and provides a strategic point of reference for our future work. The UNDP is pleased to see that the governments of the new countries of Curaçao and Sint Maarten will now have a current situational analysis document and baseline statistics that will support evidence-based development planning.

Since the signing of the Millennium Declaration in the year 2000, the UNDP has supported countries around the region in the preparation of MDG Reports and in their efforts to monitor and improve conditions for goal attainment. UNDP continues to stand ready to assist the new governments in using this report to support political commitments, policy actions, programs and projects, and budgetary frameworks as well as for building national capacity aimed at reaching stated national objectives and improving and monitoring the outcomes up to 2015 and beyond. The objective of this report is to analyze development strategies that have negatively or positively impacted development in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in the past and relating those experiences to the new emerging realities of escalating regional and local disparities and inequalities. New countries are not immune to the present global challenges of food scarcities, health pandemics, climate change, gender imbalances and global economic integration. There is also added responsibility to ensure informed citizens participation through social mobilization and availability of public information. I especially welcome the measurement innovation used - capturing multidimensional local context introduced through the Caribbean set of targets and indicators and using a human development index (HDI) perspective. The premise of the HDI shows that national development should be measured not only by national income, but also by life expectancy and literacy.

Development indicators from this report will be stored in a web-based socio-economic database, DEVINFO, in each country, expanding access to the data. A needs assessment that links policies and programs to a national development strategy and also identifies necessary budgetary commitments and service delivery modalities for effective achievement of the MDGs is now critical to maintain momentum. A detailed report for each country in 2012 would then be necessary to do a direct trend analysis for each MDG target and document the lessons learned.

I would like to commend the authors of this report, our Liaison Officer in the Antilles, Okama Ekpe Brook and Agnette Kingswijk-Tobi, Senior Policy Officer at the Ministry of Economic Development. They worked tirelessly to ensure a participatory process to write this high quality product within a limited timeframe even in the face of complex constitutional change. I also wish to recognize all the contributions from various governmental and non-governmental organizations in Curaçao and Sint Maarten, the Universities of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA) and Sint Maarten (USM), the media, the private sector and various agencies of the UN working in the Americas region for their contributions to the preparation of the report. This clearly demonstrates a high level of commitment, dedication and professionalism to move the MDG process further in all the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles. You all have contributed to this successful exercise.

I am convinced that as your new countries move forward in to the next stages of planning, execution and monitoring of your ongoing development processes, this inaugural MDG report will provide the framework that addresses identified national priorities and successfully meet the goals put forward by the Millennium Declaration by 2015. It is also important to build on innovations in the field and advances in theory and data already being applied to most countries in the region and which provide important new insights. These new measurement tools reinforce the continuing validity in human development guided by the MDG framework's values and findings. UNDP is honored to have been a part of this process. I wish the governments and people of Curaçao and Sint Maarten much success for the next 5 years—and beyond.

Dr. Marcia De Castro

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten

# The Caribbean Specific Millennium Development Goals, Targets and Indicators

Goals	Targets	Indicators
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	1. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who fall below the poverty line.	1. Proportion of population living below the poverty line by sex: a. Proportion of households living below the poverty line, by sex of Head of Household b. Proportion of employed living in households with a household per capita income which is below the poverty line, by sex of head of household 2. Poverty gap ratio, by sex 3. Share of poorest quintile in national consumption, by sex
	2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.	4. Prevalence of under weight children under 5 years of age by sex; 5. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption by sex.
	3. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of persons without access to basic services.	6. Proportion of households with access to electricity by sex of head of household; 7. Proportion of households using pit latrines by sex of head of household.
2. Achieve universal primary education	4. Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary and secondary education.	8. Net enrolment in primary education by sex; 9. Proportion of students of school age attending primary school by sex and grade; a. Proportion of students of school age attending secondary school by sex and form; 10. Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5 by sex; 11. Net enrolment ratio in secondary education by sex; 12. Proportion of students starting Form 1 who reach Form 5 in secondary school by sex 13. Proportion of students who complete secondary school at Form 5 with passes in at least two subjects English (or official language of country), and Maths by sex; 14. Literacy rate of persons 15-24 year olds by sex; 15. Proportion of students in secondary schools in 5th Form enrolled in science and technical subjects, by sex a. Proportion of teachers trained in the area of gender sensitization 16. Proportion of schools implementing a gender sensitization program 17. Proportion of children in class above the average age of the class, by sex a. Proportion of children in class below the average age of the class, by sex 18. Percentage of trained teachers in primary schools by sex; a. Percentage of trained teachers in secondary schools by sex; 19. Average class size by grade/form
	5. Ensure that, by 2015 pre-school age children have universal access to early childhood education.	20. Proportion of children attending early childhood education institutions, by sex
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	6. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.	21. Ratio of girls to boys in primary enrolment; 22. Ratio of girls to boys in secondary enrollment; 23. Ratio of girls to boys in tertiary enrolment; 24. Ratio of literate women to men of 15-24 years; 25. Proportion of students who take Mathematics and at least one of the Sciences in examinations (CTX or equivalent) at 5th Form by sex.
	7. Eliminate gender disparities in income and occupational opportunities at all levels and in all sectors, no later than 2015.	26. Share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector; 27. Average earned income (gross) of men and women by occupational group; 28. Proportion of the employed persons by occupational group and sex; 29. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament; 30. Proportion of women holding office in local government; 31. Proportion of women in other decision-making occupations.
	8. Reduce by 60%, the incidence of physical acts of gender based violence by 2015.	32. Incidence of reported physical abuse by sex of the abused; 33. Number of persons per 1,000 population who have been victims of major crimes, by sex; a. Average age of victim of major crimes, by sex 34. Number of persons per 1,000 population who have committed major crimes, by sex; a. Average age of offender who have committed major crimes, by sex 35. Number of persons per 1,000 population who have experienced physical violence in the past 12 months at the hands of spouse/partner, by sex. a. Average age of persons who have experienced physical violence in the past 12 months at the hands spouse/partner, by sex.
	9. Reduce by 2015, all forms of gender based violence.	36. Percentage of sexual assault cases completed through the court process in the past 12 months.

Goals	Targets	Indicators
4. Reduced child mortality	10. Reduce by two thirds between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.	37. Under five mortality rate by sex; 38. Infant mortality rate by sex; 39. Proportion of children 1-4 years of age who have received complete immunization coverage (BCG, 3 doses DPT, oral polio and measles); 40. Number of deaths of children through violence per 1,000 population under 5, by sex; a. Average age of children under 5 who died through violence, by sex b. Number of perpetrators responsible for the death of children under 5, by sex c. Average age of perpetrators responsible for the deaths of children under 5, by sex
5. Improve maternal health	11. Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.	41. Maternal mortality ratio
	12. Universal access to reproductive and sexual health services through the primary healthcare system by 2015.	42. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. 43. Proportion of contraceptive demand satisfied. 44. Adolescent (10-19) fertility rate. 45. Proportion of adolescent (10-19) attending ante-natal care clinics. 46. Number of women aged 15-49, per 1000 women of this age group, contracting sexually transmitted infections by type. a. Number of women 15-49 per 1,000 women of this age group treated for sexually transmitted infections by type.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases	13. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.	47. HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24; 48. Condom use, rate of contraceptive prevalence: a. Condom use at last high-risk sex, by sex; b. Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS by sex; c. Contraceptive prevalence rate. 49. Condom use as a proportion of overall contraceptive use for persons 15-24 in consensual unions; 50. Percentage of population 15-24 years in support of abstinence 51. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans 14 and under; 52. Proportion of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS by age group
	14. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.	53. Prevalence of malaria by sex and age; a. Death rates associated with malaria by sex and age; 54. Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria preventative and treatment measures; 55. Prevalence of tuberculosis, by sex and age a. Death rates associated with tuberculosis, by sex and age 56. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under DOTS 57. Prevalence of Dengue, by sex and age; a. Death rates associated with Dengue, by sex and age 58. Prevalence of selected chronic non-communicable diseases by sex and age; a. Death rates associated with selected chronic non-communicable diseases by sex and age;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	15. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.	59. Proportion of land area covered by forest; 60. Ratio of area protected to maintain biological diversity to surface area; 61. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP); 62. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita); 63. Proportion of population using solid fuels by type of tenure.
	16. Reduce, by half, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.	64. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source 65. Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation facility, urban/rural;
	17. Have achieved, by 2020, significant improvement in lives of at least 70% of persons living in poor communities.	66. Proportion of households with own dwelling;
	18. Ensure the availability of a vulnerability index for the Caribbean which is sensitive to economic, social and environmental threats within the next five years.	67. Percentage of coral reefs destroyed by human activity and by natural disasters; 68. Incidence of natural disasters; 69. Economic losses resulting from natural disasters; 70. Social dislocation resulting from natural disasters;

Goals	Targets	Indicators
8. Develop a global partnership for development	19. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.	<p><b>ODA</b></p> <p>71. Net ODA as a percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national product (targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs);</p> <p>72. Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation).</p> <p>73. Proportion of ODA that is untied;</p> <p>74. Proportion of ODA for environment in Small Island Development States;</p> <p>75. Proportion of ODA for transportation in land-locked countries.</p> <p><b>Market Access</b></p> <p>76. Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas;</p> <p>a. Export of services as a proportion of total goods and services exported</p> <p>77. Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries</p> <p>78. Agricultural subsidies for OECD countries as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product for respective countries;</p> <p>79. Cost of implementing sanitary/phytosanitary measures as a percentage of the total value of exports for which these measures are required;</p> <p>80. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity.</p>
	20. Address the special needs of the least developed countries includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced program of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction.	
	21. Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (through the Program of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly).	
	22. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.	<p><b>Debt Sustainability</b></p> <p>81. Proportion of official bilateral debt cancelled;</p> <p>82. Debt service as a percentage of export of goods and services;</p> <p>83. Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief;</p>
	23. In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth, women and especially vulnerable groups.	<p>84. Unemployment rate by sex;</p> <p>a. Unemployment rate for the 15-24 age group by sex;</p>
	24. In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable internationally approved essential drugs in developing countries.	<p>85. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential, approved drugs on a sustainable basis;</p>
	25. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.	<p>86. Telephone lines per 1,000 people;</p> <p>87. Personal computers per 1,000 people;</p> <p>88. Ratio of personal computers/laptops available for use in primary and secondary schools to number of students enrolled in primary and secondary schools (respectively);</p> <p>89. Ratio of ministerial/departmental websites used in providing information to the population to the number of ministries/departments within the Government;</p> <p>90. Internet users per 100 population;</p> <p>91. Cellular subscribers per 100 population.</p>

# The Millennium Development Goals in Curaçao and Sint Maarten: Status at a glance

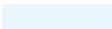
Table 1: The Millennium Development Goals in Curaçao and Sint Maarten – Status At A Glance

Goals		Curaçao		Sint Maarten		Performance towards the goal	Challenges/ key concerns
	Targets	Baseline year	Latest observation	Baseline year	Latest observation		
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who fall below the poverty line.	Household income (Poverty line) 2001:23% (had no income), 16% had a monthly income of less than ANG 500 and 33% less than ANG 1000	2008:39% (monthly income of ANG 1000 or less)	Household income 2001:22% (had no income)	Sint Maarten does not have a poverty line, but uses proxy determination method	Mixed	Discrepancies and disparities across gender and socio-economic dimensions. Income poverty, high youth unemployment, increasing school feeding programs.
	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of persons without access to basic services	Access to electricity 2001: 97.8%	2010: N/A	Access to electricity 2001: 97.2%	2010 : N/A		
2. Achieve universal primary education	Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary and secondary education.	Enrolment at the primary level 2001:99.2%	2010: N/A	Enrolment at the primary level 2001:96.6%	2010: N/A	On track	Quality of education is influenced by issues of language of instruction, large numbers of undocumented children, the boy problem in education, low performance, brain drain and teenage pregnancies.
	Ensure that, by 2015 preschool age children have universal access to early childhood education.	Participation rate 0-4 years 2001:42.5%	2010:50%	Participation rate 0-4 years 2001:41.9%	2010:50%		
3. Promote gender equality and empower women	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.	Ratio of girls to boys at primary level 2001:0.97 Ratio of girls to boys at the secondary level 2001:0.98 Ratio of girls to boys at tertiary level 2001:1.26		Ratio of girls to boys at primary level 2001:1.03 Ratio of girls to boys at the secondary level 2001:1.05 Ratio of girls to boys at tertiary level 2001:0.92		Mixed	Lower income levels for women, existence of a variation of gender specific sectors and occupations, existence of gender specific studies and sectors that make it difficult for girls and boys, women or men to penetrate into traditional subjects or roles designated for a particular gender, increasing cases of domestic violence
	Eliminate gender disparities in income and occupational opportunities at all levels and in all sectors, no later than 2015.	Share of women in wage employment 2002/2003:49% Income: Women earn 29% less than men 2008: 78% of female headed households earned ANG 2,000 or less Share of women in politics 2005-2008 Island Council: 5:35 Executive Council: 6:17	2008/2009: 50.9%	Share of women in wage employment 2002/2003: 45.8% Share of women in politics 2005-2008 Island Council: 3:9 Executive Council: 2:3	2008/2009: 47.5%		

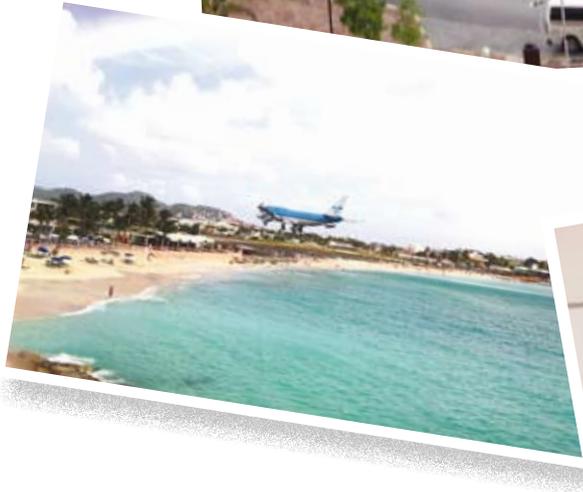
Goals		Curaçao		Sint Maarten		Performance towards the goal	Challenges/ key concerns
	Targets	Baseline year	Latest observation	Baseline year	Latest observation		
	Reduce by two thirds, the incidence of physical acts of gender based violence by 2015	Cases of gender based violence 2008-2009: 45:103 Rape: 2007-2009 4:25:16 Sexual assault: 2008-2009 6:25		N/A			
4. Reduce child mortality	Reduce by two thirds between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.	Infant mortality rate 2005:10.8	2008:6.5	Infant mortality rate 2005:12.7	2008:7.6	On track	Child mortality is low on the islands
5. Improve maternal health	Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.	Adolescent fertility rate 2001: 0.09 (ages 15-19) Total fertility rate 2001:2.13	2010:N/A 2008:2.2	Adolescent fertility rate 2001: 0.12 (ages 15-19) Total fertility rate 2001: 1.95	2010:N/A 2008:1.75	On track	Teenage pregnancies, illegal abortions, violence against women, sexual behavioural practices, STD/STI
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.	Number of reported HIV/AIDS cases 2001:49	2007:50	Number of reported HIV/AIDS cases 2001:14	2007:29	Not on track	Persistence of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, glaucoma and dengue fever.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not on track	Lack of nature conservation plans, recycling of waste, coral reef protection, rising sea level, Waste water Solid waste disposal (segregation); implementation of Hill side policy and designation of ecological protected zones
	Reduce, by half, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		Improvement hereof especially in shanty town areas (run off waters etc.)
	Have achieved, by 2020, significant improvement in lives of at least 70% of persons living in poor communities.	Number of persons living in adequate conditions 2001:90%	N/A	N/A	Number of persons living in adequate conditions 2001:83%		
	Ensure the availability of a vulnerability index for the Caribbean which is sensitive to economic, social and environmental threats within the next five years.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		Creating a hurricane Fund next to the normal insurances can be a challenge

Goals		Curaçao		Sint Maarten		Performance towards the goal	Challenges/ key concerns
	Targets	Baseline year	Latest observation	Baseline year	Latest observation		
8. Develop a global partnership for development	Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.					Mixed	Challenge in determining proportion of ODA that is untied
	Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.						Challenge is to keep the debt level low or bring it lower than what is left over after the debt relief program from the Netherlands in 2009
	In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth, women and especially vulnerable groups.	Youth unemployment rate 2003:33.6%	2008:26.3%	Youth unemployment rate 2001:25.3%	2007:26.0%		
	In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technology	Telephone lines per 100 people 2001:57.3  Personal computers per 100 households 2001:33  Internet per 100 households 2001:21  Cellular subscribers per 100 population 2008:125.5	2008:53.6	Telephone lines per 100 people 2001:31.2  Personal computers per 100 households 2001:38  Internet per 100 households 2001:15  Cellular subscribers per 100 population 2008:168.0	2008:58.5		

Various sources: CBS Fourth Population and Housing Census, Sint Maarten Statistical Fact-book, Curacao Economic Outlook

	= not on track
	= mixed with room for improvement
	= on track

- 1 In 2008 the poverty line was ANG 2195 for 4 people household (two adults and two children), ANG 1,045 for one adult, ANG 1,568 for two adults, ANG 2,090 for three adults, ANG 1,354 for one adult and one child, ANG 1,672 for one adult and two children and ANG 1,881 for two adults and one child.
- 2 Includes insurance by employer and other types of insurance.
- 3 Mean (average) income is calculated by dividing the total aggregate income of a group by the number of units in that group.
- 4 The median income identifies the income level of households in the middle of the income distribution.
- 5 In 2008 the poverty line was ANG 2195 for 4 people household



# Executive Summary

## The Millennium Development Goals, Targets and Indicators: A Localized Approach

This report describes and monitors the MDGs based on Caribbean specific targets and indicators. Initial dialogue on the set of targets to be used considered the global list of 21 targets and 60 indicators. However, although it would have been easier to use the global list, especially in view of the fact that it is a first time assessment, it was decided that it would be better to utilize the Caribbean targets and indicators approved by the CARICOM countries in November 2008 at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD), held in Georgetown, Guyana<sup>6</sup>. The Caribbean's 25 targets and 91 indicators provide a localized framework that takes the context of the Caribbean countries into consideration and represents a case of regional adaptation of the global indicators. It further helps provide a human rights perspective with regard to gender based violence. COHSOD recommended that the indicators be reviewed with regard to their relevance for the CARICOM Member States, with inclusion of an indicator on gender based violence, and that the strengthening of data collection systems be given priority. These systems include the registration of births and deaths and the training and retention of human resources, noted at the Status Report on the Caribbean Specific MDGs Conference, Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians through resolution SCCS/2009/34/4 in Castries, Saint Lucia in 2009.

The global indicators have undergone three reviews. In 2003 the first set of indicators was readapted, and again in 2005, with the current final set revised in 2008. It is further acknowledged that a first time assessment is bound to encounter challenges of data availability, relevance and adaptability, which a localized approach can help minimize.

Despite the data challenges that exist, this assessment provides initial evidence that Curaçao and Sint Maarten are progressing satisfactorily on three out of the 8 goals, particularly Goals 2, 4, and 5, especially when compared with other countries in the Caribbean region. Moreover, they are on track to achieving the other targets under Goal 3 and 8 with directed innovative interventions by 2015. Goals 1, 6, and 7 pose challenges for which appropriate timely policy approaches in environment, energy, technology and governance practices are important. For Goal 1, island level disparities and inequalities across the main economic sector of tourism, trade and industry should be further analyzed. Gender biases in productive employment of women and young people and the global financial crisis are threatening the main socio-economic and environmental pillars. Issues under Goal 6 are consistent with the trends of globalization with increasing immigration into the islands, insufficient education on preventative measures of HIV/AIDS and sensitivities surrounding the issue of homosexuality. The effect of the financial crisis is evident in declining household income and increasing inflation resulting in higher cost of living. Inadequate government response to safeguard critical sectors and to protect the vulnerable could eventually lead to potential deterioration in the quality and delivery of key social services in health and education.

It will be important to explore South- south cooperation for exchanges and learning from key Latin American and Caribbean countries performing well in these targets, especially those related to fuels, possible policy instruments in taxes, subsidies and specific funds. For example, fuel related costs subsidies are applied to direct fuel costs in Ecuador and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, representing more than 3% of GDP. Another alternative is to indirectly subsidize the use of transport as done by many countries in the region. Chile provides the Petroleum Prize Stabilization Fund that incorporates a mechanism to determine the percentage of the rise in imported crude prices that maybe passed through to final consumers of petroleum products. In the case of foods, economic policy offers a broad range of alternatives for intervention including administrative measures in the use of fiscal or trade policy tools. Such administrative tools used for bilateral trade agreements for importing foods or grains between Argentina and Bolivia, (World Bank, FAO, 2008a and b) and agreements and price controls in certain food markets as in Argentina. More examples can be found in the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2007-2008. Knowledge and documentation of such experiences will be critical in designing strategic policies geared towards addressing these issues more holistically.

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<sup>6</sup> The development of Caribbean specific targets and indicators resulted from a decision of the Twelfth Meeting of the COHSOD in April 2005 which considered the status of implementation of the MDGs and endorsed "the view that the MDGs should be seen as an integrated framework and not as a set of individual goals."

Within the context of this MDG report, the Human Development Index (HDI) provides a framework for measuring Curaçao and Sint Maarten's average achievements in health, education (knowledge), and a decent standard of living. The official HDI methodology calls for the use of GDP per capita in US\$ purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, but for this report the current price GDP is used.

The HDI, a summary composite index introduced in the 1990s by UNDP, shows the improvement of a country's situation based not only on its GDP growth, but also on its performance in knowledge and health. Moreover, good governance can help reduce inequalities, encourage active participation of citizens in all sectors of society and ensure transparency and accountability. Health is measured by life expectancy at birth, knowledge by a combination of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratios, while standard of living is measured by the GDP per capita.

## Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

**Targets are: halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who fall below the poverty line, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, and the proportion of persons without access to basic.**

This Goal presents a mixed picture due to discrepancies and disparities across gender and socio-economic dimensions. Evidence presented in the report shows that although the islands do not have abject poverty, pockets of poverty that substantiate a borderline picture seem to exist. On the level of income, the poverty line of \$1/day, calculated using the purchasing power parity ratio (PPP), is not relevant because the cost of living is already very high.

The average monthly income in the former Netherlands Antilles was ANG 2,151, with women earning ANG 1,641 and men ANG 2,704 in 2001.<sup>7</sup> In Curaçao, the average income was ANG 2,077 (men: ANG 2,675 and women: ANG 1,558), while in Sint Maarten the average income was slightly higher. Consideration is given vis-à-vis varying differences in cost of living between Curaçao and Sint Maarten where the average household income in 2001 was ANG 3,608 (men: ANG 4,333 and women: ANG 2,415), with 38% of all the households headed by a woman. Studies conducted by ECLAC indicated that households headed by a woman run a high chance of falling below the poverty line. A woman in such a position bears a disproportionately heavy load, as she has to provide an income and take care of the children at the same time.

A poverty quick scan conducted by Deloitte in 2005 for Curaçao and Bonaire indicates that, of all inhabitants of Curaçao aged 15 and older, 25 % did not have an income, 16 % had an income of less than ANG 500, - per month, 33 % aged 15 and older had an income of less than ANG 1000, - per month, and 65% of the elderly had an income of less than ANG 1000, - per month. 48% of these inhabitants of Curaçao aged 15 and older were employed, 9% was unemployed, and 43 % was economically inactive. According to the same quick scan conducted for Saba, Sint Eustatius and Sint Maarten by For A Change in 2005, of all persons in Sint Maarten aged 15 years and older, 22% had no income. For those persons with an income, the monthly average income was ANG 2,513 (men average ANG 2,928 versus ANG 2,055 average for women) (Census 2001).

A poverty line was calculated based on the food basket method for Curaçao by the CBS in 2008 at ANG 2,195 per month, equivalent to approximately US\$1,226.26, determined for a standard household of two adults and two children. The poverty line is further determined at ANG 1,045 for one adult; ANG 1,568 for two adults; ANG 1,359 for one adult and a child; ANG 1,672 for one adult and two children; ANG 1,881 for two adults and one child; and for three adults ANG 2,090. Prior to 2008 when the poverty line<sup>8</sup> was determined, CBS used a proxy method which divided household groups into the following categories: lower income group: less than ANG 1,700 per month; middle income between ANG 1,700 and ANG 3,900 per month, and higher: more than ANG 3,900 per month.

<sup>7</sup> CBS, National Census, 2001.

<sup>8</sup> In the former Netherlands Antilles, before the "official poverty line in Curaçao in 2008", poverty was classified in another way. The former Netherlands Antilles classified relative poverty; the line was drawn by the 20% of the household with the lowest income. An arbitrary decision, but at least it made sure the circumstances of those households could be described. In classifying the poor households the household size and income was taken into consideration. A single person household with a gross income of ANG 586 or less belongs to the poverty group as well as a household with two adults and two children with a gross income of ANG 1230 or less.

More recent calculations by the Modus Statistic Magazine of the CBS in April 2010 provides an analysis of household income and income distribution measured over the period 2003-2008 in Curaçao. The report concludes that household income has changed over the years with the worst income situation for men and women recorded in 2008 where 39% of all households earned a monthly income of ANG 1,000 or less. A further breakdown showed that in 2008 the largest group in the income category ANG 1,000 or less were the elderly, 60+ (45%) and the age group 15-39 (37%). Only 7% from the age group 60+ earned more than ANG 4,000 in 2008. According to these data, most households with higher education are people earning ANG 5,001 or more, while most households with lower education earn less than ANG 1,000 per month.

Although wages have not substantially increased, the cost of living has been increasing constantly, thus contributing to the existing relative poverty levels. Curaçao and Sint Maarten have a high per capita income of US\$19,000. However, the overall targets under this goal with other indicators related to employment and hunger suggest an increasing number of people facing financial hardships prompting more school feeding programs, government spending on rent subsidies and social welfare programs (general old age, general widows and orphans, illness and accident insurances).

Government policies to help resolve the economic situation of vulnerable people have been introduced over the years in social welfare programs such as pension plans and increased levels of minimum wages.

More opportunities for job creation to stimulate the labor force performance and positive engagement of the youth will help reduce youth unemployment levels of 29% in Sint Maarten and 26% in Curaçao in the year 2008. Also, continuing the social welfare-workfare with intensive brain gain programs in innovation and technology should provide corrective measures for this target by 2015. A future direct trend analysis should provide answers related to remittances especially from the Netherlands, employability and retaining of the returning Diaspora.

## Goal 2. Achieving universal primary education

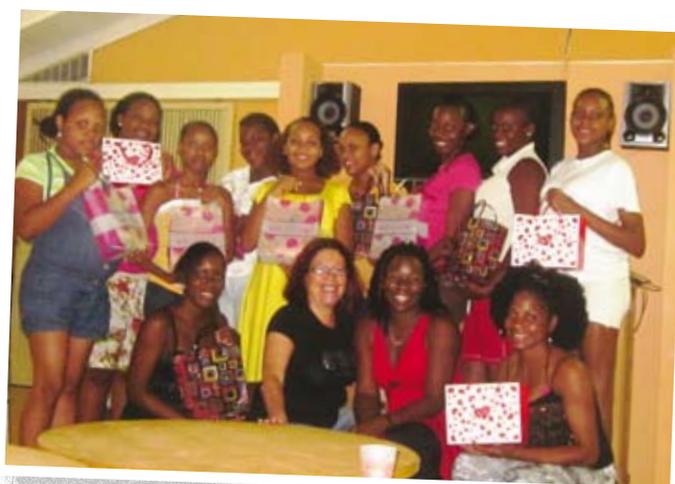
**Targets include: ensuring that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary and secondary education; by 2015, pre-school age children have universal access to early childhood education.**

This Goal is quantitatively on track based on the 2001 census data. Looking at current projections up to 2010 indicates access to primary and secondary education in both countries is in theory 100%. However, some vulnerable groups such as migrant undocumented children and disabled or mentally challenged children lack access to universal education. Compulsory education was introduced in 1991 through the National Ordinance on Compulsory Education 'Leerplicht Landsverordening' for the age group 5-16 year olds. This law made free education for all children and mandatory tuition for secondary and higher vocational education. At the higher level, students are eligible to apply for grants. In 2008, a new law replaced the original one extending the legal age from 4-18 year olds (P.B. 1991, no 85). In expanding the age category in 2008, Curacao and Sint Maarten now have the most lengthy compulsory education of the Caribbean and Latin American countries, followed most closely by Anguilla (5-17 years), Barbados and Turks & Caicos Islands (both 4 -16 years). By this amendment, the governments ensure all children receive a minimum basic education towards laying the foundation for future learning. A mandatory youth development program through the National Ordinance on Compulsory Youth Training was introduced for young people aged 16-24 years who lack appropriate qualifications for the local labor market to supplement knowledge gain for those who did not complete their basic diplomas. Qualitatively though, the goal presents some core issues especially at the secondary level with the persistent problem of relatively high school dropout rates for the youth aged 15-24 (43.6% in 2001 and 36.5% in 2005). A recent research report by the UNESCO National Committee of the former Netherlands Antilles (2009) reveals structural gender differences in schools on the islands, where girls outperform boys throughout their school career up to Higher Education.

This phenomenon is characterized as boys at secondary level who repeat classes, drop out of school and more often score lower grades than girls. Education provides a basic foundation for the children of any country and in particular for new emerging nations.

The youth literacy is measured as the ability to both read and write with understanding a short statement on everyday life seems to be below par. Since the youth literacy rate is a reflection of the past 10 years of primary education, it can serve as an effective measure of a successful primary education system and a proxy measure of social progress and economic achievements. The report highlights that while the quantitative enrolment levels in primary and secondary schools are on track, the persistently low literacy rate ratios and high dropout rates particularly amongst male youth is a serious cause for concern. Given the issues related to differences in school facilities, available resources, and demands on boys' time for work or engagement in drug related activities and other disincentives, it will be timely to address an integrated academic curriculum that incorporates formal and informal education components as a priority.

Furthermore, the effect of migration on the drain brain is vast. Over 30 thousand people have migrated to the Netherlands in past years and approximately 300-400 young people go to the Netherlands on an annual basis to further their studies, with a small percentage (approximately 5%) returning to the islands. Firstly, it creates a human resource capacity gap in an already volatile human resource capacity area, particularly in the case of Sint Maarten. Secondly, the educational system in both islands does not seem to adequately prepare the youth for a holistic integration into the Netherlands and other regions where they migrate for higher level academic training. The scarcity of human resources as noted in the Curaçao Economic Outlook 2008 should be addressed through temporary foreign workers and encouraging the locals living abroad to return. While mitigating measures must be urgently identified to address these issues, another core concern for review relates to the language of academic instruction in primary and secondary schools. The three official languages since 2007 are Dutch, Papiamentu (the indigenous language of the former Leeward Islands of the former Netherlands Antilles) and English. The Dutch language is used at all levels of education though the preferred lingua franca in Curaçao is Papiamentu and English/Dutch in Sint Maarten. While appreciating the benefits of a multilingual approach in education that gives children the opportunities to learn different languages at an early age, caution must also be exercised in the application and monitoring of the multilingual scheme to avoid creating gaps/tiers in educational attainment and literacy levels. The question of the appropriate language of instruction requires further dialogue, with the need to balance the multidimensional compositions of the islands within a multi cultural society. It is also important to increase investments in higher education to keep pace with a growing population and the pressures of migrant populations. The discussions already initiated on restructuring of the educational system are plausible. However the educational leading position of females has not yet led to a substantial improvement of the position of females in the labor market where the average income of males still seems to be higher than that of female workers.



## Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

**Targets include: eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015; eliminating gender disparities in income and occupational opportunities at all levels and in all sectors; reducing by 60% the incidence of physical acts of gender based violence and all forms of gender based violence.**

This Goal statistically presents a mixed picture as women and men seem to have certain levels of equality in society due to progressive policies in education for all, some female representation in politics, female employment and, over the years, efforts by governments to provide a proper work environment for women. However, statistics show that women in general earn 29% less and are underrepresented in parliament; in Curaçao, 5 seats are held by women and 16 by men, and in Sint Maarten 3 seats are held by women and 11 by men. At management levels, there is strong evidence of the existence of a variation of gender specific sectors and occupations to date. In the new country of Curaçao, there are two female ministers and 7 males while in Sint Maarten, out of the 7 ministerial positions, two are occupied by women. Further evidence indicates that gender disaggregation in specific sectors has persisted for several decades, making it difficult for women or men to penetrate into traditional roles designated for a particular gender.

The economic situation of women compared to that of men is made much more fragile as 27% of 15-64 year old women, had no reported income in 2001. The Statistic Magazine April 2010 reports that income distribution differs between the sexes, ages and education where more than half of all women earned ANG 1,000 or less in Curaçao in 2008. For men, more than a quarter were reported to fall within this category. Also, fewer women than men receive income from labor and businesses of their own and about twice as many women than men depend on social safety nets with 40% of the households headed by women. While income disparities between the sexes is a global trend, the high percentage of female headed households and the many burdens often shouldered by women makes it opportune to address the economic situation of women.

Equal wage distribution for women and men in the same job levels would be timely and support effective gender mainstreaming initiatives. In the case of Sint Maarten, gender disparities in occupational opportunities show a remarkable rise in the number of unemployed men in 2009 as reported in the Labor Force Survey 2009. The number of unemployed men increased by more than 375 persons, from approximately 930 persons in 2007, to over 1300 in 2009, an increase of more than 40%. The unemployment rate increased from 7.6% in 2007 to 10.5% in 2009, an increase of almost 3 percentage points. The overall situation of males on the labor market in 2009 appears to be unfavorable compared to that of females. From the available data, gender disparities in income affect women more than men while occupational opportunities affect more men.

Therefore, poverty reduction strategies that target priorities for varying age groups of men and women would be necessary, particularly among male youth between the ages of 10-19. This age bracket has the highest population of boys who need the extra attention to complete school. Therefore, strategies must be designed to keep boys in school, provide informal training for the drop outs and meaningfully engage them in society. For females, the highest population of 35-49 years of age, attempts need to be made to provide more productive employment opportunities, diversify the job markets available to women as well as create more parity in the income levels between women and men. Systemic approaches are needed to resolve the current workforce shortages, lack of motivation and incentives to keep the young, older workers, persons with disabilities and women at work. In view of the observed gender disparities in education on the islands, with females outperforming their male peers, gender inequality on the islands, as is the case in most Caribbean countries, must be regarded as a problem which concerns females as well as males. The Report by Dr. G. Narain for the UNESCO National Committee for the former Netherlands Antilles, Curacao 2009 on the 'Boy problem; Gender Disparities in Education in the Netherlands Antilles recommends more attention be dedicated to addressing the 'the boy problem' often referred as the educational under-performance of boys.

## Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

**Targets include: reducing by two thirds the under-five mortality rate between 1990 and 2015.**

This Goal is on track based on the 2001 census and targets up till 2010. Child mortality is low on the islands, with an average of 1 out of 1000 children between the ages of one and four; there is little difference in the relative number of deaths between boys and girls. Of a thousand babies born approximately 39.5 die before they reach the age of 5. Most common causes of early death are: hypoxia, asphyxia and other respiratory problems; congenital disorders, slow growth of fetus, lack of proper nutrition; teenage pregnancies; other problems during pregnancy; and obstetrics complications. The reason for the progress on this goal is due to the fact that a majority of persons have universal access to general practitioners, specialists and hospitals. According to the Health Departments on the islands, this issue is not a concern since there are sufficient midwives and many women who deliver their babies in well-equipped facilities as well as several organizations that provide information on child care and prevention methods.

## Goal 5. Improve maternal health

**Targets include: reducing by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio, and universal access to reproductive and sexual health services through the primary healthcare system between 1990 and 2015.**

This Goal is also on track based on the 2001 census and targets up till 2010. As observed, the number of teenage pregnancies and illegal abortions (one in every three pregnant teenagers) raises questions about the effect of sex education at home and at schools, the use of condoms and other contraceptives as well as sexual behavior in practice. With the combination of an effective package of intervention through incentives to incorporate sexual and reproductive health education in advocacy campaigns and friendly youth services with easy accessibility for young women, the islands could provide good examples and lessons learned to other countries in the region. Additional measures for adult education through customized programs that target the educationally disadvantaged, physically and emotionally challenged, and teenage mothers can provide training and prevent their social isolation while contributing to sustain the work force.

## Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases (dengue, obesity, glaucoma, diabetes and high blood pressure)

**Targets include: have halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases by 2015.**

This Goal is not on track. Data from the Human Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report for the Netherlands Antilles 1985-2007 conducted by the Epidemiological and Research Unit<sup>9</sup> indicates increasing prevalence levels for the islands with a total cumulative of known cases recorded at 1812 over the period 1985-2007 (1184 from Curaçao and 579 from Sint Maarten) of which 57.1% are males and 42.9% are females.

It further states that since 1990 approximately 85 new HIV infections have been recorded annually, showing an increase of 84 between the years 1996-2000 to 90 between the years 2001-2007. The pattern of transmission is doubtful as more women are usually tested than men, indicating more of a homosexual transmission than heterosexual as earlier characterized according to the report. The report attributes the trend to the fact that homosexuality is a taboo and that more homosexual men tend to migrate to the Netherlands. Further analysis shows a sharp increase in Sint Maarten among young males.

<sup>9</sup> Epidemiological and Research Unit, Medical and Public health Service, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles

The pattern of prevalence is similar in Curaçao where for every 100 persons between the ages of 15-49 between 1% and 2% HIV/AIDS cases are reported. While these numbers may seem insignificant, there is cause for concern given the small populations of the islands. Moreover, the Caribbean region is ranked the second highest prevalent region behind Sub Saharan Africa. Positive signs of progress in preventative measures show that both islands are part of the Regional HIV/AIDS Program and people affected have access to support. Because of appropriate medical treatment with Combined Anti Retroviral Therapy (cART), more people are living longer and HIV/AIDS does not lead to death. In line with unwanted teenage pregnancies and abortions, prevention of HIV/AIDS and sex education need to remain on the health policy agenda. For other health related diseases, obesity continues its persistence in addition to diabetes, high blood pressure and glaucoma. In the recent report of the UNAIDS Report released in November 2010, increases in Dengue fever and HIV/AIDS have also been highlighted.



*Tourists take a casual stroll across the Queen Emma Pontoon Bridge*

## Goal 7. Environmental sustainability

**Targets include: integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reversing the loss of environmental resources; reducing by half, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation; have achieved, by 2020, significant improvement in lives of at least 70% of persons living in poor communities and ensure the availability of a vulnerability index for the Caribbean which is sensitive to economic, social and environmental threats within the next five years.**

This Goal is also lagging based on the census of 2001 and target year 2007, although critical for small islands and their inhabitants. Curaçao has legislation on nature conservation and zoning. Zoning plans are under way and expected in 2011 in Sint Maarten. Environmental issues, such as air pollution on Curaçao and the solid waste and waste water problems on Sint Maarten need attention. On small islands, clean water, fisheries, usable land depend on having functioning ecosystems and dealing appropriately with the management of this natural resource.

A significant risk factor for tourism development and also for civil life in Sint Maarten is the hurricane threat during six months each year. The effects of climate crisis seen through increasing Hurricanes like Luis (1995), Lenny (1999), Omar (2006) and Earl (2010) in Sint Maarten have made this very clear.

## Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development

**Targets include: addressing the special needs of the least developed countries (includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports); enhanced programs of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction; further developing an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system; addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (through the Program of Action for the SIDS and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly); dealing comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term; in cooperation with developing countries, developing and implementing strategies for decent and productive work for youth, women and especially vulnerable groups; in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, providing access to affordable internationally approved essential drugs in developing countries; in cooperation with the private sector, making available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.**

This Goal presents a mixed picture. The former Netherlands Antilles have democratically elected representatives and institutions with limited obstacles towards international trade and financial monitoring. The islands receive development aid mostly through the Socio-Economic Initiative (SEI) from the Netherlands. This is used for investing in education, healthcare, good governance and infrastructure. In 2009, the aid amounted to approximately 2% of the GDP per annum. Of the total debt of ANG 5.7 billion, ANG 3.7 billion will be redeemed while the remaining ANG 2.0 billion will be financed by the Netherlands. However, the redemption and interest payment on the debt will have to be paid by Curaçao (approx. ANG 1.6 billion) and Sint Maarten (ANG 400 million). Subsequently, the debt relief from the Netherlands will be gradually terminated as well as the development aid to Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

A global partnership is important for both debt relief monitoring and the effective re-allocation of the funds into socio-economic, welfare, education, health and sports programs as well as strengthening partnerships with the Caribbean neighbors. This will facilitate learning from their experiences as independent nations and soliciting support for resolutions that will be tabled by new countries Curaçao and Sint Maarten. For any of these to be concretely addressed, the new governments of Curaçao and Sint Maarten will need the political commitment to

both strengthen their relationship with bilateral and multilateral partners, designate a proper institutional structure and the allocation of financial resources. Curaçao and Sint Maarten and their local and international development partners are on the right path as emerging nations to begin designing appropriate policies and programs for a push to the 2015 targets. While recognizing that the underlying development problems are longstanding, formulation of national development plans for the new countries based on the MDG framework should now be focused on taking adequate account of the recession, the process of recovery in the international economy, the likely impact on the country's growth path, emigration and migration and the cessation and flow of assistance from relevant development partners.

Regardless of the progress in achieving universal primary education, reducing child mortality, and improving maternal health, more concerted efforts are needed to address the goals lagging behind. The goals that pose a problem relate to:

- **ensuring environmental sustainability;**
- **combating HIV/AIDS and supporting people living with HIV/AIDS and combating**
- **other health related diseases like dengue fever;**
- **eradicating poverty.**

Developing a global partnership presents a mixed picture that requires close monitoring. In the area of poverty reduction, a detailed assessment through a poverty study could be timely to inform and validate the poverty situation in the new countries of Curaçao and Sint Maarten. A poverty assessment conducted in 2002 and 2003 by the Reda Sosial which identified successes and challenges faced by the varying neighborhoods on each of the islands should be updated with a focus on Curaçao and Sint Maarten. A similar MDG Report would be encouraged to support Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius. Although as newly formed municipalities of the Netherlands, their practical realities are different, but they could still learn from the process of developing an MDG Report from their Caribbean neighbors.

There is further need for an in-depth understanding of the social, economic, cultural, environmental and political factors that constrain and could potentially halt progress in Goals 1, 6, and 7.

In the areas under Goals 2, 4, and 5 where the countries are performing well, how can the success be scaled up? Given the nature of past experiences, Curaçao and Sint Maarten can aim for an MDG “plus” status in these goals with a resultant ripple effect on their other goals due to their cross cutting nature. In addition, the lessons must be documented and widely shared amongst the communities and the region.

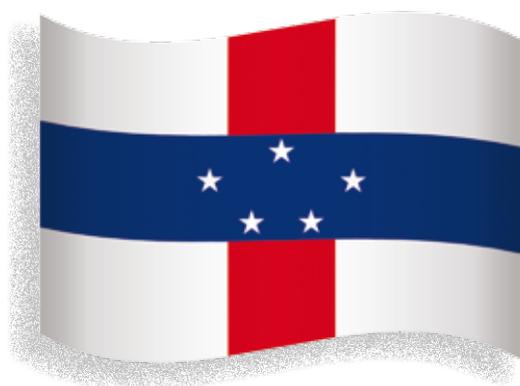
Goal 8 remains a mixed picture because employment opportunities for youth, women and other vulnerable groups and developing an open rule based predictable non discriminatory trading and financial system remains challenging. Also important to be addressed are access to affordable internationally approved essential drugs and making available the benefits of new technologies especially in information and communications in a partnership with the private sector. Dutch government ODA is projected to be terminated in 2012. There is a need for close monitoring of the situation and pragmatic and innovative identification and expansion of funding mechanisms will be required to avoid a threat that could slow or even reverse progress made. Learning from more experienced countries like Barbados, Belize, Sint Kitts and Trinidad and Tobago is advisable for the new governments of Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

# Introduction

## **Background of the Millennium Development Goals in the former Netherlands Antilles**

In the 1990s, world leaders debated about the state of world affairs. They came to the realization that the socio-economic situation was dismal and concrete actions were necessary to make progress in human development. At the end of the decade, these leaders agreed on the Millennium Declaration. The Millennium Declaration of 8, September 2000 (UN Resolution A/RES/55/2) provides the foundation for human development based on specific universal principles that relate to every facet of society such as the freedom of men and women to lead decent lives and raise their children in dignity, freedom from hunger, fear of oppression, etc. These principles based upon human rights, democratic and participatory governance, equity and social justice, tolerance, respect, solidarity and shared responsibility provide a balanced foundation for all nations and citizens to manage their socio-economic and political development while protecting the environment and vulnerable populations in a peaceful, secure and sustainable way. The Millennium Declaration gave the foundation for a collective cause of the United Nations where 189 out of the 192 member countries including the Kingdom of the Netherlands agreed on 8 goals, 20 targets and over 60 indicators. These represent measurable, achievable and time bound indicators for planning, assessing and measuring progress in a transparent and accountable manner within a partnership with citizens, governments, private sector, civil society, media, academia, youth, and eminent persons. The commitment of the former Netherlands Antilles as a signatory to the MDGs was reinforced in 2008 by the former Prime Minister Mrs. Emily de Jongh-Elhage, who emphasized the need for more action in the implementation and monitoring that surpassed mere reporting on the status and should encompass a multidisciplinary approach to collectively own and drive the process, to identify and address the related data gaps, issues, and the major bottle necks to its achievement. As the United Nations General Assembly conducted a 10 year review of the MDGs in September 2010, with five more years remaining, the former Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles again played a key role as the head of the Kingdom delegation to the UN General Assembly's 65<sup>th</sup> Session. This Delegation was on behalf of the Dutch Prime Minister.

It is now an opportune moment in the history of the countries of Curaçao and Sint Maarten as islands in the former Netherlands Antilles, in the process of completing their constitutional decentralization process. This fragmentation has fundamental implications regionally and globally as the country formerly known as the Netherlands Antilles now no longer exists, but was broken up into separate entities. This new status will result in new policies for at least the country of Curaçao and the country of Sint Maarten with the Federal tasks and responsibilities devolved into the new country. The MDGs provide a window of opportunity for the nations to start on a renewed note.





Participants and trainers at the MDG sensitization workshop, UTS Resource Centre, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten, June 8, 2010.

### **A Worthwhile Partnership Between The Government and the UNDP**

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in partnership with the former Department for Development Cooperation (DEVCO) in the former Netherlands Antilles commenced a capacity development arrangement in 2009. One focus area was sensitization on the MDGs with the intention to prepare a national diagnostic report that documents and presents a snapshot of the situation of the MDG progress in the former Netherlands Antilles, serving as a baseline for future policy planning, updating and monitoring until 2015. Since the federation of the Netherlands Antilles was dismantled on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010, the report will only describe the situation in Curaçao and in Sint Maarten. The first report for Curaçao and Sint Maarten, aims to serve as a campaign tool for advocacy and consensus building. The world has spent a decade planning, piloting, evaluating and reporting on the MDGs. The next five years will provide an opportunity for the new countries Curaçao and Sint Maarten to adopt the MDGs as a catalyst for collective action. In the recently completed report *'A synthesis of country evidence' 2010*, a UNDP global assessment of MDG progress shows that the MDGs can be achieved, even in the poorest and the most disadvantaged countries when the political will is complemented by innovative strong political leadership, effective policies and institutional capacity for scaling up public investments. These need to be complemented by adequate financial and technical support and an enabling policy environment from the international community. Evidence also shows there are important synergies among the MDGs —acceleration in one Goal often speeds up progress in others. Investing in women's empowerment, education, employment-intensive growth, agricultural innovation, energy, environmental sustainability and health can also have significant multiplier effects across the MDGs. Approaching the MDGs from a human rights perspective and good governance provides a common cause where the duty bearer, namely the state and the claim holders, the citizens, can equally participate together in nation building.

# Country Profile of Curaçao and Sint Maarten



Table 1.1: Basic data of Curaçao and Sint Maarten

	Curacao	Sint Maarten
Capital	Willemstad	Philipsburg
Surface area (km <sup>2</sup> )	444	34
Total inhabitants (2009)	141.766	40.917
Population density (per km <sup>2</sup> )	319	1.203
Per capita income (ANG.) (2004)	31.105	31.659
Life expectance men (2008)	72.2	N/A
women (2008)	79.6	N/A
Life birth (2008)	66.3	51.3
Deaths (2008) per 100 inhabitants	8.5	3.7
infant mortality rate (2008) (under 1 year of age per 1000 live births)	6.5	7.6

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the N.A. 2009 of the Central Bureau of Statistics

## Geography of Curaçao

Curaçao is located in the southwestern Caribbean just miles from Venezuela. Curaçao is one of the islands which formed part of the country of the Netherlands Antilles<sup>10</sup>. The western countryside of the island is hilly with Mount Christoffel at 1230 feet being its tallest peak. The eastern part of the island is flatter and lower and is home to Table Mountain. Just west of the capital is the famous Three Brothers Hills which are the remains of an ancient coral reef dating back three million years. The island also boasts numerous bays and small inlets formed by glaciers during the last Ice Age. The largest, Schottegat on the southeast coast, is the island's harbor.

## History of Curaçao

Curaçao was first inhabited by the Caiquetos, a tribe of peaceful Arawak Indians who had fled from Venezuela. Then in 1499 a lieutenant of Columbus, Alonso de Ojeda, claimed the island for Spain. But because there was no gold the island was declared useless. The island however remained Spanish throughout the 16th century but fell to the Dutch in 1634, later becoming an important trading post for the Dutch. The island became a commercial meeting place for pirates, American rebels and Dutch merchants during the 18th century. In 1800 the English took control of the island, withdrew in 1803 and reoccupied it in 1807. In 1816 the Dutch regained control and the island was declared a free port. In the 20th century the island assumed new importance with the discovery of oil in nearby Venezuela.

<sup>10</sup> The former Netherlands Antilles consisted of: Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint Maarten and Sint Eustatius

## Geography of Sint Maarten

Sint Maarten is situated in the center of the West Indian arch, in the northern region of the Lesser Antilles. The island is small, 15 km long and 13 km wide, its surface is mountainous yet calcareous, and is separated into two distinct parts: Terres Basses and Grande Terre, which are linked by two narrow strips of land enclosing the salty lake of Simpson Bay (also referred to as “the lagoon”). The island’s highest point is Pic Paradis (424m) located on French Sint Martin. The coastline is a series of beaches, coastal lagoons, rocky areas and mangroves, and the interior is characterized by many valleys, most of which are rather flat. Two uninhabited islands: Tintamarre and Pinel can be perceived off the east coast of French Sint Martin.

## History of Sint Maarten

The first inhabitants of Sint Maarten were Arawaks, a South American tribe from the Amazon Basin that spread north through the Caribbean and settled on the islands. Sint Maarten first appeared on a map in 1516 with the name Sam Mtim and was a Spanish territory by that time. The Spaniards called the island San Martin, in honor of Saint Martin of Tours, although they never colonized it. The island was uninhabited until 1631 when the Dutch founded a trading post, built Fort Amsterdam and began to harvest salt from the coastal lagoons. A handful of Frenchmen also settled in the north of the island. The Spaniards expelled the Dutch in 1633 and built a second fort. In 1644, a Dutch expedition led by Peter Stuyvesant (who later became the first governor of New Amsterdam, the site of New York) tried unsuccessfully to retake the island. The Spaniards abandoned the island in 1648, leaving the Dutch and French to fight over it. Despite signing the Treaty of Concordia in 1648 which partitioned the island between the two nations, they continued to dispute it throughout 18<sup>th</sup> century. In fact, Sint Maarten changed hands 16 times as the Dutch, the French, and the English vied for control of the Caribbean. The current border between Sint Maarten and Saint Martin was set by the 1817 Treaty of Paris.

## Language

The language widely spoken on Curaçao is Papiamentu, a Creole language with elements of African, Portuguese, Spanish, English and Dutch. In Sint Maarten the language that is widely spoken is English. The official languages of the former islands of the Netherlands Antilles are Dutch, English and Papiamentu.

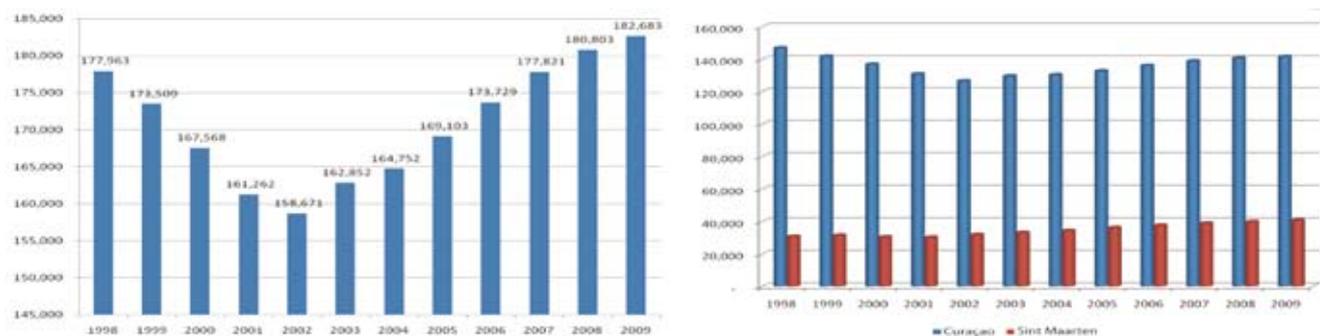
## Population

To date, four official censuses have taken place. The fourth General Population and Housing Census was conducted in 2001. According to the Statistical Yearbook Netherlands Antilles 2009 of the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), the total combined population of Curaçao and Sint Maarten is estimated at 182,683 in 2009. The people have a rich cultural heritage that integrates the best of African and European cultures. A common cultural trait on the islands is the annual celebration of Carnival, a time used both to celebrate the diversity of the country and to promote culture and tourism. Carnival has become an intergenerational tool bringing together the old and the young.

Actual population numbers in Curaçao and Sint Maarten remain debated. The Island Registry in Sint Maarten presents a population increase as shown in the table above. The total numbers of undocumented children have been increasing since 2005 with 397, 2006 to 630 and 2008 to 619. In addition, another total of 135 undocumented children between the ages of 2-6 are registered by the Department of Education.

Although the exact numbers are unknown in Curaçao, the population size can be assumed to be much larger than presented in this report due to the presence of many undocumented immigrants and children of immigrants born on the Island.

Graph 1: Population of Curaçao and Sint Maarten 1998-2009



Source: Statistical Yearbook Netherlands Antilles 2009 of the Central Bureau of Statistics

## Government

The countries of Curaçao and Sint Maarten form an integral part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Kingdom is comprised of the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. All countries in the kingdom share equal status. On October 10, 2010, the Netherlands Antilles fragmented into two countries, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, and three municipalities. Therefore, the new composition under the Kingdom of the Netherlands comprises the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten. The 'Sovereign Head' of the Kingdom is the Head of State and is represented in Curaçao and Sint Maarten by the Governor. The Governor and the Council of Ministers form the Government, with executive power in internal affairs. The executive power in external affairs rests with the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom. Curaçao and Sint Maarten are represented in this Council by the Minister Plenipotentiary, who has full voting power. The islands also have a Parliament for which parliamentarians are elected through island elections. The Charter of the Kingdom gives autonomy to Curaçao and Sint Maarten to enact their own laws in accordance with Kingdom rules and regulations. Laws of a higher nature such as signatories to international treaties and conventions must be signed by the Netherlands on behalf of Aruba, Curaçao or Sint Maarten. The islands of Curaçao and Sint Maarten have the authority to handle most of their tasks and responsibilities as long as they do not conflict with Kingdom laws.

Between June 2000 and April 2005, the former islands of the Netherlands Antilles had referenda on their future statuses. The four options that were voted on included:

- **closer ties with the Netherlands**
- **remaining within the former Netherlands Antilles**
- **autonomy as a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands (status aparte)**
- **independence**

Curaçao and Sint Maarten voted for a 'Status Aparte'. Various meetings initiated since 2005 resulted in an agreement between the Netherlands and the Netherlands Antilles which resulted in a new status of these islands on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2010. The island territories Sint Maarten and Curaçao became self governed countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands while the island territories Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius became overseas territories within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As of the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2010, the Netherlands Antilles ceased to exist.

## Economy

Curaçao and Sint Maarten have open economies, with tourism, trade, transport and storage (oil storage and bunkering), and international financial services being the most important sectors. Curaçao and Sint Maarten enjoy a relatively high GDP per capita income compared with most Caribbean countries at \$18,064 per capita in 2006. According to the 2009 Statistical Yearbook of the CBS the annual real GDP growth rate was 2.2% in 2008 in Curaçao with an unemployment rate of 10.3%. The inflation rate went from 3% in 2007 to 6.9% in 2008. In 2009, unemployment decreased to 9.7% and inflation decreased to 1.6% (although it had been projected to be 8%).

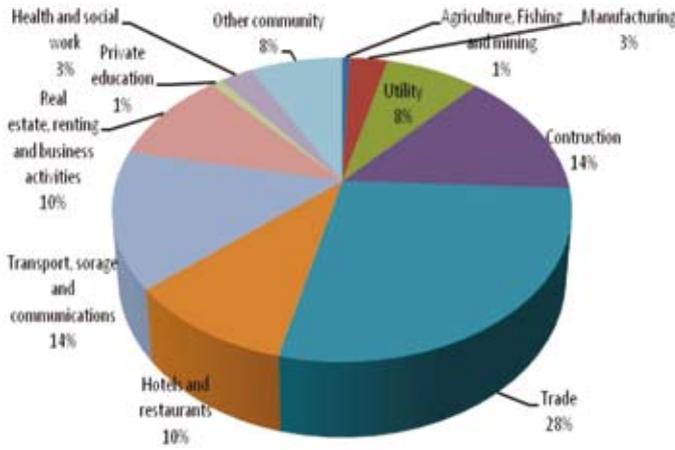
In Sint Maarten, the annual real GDP growth rate was 1.6% in 2008, 10.6% unemployment rate in 2007, a decrease from 13.4% in 2006. Inflation rose from 2.3% in 2007 to 4.6% in 2008.

Table 1.2: Key Economic and Social Indicators Curaçao and Sint Maarten, 2003-2007

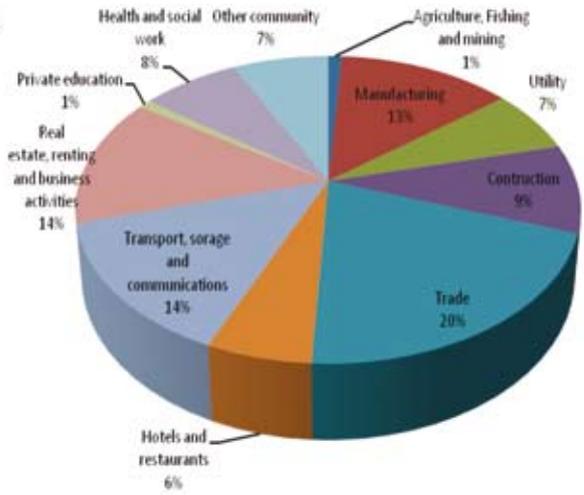
	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
	Curaçao	Sint Maarten								
Nominal GDP (in millions ANG.l.)	4,020	1,027.7	4,083	1,092.8	4,194	1,175.3	4,254	1,258.7	4,611	1,340.5
Real GDP Growth (%)	0.3	4.8	0.2	4.5	0.8	4.8	1.5	5.2	3.5	4.5
Inflation (%)	N/A	1.6	1.4	2.1	4.1	3.1	3.1	2.3	3.0	2.3
Employed persons	52,137	16,200	51,474	N/A	51,343	18,073	52,050	N/A	54,049	20,720
Unemployed persons	9,274	3,433	9,861	N/A	11,392	2,798	8,931	N/A	7,659	2,446
Labour force	61,411	19,633	61,335	N/A	62,735	20,871	60,981	N/A	61,708	23,166
Population	130,191	33,317	132,207	35,035	135,474	35,910	135,250	N/A	137,124	39,011
Unemployment rate (%)	15.1	17.5	16.1	N/A	18.2	13.4	14.6	N/A	12.4	10.6
Number of households	N/A	12,270	N/A	12,764	N/A	12,785	N/A	13,521	N/A	N/A
Avg. household size	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Tourism										
Stay-over arrivals	21,395	427,587	223,439	475,032	222,071	467,861	234,383	467,804	299,770	469,407
Cruise arrivals	278,378	1,171,734	227,534	1,348,450	275,957	1,488,461	321,551	1,421,645	340,907	1,421,906
Bank lending (in million ANG..)										
Total lending	N/A	8,268	N/A	8,971	N/A	10,525	866,25	12,485	N/A	13,995
Mortgages	N/A	2,248	N/A	2,447	N/A	2,496	941,90	2,866	N/A	3,244
Consumer	N/A	1,192	N/A	1,697	N/A	2,326	-75,7	2,912	N/A	3,424
Business	N/A	4,828	N/A	4,826	N/A	5,703	N/A	6,686	N/A	7,337
Government finance (in millions ANG..)										
Revenues	833	158.8	819	177.3	982	181.6	N/A	207.6	866,2	224.0
Expenditures	913	178.1	954	184.3	1,058	190.1	N/A	207.6	941,9	224.0
Budget balance	-80	-19.3	-135	-7.0	-75	-8.5	N/A	0	-75,7	0
Select vital statistics										(Jan-June)
Live births	N/A	463	1680	503	N/A	540	1843	570	1862	245
Deaths	N/A	156	1174	165	N/A	159	1105	155	1107	81
Natural increase	N/A	307	506	338	N/A	381	738	415	755	164
Marriages	N/A	331	477	280	N/A	355	780	315	950	123
Divorces	N/A	92	383	81	N/A	67	354	62	367	37
Immigration	N/A	4057	5918	2277	N/A	2537	6175	2214	5736	1205
Emigration	N/A	4307	3952	770	N/A	522	4215	622	4585	206
Net migration	N/A	-250	1966	1507	N/A	2015	1960	1592	1151	999

Various sources: Statistical Yearbook Netherlands Antilles 2005, 2006-2007, 2009, Sint Maarten Statistical Fact-book, Curacao Economic Outlook 2006, 2008, 2010

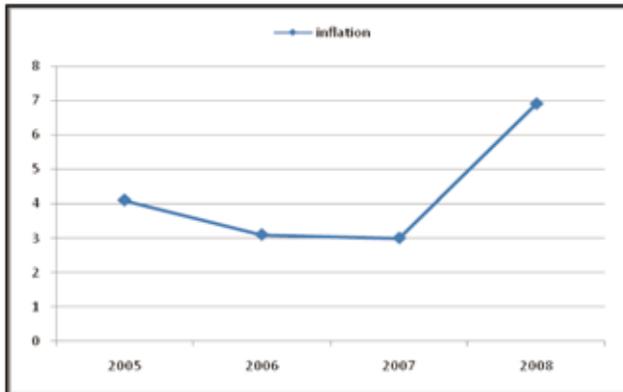
Graph 1.1.1: GDP by sector and kind of economic activity (nonfinancial corporations) in 2008 in Curaçao



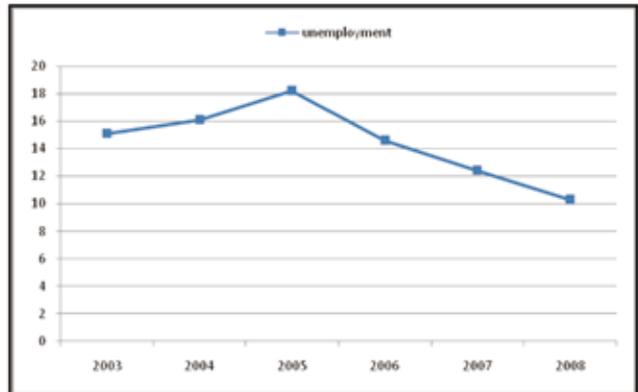
Graph 1.1.2: GDP by sector and kind of economic activity (nonfinancial corporations) in 2008 in Sint Maarten



Graph 1.1.3: Inflation rate Curaçao 2005-2008

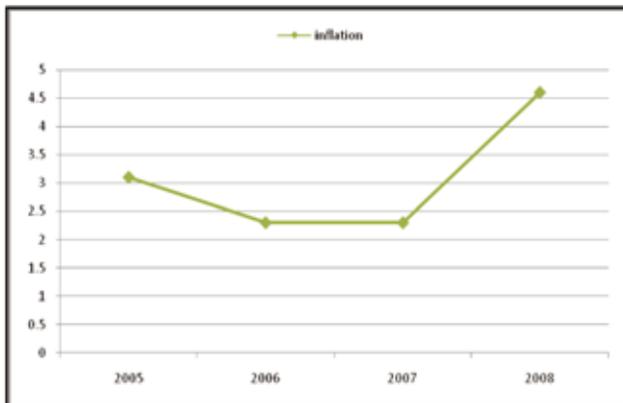


Graph 1.1.4: Unemployment rate Curaçao 2003-2008

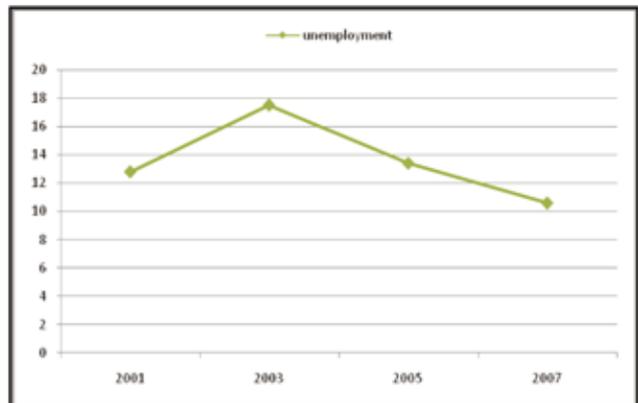


Source: Statistical Yearbook Netherlands Antilles 2009 of the Central Bureau of Statistics

Graph 1.1.5: Inflation rate Sint Maarten 2005-2008



Graph 1.1.6: Unemployment rate Sint Maarten



Source: Statistical Yearbook Netherlands Antilles 2009 of the Central Bureau of Statistics

## Human Development Index

The human development index (HDI) provides a framework for measuring Curaçao and Sint Maarten's average achievements in health, education (knowledge) and a decent standard of living. As noted above, the official HDI methodology uses GDP per capita in US\$ purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, as a summary composite index introduced in the 1990s by UNDP to show the improvement of a country's situation based on its GDP growth. Good governance has been shown to be a good strategy to help reduce the incidence of inequalities, encourage active participation of citizens, and ensure transparency and accountability in all sectors of society. Health is therefore measured by life expectancy at birth, knowledge by a combination of the adult literacy rate and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratios, while standard of living is measured by the GDP per capita. Based on a recent baseline study conducted by Deloitte, the former Netherlands Antilles HDI is scored at 84% in 2000 and 84.5% in 2002. This indicates a generally progressive trend. By comparison, neighboring countries like Trinidad and Tobago had an HDI of 80% in 2002 and Aruba 89% in 2002. Enhancing the full capabilities of citizens through knowledge and healthy lifestyles and providing safety guarantees for decent living is the key to sustainability in a globalizing and highly competitive world. Worrying trends in the qualitative aspects of education will be analyzed under MDG 2 below.

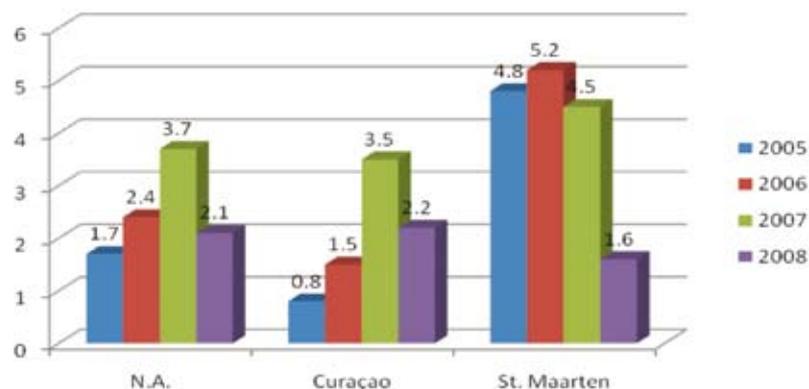


# The Millennium Development Goals for Curaçao and Sint Maarten: A Diagnostic Assessment By Goals, Targets and Indicators

## The Millennium Development Goals for the former Netherlands Antilles

The overall real economic growth of the former Netherlands Antilles over the year 2008 is estimated to be 2.1% (Statistical Yearbook, CBS 2009), where Sint Maarten's GDP growth went from 4.5 % in 2007 to 1.6% in 2008 and Curaçao's GDP growth from 3.5% in 2007 to 2.2% in 2008. For the greater part this growth can be attributed to a positive performance of the services sector in general.

Graph 1.2: Real Gross Domestic Product - Former Netherlands Antilles



Source: CBS, Statistical Yearbook Netherlands Antilles 2009

## Relative poverty

In comparison with the surrounding Caribbean and Latin American countries, Curaçao and Sint Maarten as islands of the former Netherlands Antilles may not be regarded as being poor (table below) and are no longer considered as developing countries. However, cause for concern remains due to low levels of income. According to the criteria of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, (OECD/DAC)<sup>11</sup> countries with more than US\$5,500 per capita income are classified in the net contributor category.

Table 1.2.1: GDP per capita in US\$ and GNI in US\$, Selection Caribbean Countries

Country	GDP per capita (2009)	GNI (2009)	GNI (2005)
Bahamas	29.900	21.390	19.139
Trinidad and Tobago	28.400	16.700	13.958
Barbados	20.200	N/A	17.170
Saint Kitts and Nevis	20.000	10.090	15.050
Antigua and Barbuda	19.100	12.130	11.604
Grenada	13.600	5.580	8.608
Cuba	12.700	N/A	N/A
Saint Lucia	11.300	5.190	5.516
Dominica	9.500	4.900	6.250
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	9.200	5.130	6.679
Former Netherlands Antilles	19.000	N/A	23.770

Source: Wikipedia

<sup>11</sup> The OECD/DAC, the development assistance committee of the donor community removed the Netherlands Antilles from its list of developing countries in the year 2000. If per capita income is taken as the criterion, this is fully justifiable. The GNP of the Netherlands Antilles is US\$14,430 or ANG.25, 767 according to the CBS (NA).

Gross National Product (GNP) alone does not determine whether a country is poor or rich. According to Townsend, poverty varies in time and place. To determine poverty it is more valuable to compare groups within the society with the local community or the nation to which they belong<sup>12</sup>.

## Income

Official statistics, because they are based on averages in a country with great income inequality, do not give a ready insight into the problem of poverty in the former Netherlands Antilles. The average income was ANG 2,151 (men: ANG 2,704, women: ANG 1,641) in 2001.<sup>13</sup> In Curaçao, the average income is below this average, while the average for Sint Maarten is higher. In this respect we should, however, take into consideration the possible differences in cost of living between Curaçao and Sint Maarten. An analysis of the household income in 2001 shows that the average household income in the former Netherlands Antilles was ANG 3,608 (men: ANG 4333, women: ANG 2415) with 38% of all the households headed by a woman. Studies conducted by ECLAC showed that households headed by a woman ran a high chance of falling below the poverty line.<sup>14</sup> A woman in this position bears a disproportionately heavy load, as she provides both an income and child care (table 1.2.2).

Table 1.2.2: Household Income former Netherlands Antilles by gender (ANG) 2001

Gender	Household Income				
	Bonaire	Curaçao	Saba	St. Eustatius	Sint Maarten
Male	2,342	2,675	2,882	2,807	2,928
Female	1,608	1,558	1,754	1,701	2,055
Total	1,987	2,077	2,354	2,270	2,513

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

Household income inequality is quite large with household incomes of the richest 20% of households being almost 11 times higher than those of the poorest<sup>15</sup>. In 2001, one fifth of the former Netherlands Antilles population from between the ages of 15-64 (22%) had no income (table 1.2.3). In Curaçao and Sint Maarten the percentages correspond with this number.

The sources of income for almost two thirds of the people (15 years and over) with an income in the former Netherlands Antilles came from labor or running their own business, 15% received an Old Age Pension (herein after: AOV<sup>16</sup>) and almost 7% received social benefit. On both islands these were the main sources of income, although some differences occurred. Sint Maarten, for example, showed a relatively low percentage of people with an income from AOV (4%) corresponding with the proportion of the elderly. In Curaçao, on the other hand, 17% received AOV.

This makes the economic situation of women, compared to that of men, much more vulnerable. Of the women (15-64 years of age) 27% had no income in 2001. Fewer women than men received income from labor or from their own businesses, and about twice as many women as men depended on AOV or social benefit.<sup>17</sup> Additionally, the wages of the employed women were lower even though 40% of the households were headed by a woman.

12 Townsend (1979); Engbersen, Vroom and Snel (1996) 15.

13 CBS (NA) 2001.

14 ECLAC (1998); Brydon & Chant (1993).

15 CBS (NA), De sociaal-economische situatie in de Nederlandse Antillen, Modus Statistisch Magazine (MSM) V nr.1 (2003).

16 AOV is the Dutch equivalent for Old Age Pension.

17 In Sint Maarten the term financial assistance is applied for social benefit. In this research we use the term social benefit as CBS (NA) does.

Table 1.2.3: Persons without income former Netherlands Antilles, 15 years and over, by gender (%), 2001

Gender	Curaçao	Sint Maarten	Former Neth. Antilles
Male	20	15	19
Female	25	28	26
Total	23	22	22

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

## Labor market

According to the CBS (Netherlands Antilles), the Antillean labor force consisted of roughly 81,500 persons, of which just under 12,000 (around 15%) were registered as unemployed (table 1.2.4).<sup>18</sup> Of these almost all were unskilled or poorly educated. The report “Match/mismatch” of Verton (1998), which mapped unemployment in the whole of the former Netherlands Antilles, states that the unemployment can in part be ascribed to the qualitative discrepancy between supply and demand of jobs.<sup>19</sup> This means that existing vacancies cannot be filled by local labor, owing to the fact that the necessary requirements with regard to training and experience cannot be met. Many students and persons with a better education pursue a career abroad. Certain specialist vacancies cannot be filled other than by qualified foreigners.

Table 1.2.4: Labor force former Netherlands Antilles, 15 years and over, by gender in 2001

Islands	Labour force			Unemployed		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<b>Bonaire</b>	2,615	2,250	4,865	258	228	486
<b>Curaçao</b>	28,438	28,221	56,659	3,890	5,083	8,973
<b>Saba</b>	346	291	637	17	22	39
<b>St. Eustatius</b>	611	506	1,117	44	50	94
<b>Sint Maarten</b>	9,311	8,466	17,777	979	1,303	2,282
<b>Neth. Antilles</b>	41,321	39,734	81,055	5,188	6,686	11,874

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

## Migration

Between 1960 and 1997 drastic demographic changes took place (table 1.2.5)<sup>20</sup> whereby the total population grew by 56,000 persons (42%). But from 1997 to 2001 there was a negative growth of 9%. The decision to migrate, whether it is emigration or immigration, depends on the economic situation. The CBS however made a clear connection between the unemployment rate and migration<sup>21</sup>. Higher unemployment forces more people to decide to leave their country.

Given several variations in the islands, it is difficult to make general conclusions applicable to all the islands that can be drawn from the figures concerning the former Netherlands Antilles. The size of the population in Curaçao decreased substantially from 1981-2002, whereas in Sint Maarten the population increased. The growth figures show that as a result of migration, the relations between the islands were altered. In the eighties the Curaçao population made up about 85% of the entire population of the former Netherlands Antilles. From 1997 to 2002 the population decreased immensely due to the large number of migrants going to the Netherlands.<sup>22</sup> The latest figures from 2008-2009 however, show that this process has slowed down, probably because of the worsened economic situation in the Netherlands. It takes longer to find a job and many people of (the former) Antillean origin feel discriminated against. Also, job opportunities in Curaçao and Sint Maarten have increased.

18 CBS (NA) 2001.

19 Verton Advies NV (1998).

20 CBS (NA) 2003.

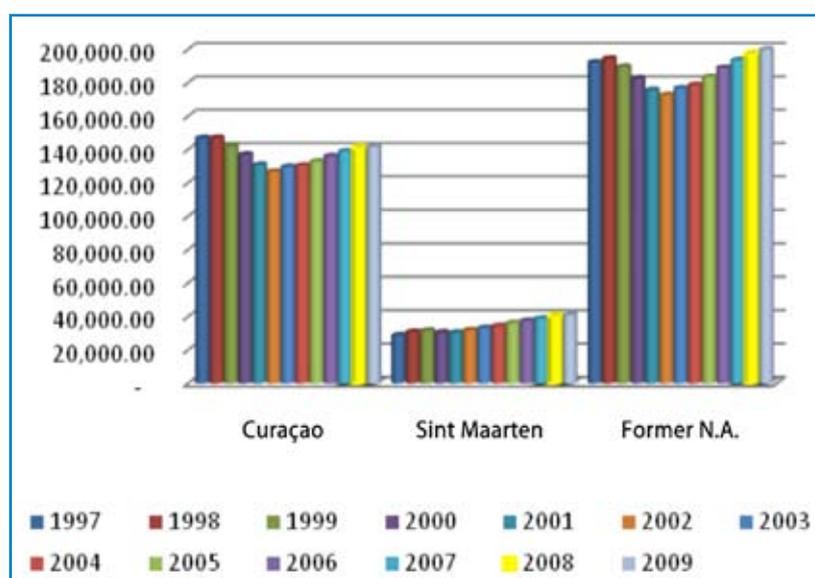
21 CBS (NA) 1998.

22 More information about Curaçao in: Reda Sosial (2003).

Table 1.2.5: Population former Netherlands Antilles

Year	Curaçao	Sint Maarten	Former Netherlands Antilles
1930	50,165	2,335	60,645
1960	125,181	2,728	135,715
1972	146,884	7,807	165,289
1981	147,388	13,156	171,620
1992	144,097	32,221	189,474
1997	146,855	28,909	192,247
1998	147,057	30,906	194,499
1999	141,932	31,577	189,606
2000	136,969	30,599	182,746
2001	130,822	30,440	175,704
2002	126,715	31,956	172,586
2003	129,665	33,187	176,635
2004	130,347	34,405	178,719
2005	132,847	36,256	183,536
2006	136,100	37,629	188,923
2007	138,894	38,927	193,552
2008	140,794	40,009	197,172
2009	141,766	40,917	199,929

Source: CBS (NA) 2001, CBS (NA) 2009



Although the figures concerning migration have tended to fluctuate in the last few years, CBS statistics on a whole still show an increase in immigration. The migration balance in Sint Maarten shows fluctuations, but eventually the persons coming to the island still exceed the persons leaving.<sup>23</sup> The increase in outward migration and decrease in immigration in the late nineties can be explained as a result of the hurricanes which affected the economy.

Migration in the former Netherlands Antilles has been accompanied with a change in the age structure (table 1.2.6) and the composition of the population (nationality) (table 1.2.7). As many young families and students belong to the group of migrants, the islands with a high emigration rate are confronted with an aging population.

<sup>23</sup> CBS (NA) 2003d.

Table 1.2.6: Population former Netherlands Antilles by age (%), 2000-2009

	Curaçao			Sint Maarten			Former Netherlands Antilles		
	0-19	20-64	65 and older	0-19	20-64	65 and older	0-19	20-64	65 and older
2000	32	58	10	32	65	3	32	59	9
2001	31	58	11	32	65	3	32	59	9
2002	31	58	11	32	65	3	31	59	10
2003	30	59	11	32	65	3	31	59	10
2004	15	33	7	32	65	3	30	60	10
2005	30	59	11	31	66	3	30	60	10
2006	30	59	11	31	66	3	30	60	10
2007	30	59	11	31	66	3	30	60	10
2008	29	59	12	31	66	3	30	61	9
2009	29	59	12	30	67	3	29	61	10

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

The composition of the population also changed enormously during the past decades. Part of the former Antillean population left the islands<sup>24</sup>, and were replaced by migrants from other parts of the Caribbean Region. Again, there are differences between the islands (table 1.2.7). On Curaçao a majority of the population is still born on the islands. In Sint Maarten, the relation between the Antillean and migrant population is completely different. The former Antillean population forms a minority with only one-third born on the island, with the rest migrating from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Guyana and Jamaica (table 1.2.7).

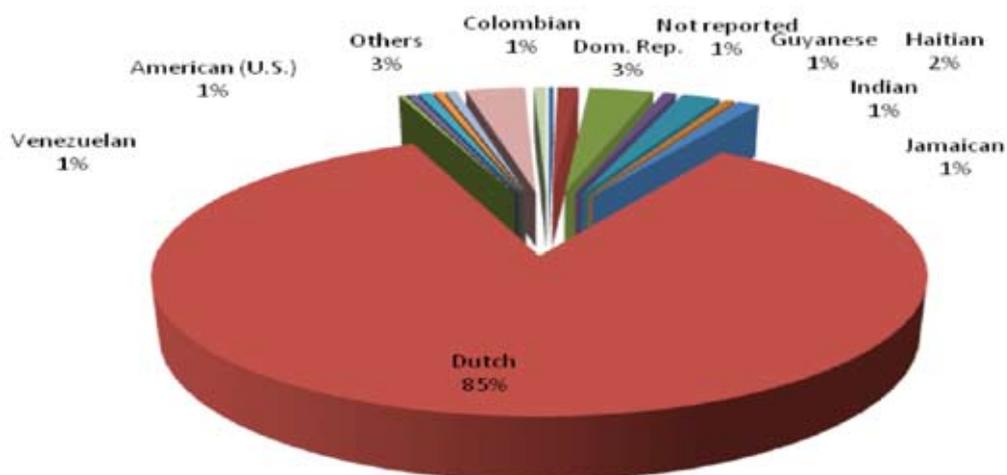
Table 1.2.7: Total population by nationality, 2001 in Curaçao and 2001 and 2009 in Sint Maarten

Year	Former Netherlands Antilles	Curaçao	Sint Maarten 2001	Sint Maarten 2009
Chinese	477	307	96	711
Colombian	1,896	1,458	178	376
Dominican Republic	5,794	2,139	3,098	5933
Guyanese	1,182	177	915	1225
Haitian	3,475	458	2,964	4748
Indian	863	322	510	1829
Jamaican	1,950	418	1,516	2154
Dutch	149,250	121,909	15,472	20,053
Portuguese	512	493	5	13
Surinam	822	421	273	736
American (U.S.)	1,160	216	564	1518
English (U.K.)	787	107	625	212
Venezuelan	1,075	749	73	156
Others	5,320	789	4,003	
Not reported	1,090	664	302	
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,653</b>	<b>130,627</b>	<b>30,594</b>	<b>53,167</b>

Source: CBS, National Census 2001, Sint Maarten Statistical Fact-book 2009

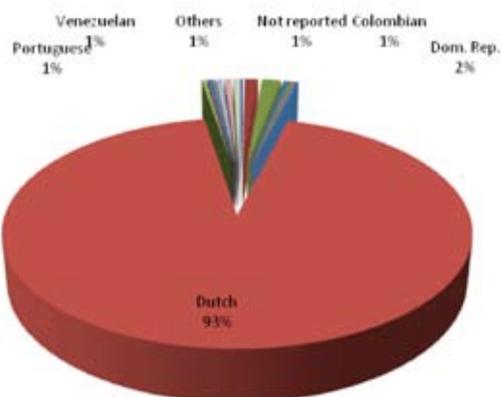
<sup>24</sup> On the Windward Islands people migrate more within the Caribbean Region, North and Central America; in the Leeward Islands, it is more common to migrate to the Netherlands., Permanente Commissie voor Bevolkingsvraagstukken (1999), i.e. Permanent Committee for Population Issues.

Graph 1.2.1: Total population by nationality in the former Netherlands Antilles, 2001

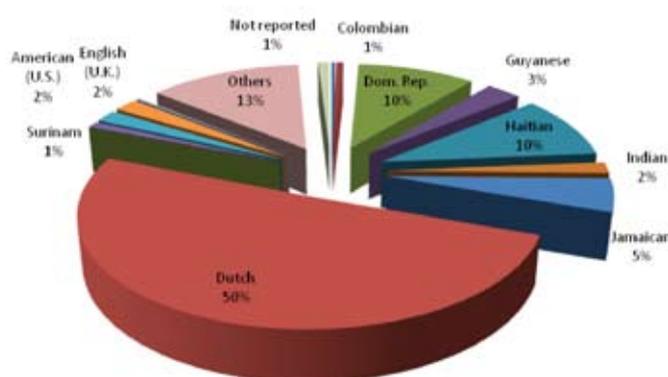


Source: CBS, National Census 2001

Graph 1.2.2: Total Population by nationality in Curaçao, 2001



Graph 1.2.3: Total population by nationality in Sint Maarten, 2001



Source: CBS, National Census, 2001

## Aging

In the past decade the population has been aging<sup>25</sup>. The number of people aged 65 and older has increased in the former Netherlands Antilles between 1997 and 2002. This increase may be related to the decrease of the group of young people (0-15), caused by migration. Consequently, the mean age of the population has increased from 31.5% in 1992 to 34.7% in 2001<sup>26</sup>. Issues faced by the elderly pose a major problem in Curaçao<sup>27</sup> with an aging increase from 6.5% in 1997 to 11.4% in 2002 and 12% in 2009, while in Sint Maarten the percentage of people over 65 is relatively low (3.1) due to the balancing factor of young labor-intensive immigrants. The figures still show, albeit a minimal, annual growth in Sint Maarten as seen from 2.9% in 1997 to 3.1% in 2002.

Migration impacted the age structure of the population of the former Netherlands Antilles. Another explanation is the lower fertility of the women, causing a diminished natural growth. Furthermore, life expectancy has increased because of the improvement of housing conditions and a better supply of medical, hygienic and social facilities<sup>28</sup>. This aging of the population will put pressure on society because of the increased use of public funds and health care to be expected in the future.<sup>29</sup>

25 CBS (NA) 2003.

26 CBS (NA) 2001.

27 Reda Sosial (2003).

28 Reda Sosial (2003).

29 CBS (NA) 2001.

While these ratios are indicative, poverty reduction analyses show that the target priorities for men and women would be different for varying age groups. In the case of males, efforts have to be concentrated among the youth between the ages of 10-19 years of age. This age bracket has the highest population of boys who will become future leaders. Therefore, multidimensional socio economic, educational, social and cultural programs must be designed to keep boys in school and meaningfully engage them in society. For females, attempts need to be made to provide more productive employment opportunities, diversify the job markets available to women as well as create more parity in the income levels between women and men.

## Health

In 2001, ISOG researched the relation between health and determinants such as gender, age, household income, occupational prestige and educational level in Sint Maarten, Saba, Sint Eustatius and Bonaire<sup>30</sup>.

One of the conclusions indicated a link between health and a lower socioeconomic status (SES)<sup>31</sup>. In Sint Maarten the Antillean part of the population apparently experiences more problems with their health than migrants, who come in rather good health in order to work, the so-called *healthy worker effect*.

Women and the elderly are important risk groups. Women are more often unemployed or working part-time, tend to have lower incomes, have jobs without any prospect, and furthermore accept full responsibility of the care of the children and the household. This is often linked to stress and weak health factors.

Another risk group is made up of the elderly who, despite their bad health, still live on their own. Diabetes is a common disease among this group. The deteriorating physical condition, bad infrastructure (transport, roads) and the lack of recreational facilities isolate the elderly from society leading to mental problems. The example of Bonaire can be exemplified where the elderly are doing relatively well, living in safe and quiet conditions with a sense of strong community integration<sup>32</sup>. More facilities are provided for the elderly to move around and exercise because of the small distances.

The most common (chronic or non-communicable) diseases in the former Netherlands Antilles are, among other things: high blood pressure, diabetes, heart problems, glaucoma and psychological problems. According to data gathered in all the islands, 20-30% of the adults of the former Antillean population have problems with hypertension, 10% have diabetes and 50% suffer from obesity<sup>33</sup>. The medical researchers believe that almost all the poverty-related complaints described above are linked to obesity. In Sint Maarten, Saba and Bonaire the percentage of persons with obesity from minimum to severe levels is around 60%. One of the causes of obesity is determined by cultural and socio-economic factors<sup>34</sup>. Most people have bad eating habits and exercise too little (table 1.2.8).

*Table 1.2.8: Lifestyle population (%) in the former Netherlands Antilles in 2002*

Habit	Population				
	Bonaire	Curaçao	Saba	St. Eustatius	Sint Maarten
Smoking	20.5	17.0	19.6	14.4	15.6
Alcohol	66.5	69.7	60.8	58.1	69.0
Vegetables	56.5	63.1	46.5	52.4	37.5
Fruit	46.3	50.0	31.3	38.5	33.0
Exercise	40.9	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0

Source: Grievink et al. (2002)

30 In 1999 in Curaçao: Alberts, Health Study (1996).

31 SES refers to determinants such as educational level, income, etc.

32 Grievink (2002a).

33 The most important data on health on the former Netherlands Antilles are found in Alberts et al. (1996), Eimers et al. (1997), Lourents et al. (2001), Fuchs et al. (2001), Grievink et al. (2002).

34 Grievink et al. (2002).

### Other factors which form health risks include:

- Lack of health related knowledge (knowledge of disease, (preventive) treatments, existing health services);
- Insufficient access to health care (caused by lack of knowledge of health care and the costs involved<sup>35</sup>);
- Social environment (physical factors, nuisance of mosquitoes/rats, nasty smell from pollution and poor garbage disposal).

Thirty-six percent of the population of the former Netherlands Antilles is insured via the *Social Insurance Bank (SVB)*. This includes almost all working people and their families. About 16% hold the 'pro-pauper' (PP) card, which carries the right to completely free health care<sup>36</sup>. Another 15% (civil servants, retired civil servants and their families) has a medical insurance provided by their employer/the government<sup>37</sup>. The percentage of people without insurance is 11.5%. This percentage is above 12% in Sint Maarten and below 8% in Curaçao.

Table 1.2.9: Population by type of health insurance (%) in the former Netherlands Antilles in 2001

Type	Population					Former Netherlands Antilles
	Bonaire	Curaçao	Saba	St. Eustatius	Sint Maarten	
Government	22.1	16.3	35.0	10.6	8.9	15.4
PP insurance	13.0	19.7	4.2	12.4	3.8	16.3
SVB	46.9	35.0	25.9	37.4	38.9	36.4
Private insurance	11.0	10.5	8.6	9.1	11.2	10.6
Not insured	2.8	7.7	12.1	16.0	30.2	11.5
Other	4.2	10.8	14.2	14.6	7.1	9.8

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

In the literature on the subject, the spread of HIV/AIDS is also linked to poverty<sup>38</sup>. The combination of poverty and high population mobility (migration) contributes to the spread of HIV infection<sup>39</sup>. HIV/AIDS eventually results in more poverty because of the additional burden on the national budget and the loss of persons who are in the most productive years of their lives. According to UNAIDS (2002), the Caribbean is second on the world list of regions with an alarmingly high HIV/AIDS prevalence (preceded only by sub-Saharan Africa).

From 1985 to 2003 there were 1,428 cases of HIV infection registered in the former Netherlands Antilles<sup>40</sup>. Of these 813 (56.9%) were men and 615 (43.1%) women, the majority in the age group 25-44 years of age (65.3%). 4.1% are children diagnosed under 15 years of age. Since 1990 there has been a mean of approximately 80 new known HIV infections per year for the five islands of the former Netherlands Antilles. Table 11 shows that of all HIV/AIDS cases, both Curaçao and Sint Maarten account for the highest numbers, respectively 939 persons (65.8% of all cases) and 432 persons (32.4% of all cases). Sint Maarten has relatively the highest amount of HIV/AIDS cases in the former Netherlands Antilles.

35 Patients from the smaller islands have to travel to Curaçao in order to visit a specialist. This causes a burden on the costs and the physical condition of the patient concerned. Grievink et al (2002).

36 'Pro pauper'. Sint Eustatius is the only island of the Netherlands Antilles where PP-card holders have to pay a contribution for each consultation and each day of hospitalization. This puts a burden on patients' personal budget, and can consequently lead to unequal access to care for low income inhabitants (Grievink (2002c) 121).

37 Government: BZV(Bureau for Medical Expenses) and ZOG fund (health insurance for government pensioners).

38 Links: [www.UNAIDS.org](http://www.UNAIDS.org); [www.WHO.org](http://www.WHO.org).

39 In research commissioned by Public Health Department (GGD) for combating infectious diseases and conducted by Contra Sida.

40 Of these there may well be some deceased, but no data on mortality are available as yet. Epidemiology & Research Unit of the Medical and Public Health Service of Curaçao. HIV infection surveillance, Netherlands Antilles, 1985-2002.

Table 1.2.10: Cumulative registered known HIV-positives former Netherlands Antilles per island by gender 1985-2003 (absolute)

Gender	HIV positives					
	Bonaire	Curaçao	Saba	St. Eustatius	Sint Maarten	Former Netherlands Antilles
Male	13	541	3	7	249	813
Female	12	398	2	2	201	615
Total	25	939	5	9	450	1,428

Source: Epidemiology & Research Unit, Medical and Public Health Service of Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles.

## The drug economy

Due to their links with the Netherlands, the former Netherlands Antilles form an ideal staging post for the transit of drugs from Latin America to the United States and Europe. There has been an increased influence of the drug economy on the socio-economic situation during the last few years. More people have become involved in drug dealing and trafficking in an effort to raise their income or were attracted by the 'glamour'<sup>41</sup>. In 2003, 33 drug-related homicides occurred in Curaçao. Due to the extensive supply and low prices for cocaine and crack on the local market there is a rise in drug addiction on the islands.

The capacity of the police force is too limited to effectively combat the drug economy. However, the American Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs is positively disposed towards the efforts made in recent years. The source is from 2003)<sup>42</sup>. Tightened control on Hato Airport in Curaçao has caused a diversion of movement from traffickers to Bonaire and Sint Maarten<sup>43</sup>.



41 Reda Sosial (2003) 27.

42 Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report 2003, Washington: March 2004.

43 Ibid.





# Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

## Netherlands Antilles perspective

Quote: “Let me consider the status of poverty in our society. It is true that we have a nation unemployment rate of over 15% and that more than one third of our youngsters are without a decent job. On the other hand, our per capita income is more than US\$15,000 per year. One can draw the conclusion that although there is enough wealth in our country, some segments of society have limited access to it. Nevertheless, it’s obvious that poverty in the Netherlands Antilles is not absolute. Practically everybody has access to fresh drinking water, food, healthcare and shelter. In that sense we are much better off than some of our neighbors where large numbers of people live in the most squalid conditions. In the suburbs of some Latin-American cities or in many remote and poorly developed rural areas, people really have to cope on a daily basis with situations that might make the difference between life and death. Even in our Caribbean region there are countries with a GDP per capita of less than one third of ours. In this comparison helpful? Comparing ourselves to countries in the region will lead to the conclusion that we aren’t doing badly at all. But is that what we want? Is that satisfactory? Can we afford to lean back, is it ok to continue as before and wish for nothing better than to sit back and enjoy life under the tree? I know you will agree with me that that is not enough. ....” (Source: 2nd Summit on Poverty Alleviation Key Note Address by: The Governor of the former Netherlands Antilles Mr. Frits Goedgedrag, 2005).

## Curaçao

The process of capital accumulation in Curaçao is dependent on major trading partnerships with Venezuela, the U.S and the Netherlands. With the global financial crisis of 2008 and its impact on the housing and credit market sectors in the U.S. with spillovers to European markets, the result is reduced tourism. According to the 2009 Annual Report of the Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao’s tourism shrank by 8.9%, contrasting sharply with a 34.1% growth in 2008. All markets posted a drop, except for the European market, which was supported largely by Dutch visitors. The overall weak tourism performance was due mainly to decreases in the North American and South American markets. Following a buoyant performance in the last two years, the number of Venezuelan travelers fell sharply in 2009. The number of Venezuelan visitors comprised 2.5% of the decrease in Curaçao’s tourism. A combination of other factors including volatile oil prices, increases in food prices, appreciation of the Euro against the dollar, rapid growth of money supply in China and India, resulted in reduced foreign exchange generation, foreign investment flows and remittances. The Central Bank report further shows that hotel occupancy rates dropped by 10.2 percentage points from 2008 to 74.8% in 2009. Inflation rose from 3% in 2007 to 6.9% in 2008, prompting a slowdown in the GDP growth of 3.5% in 2007 to 2.2% in 2008 (Curaçao Economic Outlook 2010).

This substantial growth in tourism led to a rise in consumption of 8%, in turn spurning a boost to the trade, hotel and restaurant sectors recording a 12% growth and a real investment of 9% measured in terms of gravel and cement sold over this period (a 2.8% increase from the previous year 2006).

The structure of investment improved for the vulnerable, particularly young people, resulting in reduction of youth unemployment in Curaçao from 37.8% in 2006 to 26.3% in 2008 and to 24.7% in 2009 according to the Labor Force Survey of Curaçao. Specifically, construction activity, a major contributor to capital formation and a significant employer of the poor and vulnerable, registered an increase of real investments by more than 4% due to the construction of major hotel chains in Curaçao. Corresponding to the other sectors, transport and telecommunications recorded an increment in turnover of 2%, health 3% and the financial sector 3.5%.

The “other sectors” that account for much of the investment in domestic capital include education, health, housing, general government services and arrangements for good governance. These also experienced overall growth. But though increases in employment were recorded in the trade, services, and finance sectors, the lack of increase in real wages combined with high inflation rate and increasing cost of living exacerbate the situation with an increasing percentage of households falling below the poverty levels determined for Curaçao.

Since the start of the movement to utilize tourism as the main economic booster in 2003, a period during which it would have been necessary for Curaçao to accumulate a critical mass of domestic human capital required to establish its own resources and drive the development process, the migration of its young population as shown above has rather depleted the human capital needed to push the economy.

A significant reason for the underperformance of the social sectors is due to the inadequacy of government capital investment, especially in the forms necessary to lead the restructuring of the economy. An analysis of budget allocation and actual patterns of real government capital spending since the fiscal year of 2001 in education, human development, and environment, which are the leading line ministries that drive achievement of the MDGs, is pending to determine the actual state of these “sectors” that have been neglected for over three decades. Over the fiscal years 2000 to 2004, real capital investment by the Ministry of Health grew by 4% and health care costs were estimated at 13 to 15% of GDP). These forms of investment meet the minimum necessary condition for development.

Combined with consumption by 8% in Curaçao, the overall evidence clearly indicates underinvestment in the most important forms of domestic capital, a signal that the fundamental conditions of development were not being satisfied over the years even with tourism growth. Indeed, this is compelling evidence of GDP growth without development and with rising income poverty. One reason for this is the tendency to view MDG-related investment in education, information, human development, health, housing, and transport as social sector investments aimed especially at the poor or the vulnerable in society. However, far more than being mere social sector investments, these are perhaps the most important forms of (domestic) economic capital required to provide the social and economic fabric within which markets can foster transformative growth. Specifically, in the face of the frequent sharp negative random price and technology shocks to which the economy is often subject, they embody the main capacities needed by the new country of Curaçao to undertake rapid switches of technology, joint production of commodities and effective utilization of knowledge spillovers from the rest of the world, and to raise routinely the efficiency of utilization of relatively scarce foreign exchange.

## Target 1.1: Halve the poverty

The cost of living on the islands is relatively high; since Curaçao and Sint Maarten hardly produce agricultural and industrial products, most products are imported. The smaller the island, the higher the cost of living which is the case in Sint Maarten, exacerbated by the relatively high cost of house rentals.

Curaçao and Sint Maarten are in the mid-range countries in terms of per capita income in the Caribbean. It is noteworthy that the sister country of Aruba had a lower per capita income compared to Curaçao in the nineties though, as noted, a relatively high GDP per capita does not exclude poverty.

## Curaçao

Although there is no standard poverty line determined, Curaçao defined its poverty line in 2008 as the level of income which is just sufficient to purchase means to live a healthy life. This was calculated based on the food basket method. At ANG. 2,195, equivalent to approximately US\$1,226.26, the poverty line is determined for a standard household of two adults and two children. For one adult this is ANG. 1,045, for two adults the amount is ANG. 1,568, one adult and a child ANG. 1,359, one adult and two children ANG.1,672, two adults and one child ANG. 1,881, and three adults ANG. 2,090.

According to the Modus Statistisch Magazine of the CBS, April 2010, in 2008, 39% of all households earned a monthly income of ANG. 1.000 or less. The income category of ANG. 1.000 or less is the largest category over the period 2003-2008.

Table 1.3: Distribution of equivalent income, % in Curaçao, 2003-2008

Income	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<-----1000	35	23	24	35	31	39
1001-2000	26	21	22	28	29	28
2001-3000	14	16	15	15	16	15
3001-4000	10	10	10	8	9	8
4001-5000	6	7	7	6	6	4
5001----->	9	23	22	8	9	6
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Modus Statistisch Magazine, CBS, April 2010

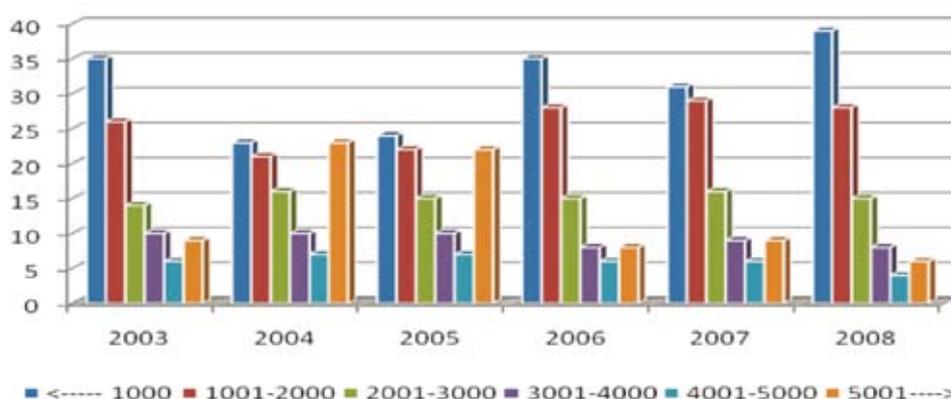
An analysis of table 1.3 shows vast income disparities between those earning ANG 2000 or less increased from 44% in 2004/2005 to 67% in 2007/2008. Only 10% of the working population earned an income of ANG 4000 or more. According to the Curaçao Economic Outlook 2010, more people were employed over the years, from 54,000 in 2007 to 56,000 in 2008, impacting an unemployment rate reduction of 12% to 10% between 2007 and 2008. However, it can be concluded that the majority of the employed population falls in the income category of ANG 2000 or less.

Furthermore, CBS informs that income categories differed over the years with 2008 being the worst year for households. With the exception of 2004 and 2005, there was a negative shift from a higher income category to a lower income category as seen in the table above.

Income distribution differs also between sexes, ages and education. Men and women were worse off in 2008, compared to previous years. For example, only 9% of men in the income category ANG 5001 and up earned that much compared to 31% in 2004 and 32% in 2005. For women, in 2008, only 3% were in this group compared with 10% in 2004 and 9% in 2005. According to the figures of the CBS, men still dominate the higher income levels if compared to women in this category, whereas in past years the percentages were higher. Accordingly, from the available data, 58% of male headed households and 78% of female headed households earn less than ANG 2,000 which means that more than 50% of households with an income fall within the lower income group with only 14% men and 5% women who earn more than ANG4,000. In summary, more than half of all women earned ANG 1,000 or less compared to 25% of men in 2008.



Graph 1.3: Distribution of equivalent income, % in Curaçao 2003-2008



Source: Modus Statistic Magazine, CBS, April 2010

A breakdown shows that in 2008 the largest group in the income category ANG. 1,000 or less are the elderly 60+ (45%) and the age group 15-39 (37%). Only 7% in the age group 60+ earn more than ANG 4,000 in 2008. According to these data most households with higher education are the ones earning ANG 5,001 or higher, while most households with lower education earn less than ANG 1,000.

*Table 1.4: Type of households by equivalent income, ANG in Curaçao 2003-2008*

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Mean income <sup>42</sup>	35	23	24	35	31	39
All households	2208	3502	2190	2075	2269	1911
Male headed households	2556	4303	2615	2456	2641	2298
Female headed households	1667	2353	1595	1553	1791	1426
Median income <sup>43</sup>	6	7	7	6	6	4
All households	1520	2347	1391	1493	1605	1312
Male headed households	1823	3152	1737	1864	1961	1697
Female headed households	1010	1538	956	1020	1191	956

Source: *Modus Statistic Magazine of the CBS, April 2010*

A comparison between income data of 1990 and 2001 showed that average income increased in real terms by 1%, but the median decreased with 11%, indicating an increase in income inequalities. The income structure remains very much the same: the lowest quintile household on Curaçao received 3.3% and the highest quintile received 51.8% of the total income.

*Table 1.4.1: Income distribution by household, lowest quintiles, in Curaçao 2003-2008*

Income distribution by household, lowest quintiles	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2007
	3.1%	3.0%	2.7%	3.3%	3.7%	3.3%

Source: CBS

The Island governments have been trying to resolve the economic issues by continuing social welfare programs such as increasing the minimum wage.

#### **Minimum wages:**

- The number of persons earning the minimum wage or less has decreased in the period 2004-2008.
- The minimum wages themselves have been increased around 25% for Curaçao and Sint Maarten.
- The minimum wages per hour is ANG 7.96 for Sint Maarten and ANG 7.53 for Curaçao as of January 2011.
- The percentage of employed persons earning less than ANG 1000,- a month increased in Curaçao from 35% in 2003 to 39% in 2008.

Consumer price index was 109.3% in 2008. This was an increase compared to 2007 when the CPI was 102.3%. The drastic increase which has since remained stable, was due to shortage of locally produced agricultural products, changes in European agricultural policy (abolition of export grants on milk and cheese) and the switch to production of bio fuels. This is the general argument for the rise in food prices in 2008 according to the Curaçao Economic Outlook of 2008. To mitigate hardships for the vulnerable, the government increased the minimum wage ratios to compensate for the loss in purchasing power. Also resulting from high international oil and food prices, domestic prices were affected resulting in a sharp increase in the inflation rate from 4% in 2005 to 6.9% in 2008. This is reflected in corresponding increases in prices of all product groups. The constantly increasing cost of living and high inflation

rate with minimal increase in minimum wages places financial burdens on the citizens to meet their economic responsibilities.

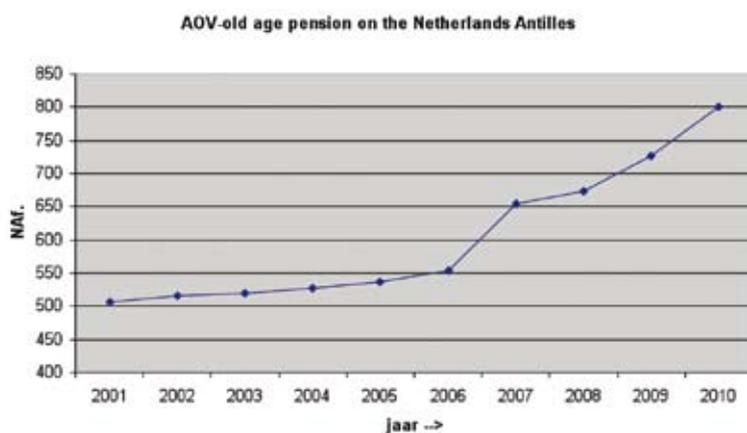
Furthermore, only 6 out of every 100 workers have at least a post secondary or equivalent qualification.

Due to the declining birth rate and longer life span, the workforce is also aging with a projection that by 2011 the proportion of the work force below 40 years old will be 23%. The proposal to nurture life-long learning for workers to build their capacity to remain relevant in particular within the age group of 18-25 is ongoing.

### Social welfare:

People over the age of 60 receive a pension from the state called “Algemene Ouderdoms Voorziening”, or AOV. The AOV has increased in the last couple of years from ANG 507 in 2001 to ANG 800 in 2010; a rise of 27% in real terms.

Graph 2.1: AOV-old age pension on the former Netherlands Antilles



Source: SVB

- Social Security Assistance (“Onderstand”) and free medical care (“PP cards”).
- People with no income receive “onderstand” and free medical care (“PP card”).
- In 2001 23.2% (35.581) of the population of Curaçao received “onderstand” and in 2010 this had decreased to 20.5% (29.074).
- The number of persons receiving free medical assistance (“PP cards”) in 2006 was 19.1% of the former Antillean population.

### Housing subsidy

On Curaçao and Sint Maarten, governments provide social housing for the lower income group. The rent of these houses is in most cases lower than the market rent (Sometimes construction of the houses was subsidized and other times the rent, or both).

## Sint Maarten

Although defining a poverty line for Sint Maarten has not been completed, it can be concluded that based on the situation in Curaçao, similar levels of income poverty may also exist on this island. Curaçao and Sint Maarten do not have a poverty reduction policy in place. Also, earlier attempts in 2005 at conducting a poverty assessment for Sint Maarten did not materialize for various reasons.

### Labor force

The size of the population has increased enormously over the years. However, the last ten years have shown some fluctuations. The economy suffered a severe blow caused by several hurricanes, which had its impact on migration and of course the size of the labor force (table 1.5). According to the figures Sint Maarten had 33,317 inhabitants in 2003, a growth of 10% compared to 2001<sup>44</sup>. The labor force increased by 11% to 19,633 (2001: 17,686). The amount of employed persons increased by 787 (5%). From 1997 to 2001 unemployment first went down from 17 to 13%, but increased again to 17.5% in 2003. Unemployment figures increased 51% (1,162 persons). There were more unemployed women than men, 20% against 15%. From a survey on a neighborhood level executed by the CBS (NA), in 2001 unemployment appeared to be the highest in Cay Bay (20.8%), Middle Region (20.2%), Over the Pond (17%) and Dutch Quarter (16.5%). There are no figures available for 2003.

Youth unemployment was at 25.3% in 2001. Youth unemployment rates were especially high among the youth of Middle Region (40%), Over the Pond (35.6%), Sint Peters (30.3%) and Philipsburg (30.2%). Youth unemployment increased by 6.6% to 31.9% in 2003.

Table 1.5: Labor Force Sint Maarten (absolute)

Labour Force	Year							Growth %	
	1960	1972	1981	1992	1997	2001	2003	1997-2001	2001-2003
Employed	793	3,112	5,998	16,911	14,424	15,431	16,200	6%	5%
Unemployed	50	298	499	2,425	3,059	2,271	3,433	-35%	34%
Labor force	843	3,410	6,497	19,336	17,483	17,684	19,633	1%	10%
Unemployment (%)	5.9	8.7	7.7	12.5	17.5	12.8	17.5	-37%	27%
Population	2,728	7,807	13,156	32,221	28,908	30,369	33,317	5%	9%

Source: AKO Sint Maarten CBS (NA) 2003.

Confirmed by the Central Bureau of Statistics of Sint Maarten.

### Income

Between 1992 and 2001, 22% of the population (15+), almost twice as many women as men, had no income, respectively 30% and 15%<sup>45</sup>. 87% of the population with an income had an income from labor or from their own business, 4% from AOV, 1.4% from a pension and 1.3% from other benefits.

The average monthly income in 2001 was ANG 2,513. Men earned more than women, ANG 2,928 against ANG 2,055. The incomes of both men and women have increased by respectively 13% and 19% in the last ten years.

### Household income

Average monthly household income in 2001 was ANG 3,896.<sup>46</sup> Table 13 shows a selection of neighborhoods where household incomes fell below this average. The neighborhoods Over the Bank, Dutch Quarter, Cay Bay and Middle Region seem worse off.

44 N.B.: The population figures of the civil registry differ from the CBS data. We chose to use the latter.

45 CBS (NA) 2001.

46 CBS (NA), Census 2001 neighborhoods Sint Maarten.

34% of the households were headed by a woman (table 1.5.1). The average income of a household headed by a woman was ANG. 2,674, which is one third less compared to households headed by men: ANG. 4,180. 14% of all households had less than gross ANG 1000 a month to spend in 2001.

Table 1.5.1: Selected neighborhoods in Sint Maarten with household incomes below the average household income of the island, without-suitable houses

Neighbourhood	Population	HH income	% 'not suitable' houses
<b>Total Sint Maarten</b>	30,594	3,896	13.6
<b>Philipsburg</b>	1,227	2,837	14.3
<b>Over the Bank</b>	285	1,853	12.5
<b>Sucker Garden</b>	2,207	2,674	22.0
<b>Belvedere</b>	1,363	3,215	2.2
<b>Dutch Quarter</b>	1,490	2,362	11.5
<b>Middle Region</b>	1,930	2,521	21.4
<b>Over the Pond</b>	702	2,755	14.4
<b>Zorg en Rust</b>	364	2,573	2.4
<b>South Reward</b>	878	3,542	9.6
<b>Sentry Hill</b>	1,667	2,834	29.1
<b>Sint Peters</b>	2,806	3,509	12.2
<b>Cay Bay</b>	1,869	2,411	31.0
<b>Lagoon</b>	1,765	3,406	18.2
<b>Orange Grove</b>	803	3,459	15.9
<b>Windsor</b>	297	3,506	11.1

Source: CBS, National Census 2001, neighbourhoods Sint Maarten

## Quality of the social environment

The quality of living accommodations improved in 2001 as compared to 1992. According to CBS data 86% was in a "suitable state" and the remaining (14%) in a "not suitable" state. Of these, 12% was considered to be in bad condition and 2% in very bad condition. 47 In 1992, these percentages were respectively 69%, 20% and 11%.

The results of the Health Survey show that 26.5% of the participants complained that their house was too expensive<sup>48</sup>. About 60% had problems with their neighborhoods because of: lack of recreational facilities (44%), lack of (medical and/or commercial) facilities (25%), drug addicts (23%), theft (21%), and nuisance caused by mosquitoes (75%), rats (50%), dust (43%) and nasty smell (20%).

In 2001 the World Bank laid down its macro-economic recommendations in the report Netherlands Antilles; "Elements of a strategy for Economic Recovery and Sustainable growth". The strategic approach was a focused development plan for tourism and other service exports. It also recommended the implementation of social programs such as 'public housing improvements in run-down neighborhoods and additional support for the poor through non-governmental social organizations and strengthening the formal social safety net mechanisms'. Some action was undertaken by the Government based on these recommendations as reflected below in the SEI.

47 CBS (NA) 2001. Definition CBS: Suitable: no defects, or defects that can be repaired by means of normal and regular maintenance. Bad: more repair is necessary than would be necessary with normal and regular maintenance (becoming dilapidated). Very bad: does not provide a safe or suitable shelter anymore and is a risk to health, safety and well-being of the occupants in the present state (dilapidated).

48 Grievink (2002d).

The Sint Maarten Executive Council approved the multi-annual integral social development policy plan for 2002-2007 on May 28, 2002 with the following features to improve the quality of life of Sint Maarten citizens through:

Putting basic infrastructure in place on a district level, such as a community council, community center and supervised public sports facilities. This program focuses on three levels: district, family and the individual.

Guarantee for safe and secure environments for everyone. In the first place it is important to create a safe environment. Secondly, some basic needs should also be guaranteed such as social, financial and medical security. The program focuses on: domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, drugs and alcohol addiction, abuse of women, protection of the natural environment, uninsured persons, disaster management, effluent water management and more.

Well-being of its inhabitants and its guests; socio economic wellbeing through employment, education, income, family values, housing, apprenticeship, re-entrance to closed markets, agricultural production, and re-definition of the off-season.

Attention to vulnerable target groups such as unemployed, youth, single and/or teenage mothers, migrants, low income earners and drug addicts through social empowerment in quality education and lifelong learning.

Capacity development of the NGO sector to stimulate a strong and well-organized watchdog for representation, logistics, administrative and technical support, information and research. For that matter, more attention should be paid to establish a federation office, inventory and screening of NGOs, developing a social map of Sint Maarten, training on logical framework, project management, reporting, support in financial requests, evaluation and improve project management for results.

Capacities for the expansion of cultural activities such as monument renovation, developing a Trade or Convention Center to service the Northern Caribbean and empowering the University of Sint Maarten as a regional knowledge hub in the Northern Caribbean.

Stimulate greater interaction and social integration of the numerous nationalities with due respect for their history, culture and folklore with priorities on adult education (literacy programs), cross-cultural exchanges, research on shared values, promotion of patriotism, English as the official medium of communication, compulsory education, pride and tolerance, special attention to immigrant youths, etc.

## Target 1.2: Eradicate Hunger

The health departments of the islands state that the prevalence of underweight children less than 5 years of age is practically non-existent<sup>49</sup>. On the contrary, childhood obesity is on the rise resulting from bad eating habits as a consequence of bad nutrition, lack of physical activity or a combination of both. It seems that the socio-economic status and/or education of the parents influence their lifestyles and health habits. Nevertheless, on the island of Curaçao it is observed that pupils arrive at school without having had a proper breakfast. Another consequence could be the increasing cost of food that limits the ability of poorer families to provide a nutritious and adequate diet. Some non-governmental community organizations are providing coping mechanisms by helping schools to provide these pupils with a proper meal. There is a need for the government to assess the depth of the situation, create the economic fiscal space (through allocation of required funds in the education sector) in order to complement ongoing efforts of NGOs. Otherwise, this could pose longer term human development and social impacts in poorer health resulting in absorptive capacity and life expectancy.

### **Target 1.3: Have lack of access to basis services**

According to information provided by respective electrical companies, almost all occupied houses in Curaçao and Sint Maarten are connected to the electric grid. In the event that a house is temporarily without electricity, it is usually as a result of non-payment or the premises being unoccupied. In certain districts in Curaçao, electricity is distributed only on a pre-paid basis where the customer has to buy a card for a certain amount of electricity.

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<sup>49</sup> Source: several consultation bureaus for children in the islands.

According to the 2001 Census 1.5% of all households does not have electricity and on Sint Maarten this is 3.3%. In reality this is probably a little higher in Sint Maarten due to illegally constructed occupied living accommodations which were not included in the Census. Some of these dwellings are not connected to the electricity grid.

Practically all the houses on the islands have access to toilets (98.5%). About 1/3 of all the houses in Curaçao and Sint Maarten have more than one toilet in the house.

Most have a cesspool or are connected to a septic tank.

*Table 1.6: Proportion of households with access to electricity and toilets in Curaçao and Sint Maarten*

	Curaçao	Sint Maarten
Proportion of households with access to electricity*	98.3%	99.0%
Proportion of households using toilets**	99.0%	96.7%

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

\*) includes also own supply (generator, solar) or in combination with the grid connection

\*\*) between 25-35% of households have a second bathroom and toilet



## Indicators Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

	MDG (Caribbean) Indicators	Baseline 2001		Latest available	Remarks
		Curaçao	Sint Maarten		
1.1	<b>Proportion of population below National Poverty Line by sex</b>	Household income (Poverty line) 2001:23% (had no income), 16% had a income of less than ANG 500 and 33% less than ANG 1000	Household income 2001:22% (had no income)	In Cuaraco:39% (income of ANG 1000 or less)	
1.2	<b>Proportion of households living below NPL by sex of Head of Household</b>	N/A		N/A	
1.3	<b>Proportion of employed living in households with a per capita income below NPL by sex of head of household</b>	N/A		N/A	
1.4	<b>Poverty gap ratio by sex</b>				
1.5	<b>Share of poorest quintile in national consumption by sex</b>	3,1% (2002)		3,3 (2008)	Only for Curaçao, source CBS
1.6	<b>Prevalence of underweight children of age by sex.</b>	<2%		<2% (2009)	Estimate heath departments
1.7	<b>Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption</b>	<2%		<2% (2009)	Estimate health departments
1.8	<b>Proportion of households with access to electricity by sex of head of household</b>	Electricity: 98,3%	Electricity: 99,0%	Probably percentages remained the same	Source: National census 2001
1.9	<b>Proportion of households using toilets by sex of head of household</b>	Own bathroom: 99,0%	Own bathroom: 96,7%	Probably percentages remained the same	Source: National census 2001



## Goal 2: Achieve universal primary and secondary education

This goal is on track as access to gross enrolment in primary and secondary education on these islands is in theory 100% as a result of compulsory education for the age group 4-18 year olds and as a mandatory youth development program for young adults aged 18-24 who lack appropriate qualifications for the local labor market provides free education for all children and youth. At the secondary level, there is the persistent problem of relatively high dropout rates for all inhabitants of the former Netherlands Antilles for the youth aged 15-24 years old (43.6% in 2001 and 36.5% in 2005). There also appears to be a gender dimension in education as seen through the 'boy problem' with the alarming rates of boys who repeat classes, drop out of school and more often score lower levels of educational attainment in comparison to girls. Education provides a basic foundation for the future leaders of any country and in particular for new emerging nations. The youth literacy rate which is defined as the ability to both read and write with understanding a short statement on everyday life, seems to be lacking. Since the youth literacy rate is a reflection of the past 10 years of primary education and can serve as an effective measure of a successful primary education system and a proxy measure of social progress and economic achievements, this should to be reviewed urgently. Part of the problem could be due to differences in school facilities, available resources, and demand on a boy's time for work, drug related activities and other disincentives. Therefore, it will be timely to address an integrated academic curriculum that incorporates formal and informal education components to be prioritized.

Furthermore, the effect of migration where, on an annual basis 300-400 young people migrate to the Netherlands for further studies with a small percentage returning to set up home, has caused brain drain effects on the islands. This poses issues on two angles. For one, it creates a human resource capacity gap in an already volatile capacity area. Secondly, the educational system does not seem to adequately prepare the youth for a holistic integration into the Netherlands and other regions to where they migrate for higher level academic training. While mitigating



measures must be urgently identified to address these issues, another core concern for further analysis relates to the language of academic instruction in primary and secondary schools. The three official languages since 2007 are Dutch, Papiamentu (the indigenous language of the former Leeward Islands of the former Netherlands Antilles) and English. The fact that the Dutch language is used at all levels of education in these islands while the preferred lingua franca in Curaçao is Papiamentu and English in Sint Maarten creates gaps in educational attainment and literacy levels. The question of the appropriate language of tuition requires further dialogue. A restructuring of the educational system into institutions that generate highly skilled people can contribute to changing the current dynamics into a more positive economic and social outlook in Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

**Target: To ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary and secondary education and that by 2015 pre-school age children have universal access to early childhood education**

The law on compulsory education was introduced in 1991 for the children in the age category of 6 -16 in Curaçao and Sint Maarten with a further revision in 2008 to expand to the age groups of 4 -18 year olds. This implies that not only all children have the right to go to school (see the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989) but that the law says that they have to go to school as well.

At the age of 4, all children living in Curaçao and Sint Maarten are offered Foundation Based Education. This includes 3 cycles. The idea of Foundation Based Education is to provide an incentive for those students who do not repeat classes or at least should reduce repeating. After completing Foundation Based Education students go to secondary education.

## **Curaçao**

The participation rate of the children going to regular primary (of FBE-) schools is near 100%. A regulated or public school is a school that is operating in accordance with the law and is subsidized by the government. The Inspectorate of Education closely monitors school compliance in line with the law.

## **Sint Maarten**

On Sint Maarten the situation is more complex. There are many undocumented children on the island comprising 10-15% of the school going population. Up until 2008/9 none or hardly any undocumented children were allowed to go to regular schools<sup>50</sup>. Over the years this has resulted in the establishment of undocumented private schools on the island, offering primary education to the undocumented children. In 2008/9 the 4-7 year-old cohort of undocumented children were allowed to go to the public schools on Sint Maarten. Every school year the age of accepting undocumented children goes up with 2 years. The plan is that on Sint Maarten by the year 2013, all undocumented children will have a place in public schools.

The ratio of persons (15+ years) who did not complete a secondary education in 2001 corresponds to the average of the Netherlands Antilles: approx. 43%. As compared to ten years ago some progress has been made (1992: 55%). Drop-outs in the age 15-24 did even better during the last ten years. Drop-out ratio used to be the highest in the Netherlands Antilles with 53% in 1992, but in 2001 the ratio dropped below the average of the former Netherlands Antilles (43.5%).

<sup>50</sup> The Convention of the Rights of the Child, the Netherlands, signed on February 06, 1995. Curaçao and Sint Maarten ratified the Treaty in 1998.

<sup>51</sup> A regular school is a school which operates according to the law and is supervised by the Inspectorate of Education. Most of the regular schools are subsidized by the island government. All children/students have the right to go to a public subsidized school.

The illiteracy percentage was cut in half, going from 8.6% in 1992 to 4.1% in 2001, still the highest in the former Netherlands Antilles. According to the CBS neighborhood census 2001 there were six neighborhoods where the illiteracy rate was higher than the island average. In the districts “Over the Bank” and “Sentry Hill” this percentage was even twice as high: 9.2% and 9.3 %, respectively. In Middle Region, Sucker Garden and Dutch Quarter the percentages were around 6%.

## Target 2.1. Access to primary and secondary education

Foundation Based Education was introduced in the school year 2002-2003. Due to compulsory education, all students starting Foundation Based Education at the age of 4 finished primary school. For those who have a problem to succeed or make sufficient progress, remedial teaching is available. For children with serious structural learning problems there are special adapted schools.

Until the ages of 11-12, every child in Curaçao attended primary or FBE school. All youngsters are encouraged to continue to secondary school. In Sint Maarten, where limited space is available for undocumented youngsters to go to a secondary school, this is not always the case.

For students who drop out of secondary education, there is the Youth Development Program (SVP) where unqualified youngsters under 24 have to participate with the aim to get at least some job qualification skills. In theory this means that youngsters in Curaçao and Sint Maarten have opportunities for job skill enhancement.

The problem in Curaçao and Sint Maarten is generally not the access to secondary education but how to keep the youngsters, in particular the males, in school. Because the males repeat more, drop out more and are less qualified than the females, it is referred to as the ‘boy problem’. For example, graduating on Sint Maarten, at the highest level of secondary education (HAVO-VWO) the male-female ratio is 1: 1.61 and for the lower level of secondary education (VSBO) the ratio is 1: 1.17. The trend in Curaçao is similar to that in Sint Maarten. Males attend vocational school more often.

*Table 2.1: Enrolment rates, foundation based education and secondary education, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2001*

<b>Enrolment rate 4-11 years Foundation Based Education</b>	<b>Curaçao</b>	<b>Sint Maarten</b>
Male	99,2	96,4
Female	99,2	96,8
Total	99,2	96,6
<b>Enrolment rate 12-15 years Secondary Education</b>		
Male	98,4	96,2
Female	98,7	95,7
Total	98,6	96,0
<b>Enrolment rate 16-18 years (Secondary Education)</b>		
Male	77,7	64,7
Female	85,7	68,2
Total	81,7	66,5

*Source: CBS, National Census 2001*

Research shows that the former primary education system resulted in a high rate of children who repeated classes. A study by IMD Consultancy calculated an average repeat percentage rate at 15.4% for males, 12.2% for females and overall 13.7% for the school year 2000-2001.

For the school year 2000-2001 the baseline study of IMD showed that 44.4% of all children in primary school completed it in six years (without repeating classes): for boys this percentage was 38.5% for girls 49.9%.

Dropout rates differ among the islands. The dropout rate for all inhabitants of Curaçao and Sint Maarten that did not finish secondary school was 42.4%. For the age group of 15-24 this was 43.6% in 2001.

The CBS used a proxy method to quantify illiteracy based on the National Census e.g. the percentage of inhabitants who did not finish 3 classes of primary school. The illiteracy percentage in Curaçao and Sint Maarten is 2, 0%. This is different from the global definition of literacy determination and the CBS is reviewing this definition in the upcoming census 2011.

*Table 2.2: Dropout rates, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2001*

Dropout rate (inhabitants who entered secondary school and did not complete the cycle)	Curaçao	Sint Maarten
Of total population, 2001	41,8%	42,9%

*Source: CBS, National Census 2001*

In Curaçao, according to the report of the Status of Education in 2004/2005 by the Department of Education, Curaçao, a total of 20,808 students were enrolled in primary education. Of this total, 10,868 students were males (52.2%) and 9,940 females (47.8%). At the secondary school level, a total of 13,224 students enrolled, with 5,399 males (40.8%) and females 7,825 (59.9%). Furthermore, almost three quarters of Primary school pupils who are admitted to Secondary education, are placed in a PSVE school (VSBO). Less than 20 percent streams into HAVO/VWO (in preparation for higher education). Placement capacity plays a role here, but most pupils who score at HAVO/VWO- levels are girls. (Inspectorate of Education Report, 2008).

In Sint Maarten, figures from the Sint Maarten Statistical Fact-Book 2009, a total of 4,983 students were enrolled in primary education. Of this total, 2,456 students were males and 2,527 females. At the secondary school level, a total of 2,715 students enrolled, with 1,281 males and 1,434 females. There were also recordings of undocumented children of respectively 397 in 2005, 630 in 2006 and 619 in 2008.

Looking into career choices of students in secondary schools, it is noted that in general, female students choose for administrative and trade-oriented programs including training programs for the caring professions. Traditionally, male students in secondary schools stick to technical training (electrical installations and construction) and some may choose for administrative occupations and certainly not for caring or educational professions. Feminization of the teaching profession, as is the case on a large scale on the islands, finds its roots in the program choices of students in secondary education.

This pattern is repeated in the second phase of secondary education (SVE) where remarkably many female students choose for a career in the economic and touristic sectors, in addition to the caring and teaching professions. The student population of the technical SVE is predominantly male with only 18 percent female students. Relating this pattern of career choices to the economic development on the islands, it is most likely that in general females are much better prepared for future job opportunities than their male peers.

**Teachers**

All teachers at public and subsidized schools are qualified with a bachelor or higher level qualification. There is a shortage of teachers in the islands because there are simply not enough students who are studying to become a teacher to replace the ones who retire or leave the island. In all the islands, retired teachers are still in service and the problem is getting worse as the teaching profession does not seem popular among youngsters.

In Curaçao and Sint Maarten there is, after completion of at least HAVO (senior general education), a 4-year teachers training program for FBE (or former primary school).

Most of the teachers at the secondary educational level have obtained their qualifications in the Netherlands. In Curaçao, all or almost all teachers have the Dutch nationality.

Some secondary schools in Sint Maarten offer CXC. CXC is based on another curriculum, and the teachers often come from many different Caribbean countries. Nevertheless, 69% of the teachers still have the Dutch nationality and are from Curaçao, Aruba, Sint Maarten or the Netherlands. A total of 31% of the teachers in Sint Maarten carry a foreign nationality and are for instance from Suriname or Guyana.

No differentiation is made between boys and girls. Gender sensitization is less of an issue in Curaçao and Sint Maarten. Gender issues, including 'the boy problem', are an integral part of the teacher training program in Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the Netherlands.

## Target 2.2. Access to early childhood education

In many countries early childhood is until the age of 6 years. However, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten it is mandatory that children attend primary school from the age of 4. The former Kindergarten has become an integral part of FBE.

Early childhood education is offered in daycare centers to children from birth to 4 years of age. This form of education is offered privately for a fee.

Minimum requirements for daycare centers have been or are being established on the islands. One aim is for daycare centers to upgrade their facilities and to encourage the staff to pursue and maintain educational skills. Some of these centers are subsidized; however, none in Sint Maarten are subsidized. Day care centers are popular in the islands; in 2001, 43% of the youth from birth to four years of age attended a center. Many of these centers, in particular the subsidized ones, have waiting lists.

The popularity of these centers has much to do with (single) parents/guardians working during the day. Early childhood education is considered as being of utmost importance for the development of the child.

Table 2.3: Participation rate 0-4 year olds, preschool education, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2001

Enrolment rate 0-4 years old preschool education*)	Curaçao	Sint Maarten
Boys	42.8	42.5
Girls	42.0	41.3
Total	42.5	41.9

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

\*) Participation rate is used instead of net enrolment ratio due to data difficulties grade



## Indicators Goal 2: Achieve universal primary and secondary education

	MDG (Caribbean) Indicators	Baseline 2001, Curaçao and Sint Maarten	Latest available	Remarks
2.1	Net enrolment ratio in primary education by sex	98,8% for both sexes	N/A	Participation rate, based on National Census, 2001
2.2	Proportion of students of school age attending primary school by sex and grade	99-100%	99-100%	Source: Departments of Education, Truancy departments. Also based on compulsory education legislation, undocumented not included. If under 24, with no labor qualifications, youngster have to follow the Youth Development Program
2.3	Proportion of students of school age attending secondary school by sex	98% for both sexes	Approx. 98-99%	
2.4	Net enrolment ratio in secondary education by sex	Approx. 99%	Approx. 99%	
2.5	Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary school by sex	All	All	Because of compulsory education. Cannot be calculated because of large immigration in and outflow.
2.6	Proportion of pupils starting Form 1 who reach Form 5 in secondary school by sex (localized at least VSBO, 15-24 years-old)	56,4%	N/A	Estimate health departments
2.7	Proportion of students who complete secondary school at Form 5 with passes at least two subjects English (or official language of country) by Math and sex	Unknown	Unknown	There is a distinction between academic and vocation education.
2.8	Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds by sex	2,0% of which Male: 2,1% and Female: 1,8%	Probably percentages remained the same	Source: National census 2001
2.9	Proportion of students in sec. schools, in 5th form/in last grade enrolled in science and technical subjects, by sex	Unknown	Unknown	There is a distinction between academic and vocation education.
2.10	Proportion of teachers trained in the area of gender sensitization	None	None	It is part of teachers training
2.11	Proportion of schools implementing a gender sensitization program	Unknown	Unknown	Not included in standard curriculum; depends on school program and teacher
2.12	Proportion of children in class above the average age of the class, by sex (here without repeating classes)	55,6% (2000/1) Of which Male: 61,6 % Female : 50,1%	Probably much less above average age	In FBE the idea is that children cannot repeat a school year. Source: IMD (2003)
2.13	Proportion of children in class below the average age of the class, by sex	2,5% (200/1)	N/A	Source: IMD (2003)
2.14	Percentage of trained teachers in primary schools by sex, same for secondary schools	100%	100%	At regulated schools. Source: Inspectorate of Education
2.15	Percentage of trained teachers in secondary schools by sex	100%	100%	At regulated schools. Source: Inspectorate of Education
2.16	Avg. class size by grade/form (legal maximum class size)			According to NA law.
2.17	Proportion of children attending early childhood education institutions, by sex	42,7% Of which: Male: 42,9% Female: 43,7%	N/A Probably Around 50%	Source: National Census 2001

## Outlook

Disaggregation issues are observed in school settings with high numbers of immigrant children. The visible differences in educational facilities, available resources and home demand on students' time can lead to diversions to drug related activities. There is a need for more research in this area in both countries.

The CBS defines literacy using a measurement based on self determination or assumption that people with no schooling are illiterate. However, it is observed that even those engaged in primary schools cannot read or transmit what has been read. It is therefore important to use the globally standardized measure for literacy calculation by using the Principles and Recommendations for population and Household Censuses. This can be done by administering literacy questions as part of censuses and surveys.

Delivery of education in Curaçao and Sint Maarten is affected by many challenges, among which are the need for improved physical infrastructure and facilities, adequate supply of well trained and motivated teachers and the delivery of curricula to students that is relevant and engaging. The government of Curaçao has been making significant efforts to address these issues, but due to systemic issues, gains in learning achievements are slowing and will need to be prioritized. Investments in effective supervision and monitoring arrangements of the education system, improved governance and tracking mechanisms, clarity in roles and responsibilities and synergies in resources and capacities are urgently needed. Some key factors explaining increasing dropout rates are the high cost of education (including fees and related expenses), inadequacies in the quality and relevance of education, the high proportion of female compared to male teachers, especially at the early grades, and the absence of role-models who can motivate young boys to stay in school. At the level of the home, contributory factors are the high and rising numbers of female-headed households, economic challenges and poverty, low parental capacity to provide the structure and information needed to establish and maintain effective discipline, as well as increasing teenage pregnancies.

Given the increase in social challenges being experienced at homes, schools and communities, achievement of the MDG targets for this goal will require continuous strategic interventions and close monitoring to ensure they stay on track or even exceed the targets. Some democratization of the program formulation process at the neighborhood level with the active involvement of key development stakeholders particularly in the NGO sector can prove instrumental in providing advances in the area of literacy.

For the qualitative aspects of education to improve at expected levels in this goal, there cannot be any complacency even though the progress currently looks fine. The success of an education system lies in the ability to retain students through all the grades, provide high quality schooling, provide high performance and make available the necessary resources in teachers, classrooms and educational materials. Providing the policy guidance necessary to boost the quality and effectiveness of the education system is mandatory and urgently needed.

These data indicate that Curaçao and Sint Maarten have met and surpassed its literacy targets and that the central problems of poverty are not merely problems of the remaining pockets of illiteracy, but also much more likely problems of preparedness to compete for higher quality jobs as the economy evolves over time. The quality challenge related to performance indicators in test scores at primary, secondary and tertiary levels still needs more attention.





## Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Statistically this goal presents a mixed picture because women and men seem to have certain levels of equality in society due to progressive policies in education for all, some female representation in politics, female employment and proper work environment for women. However, statistics show disparities in income and economic opportunities as women in general earn 29% less, are underrepresented in parliament and at management levels with a variation of gender specific sectors and occupations in both countries. Further evidence indicates that gender disaggregation in specific sectors have persisted for several decades making it difficult for women or men to penetrate into traditional roles designated for a particular gender. Carefully balanced and objective assessment in the future would need to make room for more progress towards equal wage distribution for women within the same position as men and generally support effective gender mainstreaming initiatives.

### Target 3.1 Eliminate Gender Disparity in Education

Educational statistics show that the female to male ratio is similar at a one to one ratio in primary and secondary education. This was calculated for the year 2001 based on the Fourth National Population and Housing Census, Netherlands Antilles. For tertiary education the male students were lagging behind the female students. Regarding tertiary education, it needs to be taken into account that the majority of students from Sint Maarten prefer to leave the island to follow tertiary education. However, students that prefer to remain in Sint Maarten have the possibility to attend the University of Sint Maarten. There is the opportunity in Curaçao for tertiary education at the University of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA) and Instituto pa Formashon den Enfermeria (IFE). IFE provides nursing and other health care education. Nevertheless, most youngsters who want to study prefer to do this abroad. Many go to universities in the Netherlands and some go elsewhere in the region like Puerto Rico, Colombia, Trinidad, the U.S.A or Canada.

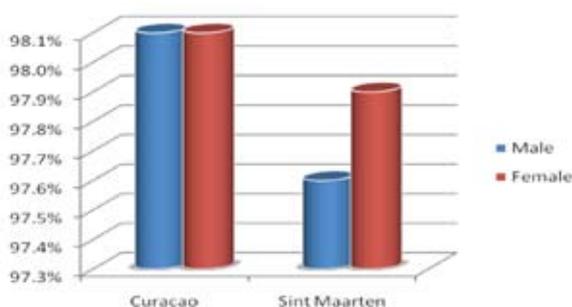


Table 3.1: Ratio of literate women to men of 15-24 years, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2001

Ratio of Literate women to men of 15-24 years	Curacao	Sint Maarten
Male	98,1%	97,6%
Female	98,1%	97,9%
Total	98,1%	97,7%

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

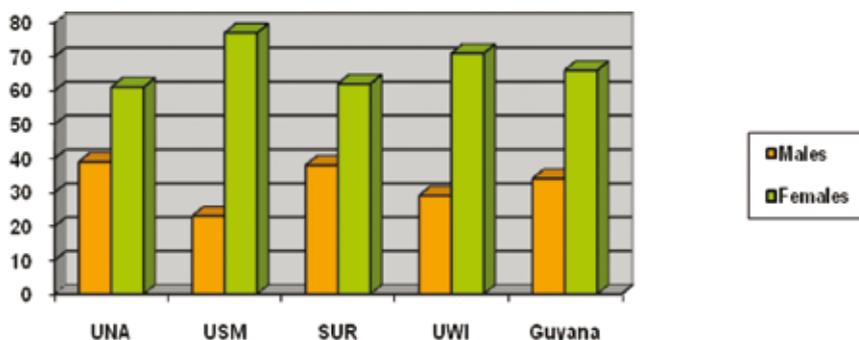
Graph 3.1: Ratio of Literate women to men of 15-24 year, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2001



Source: CBS, National Census 2001

The gender differences in participation in higher education are of greater magnitude. In that respect, large similarities can be noted with the rest of the Caribbean region; where at this high level the predominance of girls is evident. In Surinam, Jamaica, Guyana, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, the number of male students registered for a university education, lags far behind the number of female students. At the University of Sint Maarten, the differences appear to be the greatest in favor of female students (77 percent). The figures correspond to the academic year 2005. Similarly, of the students enrolled at the University of the West Indies, 71 percent of the student population is female while in Guyana, the student population consists of 66 percent female students. The division of students at the Anton de Kom University (Surinam 2000) corresponds to the students at the UNA (2007) in Curacao with almost 62 percent female students.

Graph 3.2: Population higher education in the Caribbean (%)



Source: Narain, Goretti: 'Boy Problem', Gender disparities in Education in the Netherlands Antilles Report for the UNESCO National committee, Netherlands Antilles, Curacao (2009)

With the exception of the Technical Faculty, there is an overrepresentation of women in all faculties. Most popular among the studies chosen by female students is Accountancy (SEF), closely followed by Business Communication and International Business (both SEF studies).

Among the male students the Accountancy program of the Social Economic Faculty also scores as the most popular are of study at the university, followed by the technical studies, Electrical Systems and ICT (TF). Most female students studying at the Technical Faculty prefer to pursue a study in the area of information and communication technology. International Business also ranks high among male students, but they still remain far in the minority compared to the female students. In the Law faculty, there are almost twice as many female students as male students who pursue their studies at Bachelor and Master Levels.

Various mutually influential factors affect education performance of boys and girls. Most attention is paid to personal, education related and socio-economical factors but there are several innate as well as learned behavioral factors that influence the sex differences in educational performance. Research shows that most educational systems ignore the differences in development pace between girls and boys and that the alphabetization process of young girls develops in general faster than that of young boys. Boys often tend to fall behind in school and without due attention experience great trouble in adjusting to the class pace and therefore are at risk of losing motivation.



Table 3.2: Graduates of the University of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA), 2001-2006

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Faculty of Law	Male	7	10	3	3	4	5
	Female	11	17	12	14	18	15
	Total	18	27	15	17	22	20
Faculty of Social and Economic Studies	Male	11	8	6	1	1	6
	Female	22	18	9	13	15	22
	Total	33	28	15	14	16	28
Engineering Faculty	Male	16	20	5	14	15	17
	Female	3	3	13	6	8	3
	Total	19	23	18	20	23	20
Arts Faculty	Male						2
	Female						7
	Total						9
Total		70	76	48	51	61	86
Male		34	38	14	18	20	32
Female		36	38	34	33	41	54

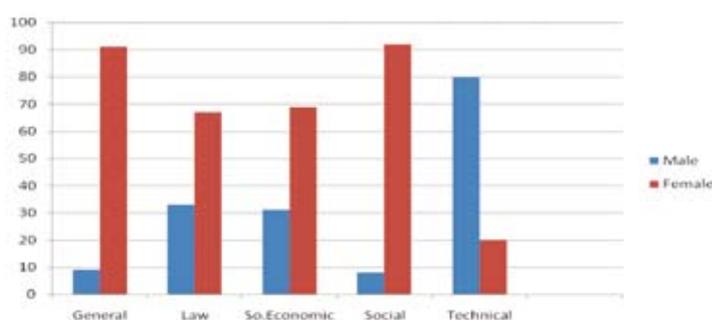
Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Netherlands Antilles, 2006-2007

Table 3.3: Graduates of the University of Sint Maarten (USM), 2004-2006

		2004	2005	2006
A.A. General Liberal Arts Program	Male	2	2	1
	Female	6	13	14
	Total	8	15	15
A.A. Business Program	Male	2	9	3
	Female	8	6	13
	Total	10	15	16
A.A. Computer Science Program	Male			0
	Female			1
	Total			1
B.A. Education Program	Male	0	0	0
	Female	3	2	6
	Total	3	2	6
Bachelor of Business	Male	0	0	0
	Female	3	2	4
	Total	3	2	4
Total		22	32	41
Male		4	11	4
Female		18	21	37

Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Netherlands Antilles, 2006-2007

Graph 3.3: Ratio of male and female students at the various departments of the University of Curacao-gender dimension in choice of subjects



Source: Narain, Goretti: 'Boy Problem', Gender disparities in Education in the Netherlands Antilles Report for the UNESCO National committee, Netherlands Antilles, Curacao (2009)

The gender dimensions in education partly reflect trends established at the earlier primary and secondary levels, and most fundamentally, in the early childhood phases of education. They also reflect the general underinvestment in relevant domestic capital, such as curriculum development for competency and confidence-building in the pursuit of any chosen career, as is required to ensure endogenous economic and social development, particularly with regard to national under-performance with respect to boys. This of course also has relations to worsening dimensions of poverty, as well as with other social ills.

It is observed that although women are taking a greater lead than men in educational level, this advantage has not yet resulted in an improvement of their position in the labor market. Participation figures indicate that participation of men in the labour markets on the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles is higher than that of women. That is the case for men in high and lower functions, with or without a diploma. Although the PSVE (VSBO) is not considered as a final educational level, men who may or may not have completed the PSVE, can still find a job in the labor market. They will probably end up in lower functions, including those in construction. The possibilities are more limited for women. While women are generally better educated, there are still more women seeking employment than men. There is also a striking difference in the age of jobseekers due to the fact that women tend to stay longer in school; female job-seekers are generally older than male job-seekers. The majority of women who are looking for a job are between 35 and 44 years of age. Men seek employment at an earlier age, almost a quarter of male job seekers is between 15 and 24 years of age. A comparison with the figures of education participation shows that most

women in that age bracket (15-24) are still attending school and are obtaining a diploma. The preliminary data of the study in the labor market indicate that in Curaçao, many more women (62%) than men (38%) with PSVE-education or higher are unemployed. In Sint Maarten, 45% of men and 55% of women with a PSVE-education and higher are without jobs.

Table 3.4: Working population Curaçao in 2007

	Male	Female
<b>Employed</b>	26.478	27.301
<b>Job Seekers</b>	2.913	4.433
<b>Total</b>	29.391	31.737

Source: CBS, AKO 2007

## Target 3.2 Eliminate gender disparities in income and occupational opportunities

Table 3.5: Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2002-2003 and 2008-2009

Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	Curaçao	Sint Maarten
2008/2009	50,9%	47,5%
2002/2003	49,0%	45,8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,1%</b>	<b>97,7%</b>

Source: CBS, Labor force Survey

Even in the position of those employed, remarkable gender related differences can be found. While the relative number of women with higher education has increased in the labor market, in particular in the highest professions, men have an advantage over women. There are fewer women than men who are employers or who are self-employed in Curaçao (24%) and Sint Maarten (27%).

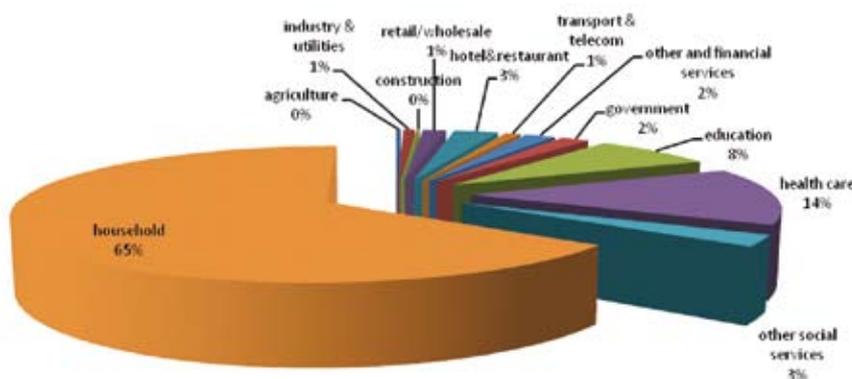
In practice the distribution of jobs over the sectors is rather traditional and gender specific. Women are overrepresented in sectors like education, care and hospitality while men are overrepresented in vocational jobs in construction and industry. For instance, based on the figures of CBS in Sint Maarten, it was interesting to note that the ratio of women to men made it clear that agriculture, industry, construction, transport/telecom are 'male' sectors. On the other hand, hospitality, education, health care and the household are typical 'female' sectors. Government, financial & other services are gender neutral.

Table 3.6: Ratio of employees: women to men in Curaçao in 2009

Sector	Agriculture	Industry & utilities	Construction	Retail/ wholesale	Hotel & restaurant	Transport & telecom	Other and financial services	Government	Education	Health care	Other social services	Household
Ratio	0.17	0.39	0.11	0.77	1.50	0.52	1.03	0.97	4.08	7.35	1.43	34.05

Source: CBS, AKO 2008-9, average of 2 years

Graph 3.4: Ratio of employees: women to men, 2009



Source: CBS, AKO 2008-9, average of 2 years

There is a substantial gap between the gross income of men and women. In general women earn only 71% of what men do. To some extent this gap can be explained by pointing out that women work in sectors where wages are substantially lower and also due to the fact that women work less in managerial functions.

Table 3.6.1: Average earned monthly income of men and women, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2001

Average earned income (gross) of men and women by occupational group in ANG	Curaçao	Sint Maarten
Men	2997	2903
Women	2086	1907

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

Also in general men still occupy relatively more jobs at managerial or decision making levels. This is confirmed by determining the ratio 'female and male 'employer based on the Census of 2001 (see following below).

Table 3.7: Ratio women to men, employer, government, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2001

	Curaçao	Sint Maarten
Ratio women to men, employer	0,29	0,41
Ratio women to men, government	0,62	0,73

In the former Netherlands Antilles women have voted in elections and stood for political office since they achieved the right to vote in 1948. The political participation of women, at both central and island level, has been a constant ever since. The former Netherlands Antilles has had five female Prime Ministers. The first was appointed in 1977. Two

elections involving all the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles were held in this period: the Parliamentary election of 2006 and the Island Council elections of 2007. Of the last 6 Prime Ministers of Curaçao and Sint Maarten four were women, chairing the Council of Ministers.

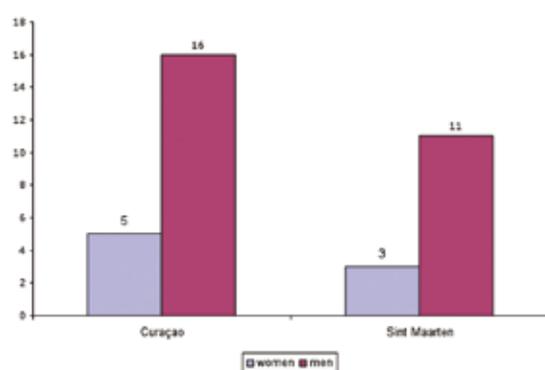
Table 3.8: Number of women holding public office at national and island level, 2005-2008

Central Government	Total Women	Total Men
Parliament	5	32
Ministers (incl. junior ministers)	9	18
Island Territory of Curaçao		
Island Council	5	35
Executive Council	6	17
Island Territory of Sint Maarten		
Island Council	3	9
Executive Council	2	3

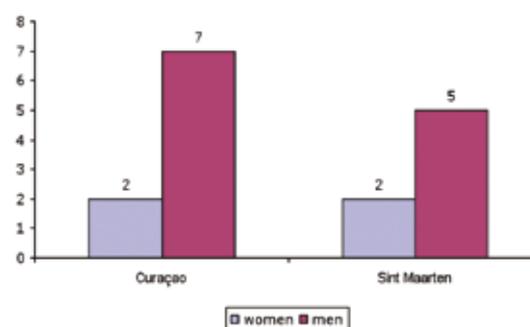
Source: Executive Councils of the Island Territories and Parliament of the Netherlands Antilles

### Women in politics in Curaçao and Sint Maarten, 2010

Graph 3.5: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament



Graph 3.6: Proportion of women in the Council of Ministers



Source: websites Curaçao, Sint Maarten and island territories

### Target 3.3: Reduce, by 60% the incidence of physical acts of gender based violence

In 2009 CBS published a report on crime in the islands of Curaçao and Sint Maarten. It appeared that in the years 2007/08 according to the “Victim Survey” of CBS (2008): 26.3% in Curaçao of the local population and 27.5% in Sint Maarten had been the victim of a crime. The report makes no distinctions with regard to gender.

In September 2010 the public prosecutor published data on the number of criminal acts related to violence and sexual harassment.

Table 3.9: Cases of domestic violence in Curaçao

	2008	2009
Total cases per year	45	103

Source: Probation Office Curaçao

Other information on gender and the incidence of physical acts is not easily available in the islands of Curaçao and Sint Maarten as a whole.

## Indicators Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

	MDG (Caribbean) Indicators	Baseline 2001, Curaçao and Sint Maarten		Latest available	Remarks
		Curaçao	Sint Maarten		
3.1	Ratios of girls to boys in primary education	Ratio of girls to boys at primary level 2001:0.97	Ratio of girls to boys at primary level 2001:1.03		Source: National Census, 2001
3.2	Ratios of female to male in secondary education	Ratio of girls to boys at the secondary level 2001:0.98	Ratio of girls to boys at the secondary level 2001:1.05		Source: National Census, 2001
3.3	Ratios of female to male in tertiary education	Ratio of girls to boys at tertiary level 2001:1.26	Ratio of girls to boys at tertiary level 2001:0.92		Source: National Census, 2001 This ratio is biased because many student are studying abroad
3.4	Ratio of Literate women to men of 15 – 24 years	Women : Men 1 : 0.997	N/A		
3.5	Proportion of students who take “mathematics and at least one of the sciences in examinations” (CXC or equivalent) in the 5th Form, by sex	Not known		Not known	
3.6	Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector	48.3% (2002/3)		49,6% (2008/9)	Source: CBS, AKO 2008,2009
3.7	Avg earned income (gross) of men and women by occupational group	Average income: Men: ANG. 2889 Women: ANG. 2053			
3.8	Proportion of the employed persons by occupational group and by sex	50.9%	47.5%		
3.9	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament	5 women and 16 men	3 women and 11 men	18% (2010)	
3.10	Proportion of women holding office in local government	Ration man : women 1 : 0,65		N/A	Source: CBS, National Census 2001
3.11	Proportion of women in other decision-making occupations	33%		N/A	Source: CBS, National Census 2001
3.12	Incidence of reported physical abuse by sex of the abused	N/A		N/A	
3.13	Number of persons per 1000 population who have been victims of major crimes by sex	N/A		<b>Robbery with violence</b> Male: 77 Female: 41 Total: 57 <b>Attack/threat</b> Male: 69 Female: 65 Total: 66	Source: CBS, Victim survey, 2008
3.14	Avg age of victim of major crimes, by sex	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3.15	Number of persons per 1000 population who have committed major crimes, by sex	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3.16	avg age of offender who have committed major crimes, by sex	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3.17	Number of persons per 1000 population who have experienced physical violence in the past 12 months at the hands of spouse/partner, by sex	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3.18	Avg. age of persons who have experienced physical violence in the past 12 months at the hands of spouse/partner, by sex	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3.19	Percentage of sexual assault cases completed through the court process in the past 12 months	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3.20	Avg time (in months) it takes for a sexual assault case to be completely processed through the courts from the date of charge.	N/A		N/A	

## Outlook

### **A range of initiatives related to gender and poverty to be tackled include:**

- I Reduce violence: Address violence, including armed violence, that leads to de-development and impoverishment, and undermines advancement towards women's empowerment and gender equality;
- II Improve maternal health: Earmark special budgetary provisions for delivering services and facilities to teenage mothers, particularly those in rural areas, for reproductive and sexual health;
- III Improve labor market outcomes and economic opportunities for women: Target active labor market measures to promote social inclusion of the most vulnerable women and young men, and address the right of women to land tenure, property, and inheritance;
- IV Strengthen accountability to women: Fulfill commitments already made on gender equality, support the work of civil society organizations that are committed to the agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment, and focus on agreed accountability systems that will support the achievement of the MDGs;
- V Build in-country capacity to generate and use sex-disaggregated data: Insist on collection, analysis and use of sex-disaggregated data in every ministry, department, private sector and non-governmental organization.
- VI Mitigate the negative impacts of the financial and economic crisis on poor women and men and ensure that it does not produce further gender inequalities or disempowerment of women.

The other related issues, including education and skill development, vulnerability and social protection, food security and the boy problem are recommended below.

Although the position of women on the islands calls for a significant improvement in several areas, within the quest for gender equality, explicit attention must also be given to the position of men in particular, in the areas of parenting and education.

### **Government**

Governments will have to recognize gender disparities in education as a problem that requires special attention in a gender policy that will provide equal opportunities for men and women in the economic, social, cultural and political fields. A point of concern could be the promotion of gender awareness in all those who are directly and indirectly involved in the upbringing and education of boys and girls. Support by government of a research agenda is required to monitor the progress of gender equality. Research would need to consider the appropriateness of separate gender subjects. Furthermore, it is advisable to work out plans for a larger section of men in education, for example, in various functions at school.

### **Parents**

Since it has been shown that current upbringing at home places boys in a disadvantage position compared to girls, as far as the preparation and guidance for the academic career is concerned, it is advisable to review the approach of boys. Through continuing information to parents and care-givers, awareness can be created on parenting and stereotypical role patterns which have a negative impact on the future of men and women. In that context, further research especially on the macho behavior of boys and the role of the father in the family is needed. Based on that, a program can be developed, aimed at encouraging both parents to be more involved in the family.

## **School**

The schools need to contribute significantly to the advancement of boys in education, first and foremost by creating gender awareness among teachers who can be trained to identify and to deal with gender differences in the class room. In this respect, a better guidance of mixed groups in school could ensure that pupils would feel more involved and consequently, could contribute more to group work. In primary school, extra attention should be paid to language skills training for boys; in this respect, lessons can be learned from experiments in other countries. Since it has been shown that the current reading education is not sufficiently fascinating for boys, a new approach in promoting reading, especially geared towards boys, is necessary. Also in this area, several experiments have been conducted elsewhere, which could certainly serve as examples for programs for the promotion of reading in Curacao and Sint Maarten.

With regards to the behavioral problems which are mostly brought to school by adolescent boys with problems, consideration should be given to making use of programs which would make young people aware of their own identity development, greater resilience and teaching skills on how to deal with peer pressure. The anti-school attitude of boys in Secondary Education could be countered by offering more challenging learning material at school. Research has shown that social and cultural activities outside the school timetable make education more attractive to young people and have a positive impact on school performance.

Equally, a greater student involvement in the happenings at school has a positive impact on the performance of male and female students. Such involvement can be stimulated by establishing student councils and more parent involvement in school activities.

## **Segregated schools**

In a discussion with local experts, the possibility of establishing hybrid schools has been suggested: within a co-education system, in the case of some subjects, girls and boys would receive separate instruction for a determined period of time.

It is also important not to neglect women with disabilities, to address issues faced by sexual minorities, and to recognize that women's work, for the most part, remains "under-counted or uncounted." Reliable data on the situation of disabled women is lacking because most data on women does not explicitly mention the situation of disabled women; and likewise, most research on the Disabled does not provide data on disabled women. Engaging men in the design, implementation and delivery of programs, for instance, is a means as well as the result of culturally sensitive approaches, and will be a requirement of any upcoming development process intended to change behaviors and attitudes, especially of vulnerable young men.

The new governments have a chance to articulate the necessary relationship between the promotion of human rights with a specific emphasis on women's rights, within the overall achievement of the MDGs because of the connectedness between threats, challenges and opportunities. Gender equality and women's empowerment (economic, political and social) is at the center of the triangle of development, freedom and peace in the home, community, or larger society. Gender-based violence constitutes a major factor in the daily lives of women, worldwide, to the point that any attempts to support their efforts to 'work their way out of poverty' with whatever types of government or non-government program support, without dealing with violence are not likely to be successful. The interconnectedness of gender, violence, and development need to be further explored extensively.



## Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Target 4.1 Child mortality

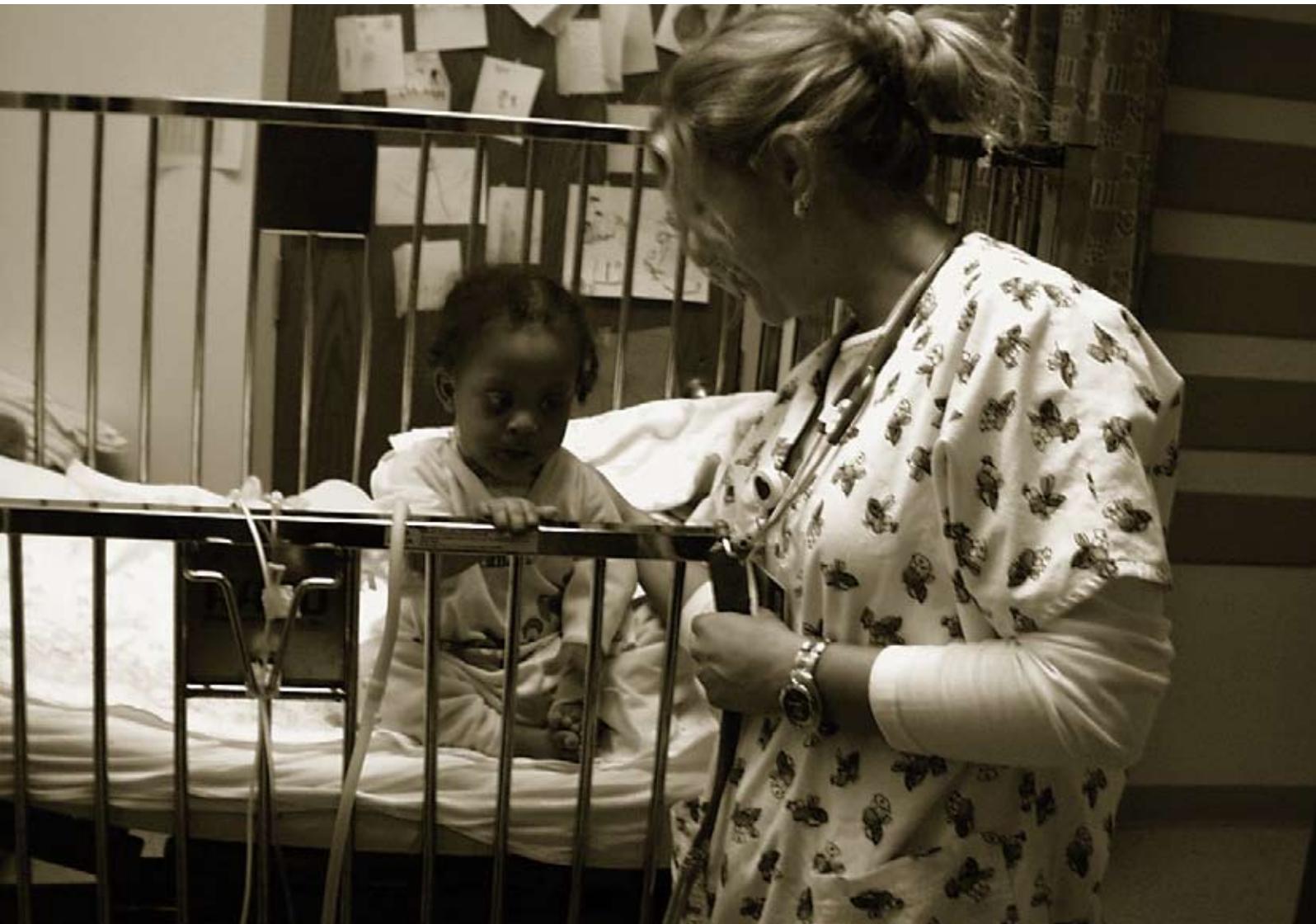
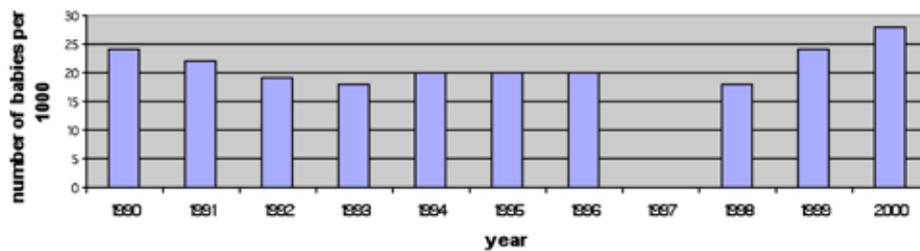
Target 4.2 Infant mortality

In Curaçao, the average perinatal mortality ratio was 23.5 per 1,000 newborns during the period of 1990-2000, including 17 per 1,000 stillbirths. Neonatal mortality (between 1 and 4 weeks after birth) was on average 5 per 1,000 births, and infant mortality (between one month and 1 year after birth) was on average 6 per 1,000 births.

The mortality ratio for children between one and five is on average 0.5 per 1,000.

The most common causes of early death are: hypoxia, asphyxia and other respiratory problems; congenital disorders, slow growth of fetus, malnutrition and other problems during pregnancy; obstetrics complications.

**Graph 4.1: Perinatal Mortality Ratio (per 1000 births, including still birth), Curacao, 1990-2000**



In Sint Maarten the mortality rate after the baby is one year old until the age of 5 is 16,3 for the years 2006-7. For Curaçao this figure is 12, based on data collection by the GGD over the period 1990-2000.

Table 4.1: Female population, 15 years and over, by number of live-births, by age group, Curaçao in 2001

Age group	Number of live-born children						Female population 15+	Average number of children
	none	One	two	three	four	five or more		
15-19	4678	302	37	5	1	9	5032	0.09
20-24	1935	737	264	57	19	18	3030	0.54
25-29	1680	1116	764	293	81	49	3983	1.04
30-34	1277	1404	1334	600	206	144	4965	1.52
35-39	1158	1328	2023	1049	388	272	6218	1.87
40-44	1005	1066	2048	1214	485	324	6142	2.06
45-49	882	947	1738	1149	492	364	5572	2.14
50-54	773	723	1422	927	447	457	4749	2.29
55-59	596	514	1008	738	451	573	3880	2.59
60-64	460	314	589	549	387	906	3205	3.33
65+	1432	677	885	838	809	3574	8215	4.36
Total	15876	9128	12112	7419	3766	6690	54991	2.13

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

Table 4.2: Female population, 15 years and over, by number of live-births, by age group, Sint Maarten in 2001

Age group	Number of live-born children						Female population 15+	Average number of children
	none	One	two	three	four	five or more		
15-19	898	68	15	2	-	3	986	0.12
20-24	492	265	77	24	5	1	864	0.60
25-29	503	394	288	112	26	14	1337	1.12
30-34	354	454	549	224	77	52	1710	1.66
35-39	291	350	526	358	154	108	1787	2.07
40-44	209	269	447	341	172	148	1586	2.35
45-49	144	184	318	276	181	171	1274	2.66
50-54	112	105	185	150	121	180	853	2.93
55-59	74	56	107	81	55	115	488	3.03
60-64	44	26	37	37	26	95	265	3.57
65+	121	47	51	48	50	214	531	4.00
Total	3242	2218	2600	1653	867	1101	11681	1.95

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

Table 4.3: Live births in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2008

	Curaçao	Sint Maarten
Live births 2008	2001	526

Source: Statistical Yearbook Netherlands Antilles 2009

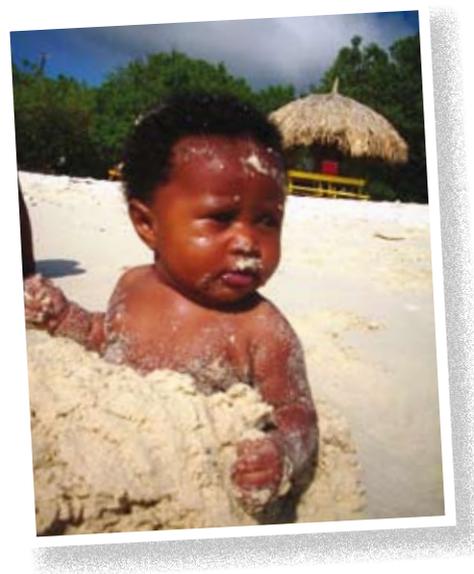


Table 4.4: Vital statistics (relative figures) in Curaçao and Sint Maarten, 2006-2008

Live births	Curaçao			Sint Maarten		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
-Per 1000 women aged 15-44	62.4	61.6	66.3	53.7	45.2	51.3
-Number of boys per 100 girls	104.7	99.1	111.3	103.1	103.5	118.3
Deaths	Curaçao			Sint Maarten		
-Infant mortality rate	15.5	12.8	6.5	13.3	13	7.6

Source: Statistical Yearbook Netherlands Antilles 2009

## Immunization

It is common for children to receive immunization on the islands. Oral polio immunization is only given in Curaçao<sup>52</sup>. Coverage in Curaçao is close to 95%. On Sint Maarten, 2 vaccine coverage surveys were conducted in September 2008. Findings showed that for some antigens the coverage is 75%;<sup>53</sup> however, after correction this figure reaches 80%.

## Sexual violence

In the period 2007 – 2009 according to data from the Prosecutors Office in Curaçao there were the following cases of sexual violence.

Table 4.5: Sexual violence in Curaçao, 2007-2009

	2007	2008	2009
Rape	4	25	16
Sexual penetration of children under the age of 12	N/A	N/A	4
Sexual penetration of children under the age of 15	N/A	N/A	3
Forcible sexual assault	N/A	6	25
Fornication with children 14 years or younger	2	2	1

Source: Public Prosecutors Office Curaçao

Between the 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2007 up until the end of 2009, there were 4 cases of sexual violence reported at the Public Prosecutor's office in Sint Maarten.

52 Bacille Calmette Guérin (BCG) is given to risk groups or persons who travel to tuberculosis endemic countries.

53 One study in Sint Maarten included a random sample of all children 12 to 59 months of age. The second study included all children in the same age group living in three defined areas.

Findings from the study indicate that approximately 75% of the children participating in the two surveys could document that they were fully immunized at the time of their interview. Additionally, approximately 15% of the children were partially immunized, so that overall, 93% of children in the island survey (n=279) and 86% of the children in the special survey (n=96) had received at least some vaccines. The remaining 20 children (7%) in the island survey and 13 (14%) in the special survey lacked either vaccine records or reported that they had never been immunized.

## Indicators Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

	MDG (Caribbean) Indicators	Baseline 2001	Latest available	Remarks
4.1	Under-five mortality rate by sex	Avg. 39.5 per 1000 of 0-4 year olds (1990-2000) in Curaçao	N/A	Source: GGD Curacao
4.2	Infant mortality rate by sex	Approx. equal to average in Curaçao	N/A	Source: GGD Curacao
4.3	Proportion of children 1-4 years of age who have received complete immunization coverage (BCG, 3 doses DPT, oral polio and measles)	Approx. 80% for Curaçao	Approx. 95% for Curaçao and 75% for Sint Maarten	Estimate based on indication of local Health departments
4.4	Number of deaths of children through violence per 1000 population under 5, by sex	N/A	N/A	
4.5	Avg age of children under 5 who died through violence, by sex	N/A	N/A	
4.6	Number of perpetrators responsible for the death of children under 5, by sex	N/A	N/A	
4.7	Avg age of perpetrators responsible for the death of children under 5, by sex	N/A	N/A	





## Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Target 5.1: Reduce maternal mortality ratio &

Target 5.2: Access to reproductive and sexual health services

### Maternal mortality ratio

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in Curaçao and Sint Maarten is low. All (or at least 95% or more) of pregnant women visit their doctor and all births (or at least 95% or more) are attended by skilled health professionals like a midwife, a family doctor or a specialist. In the event a complication arises, or is foreseen, the birth will take place in a hospital. All persons on the island are granted access to a hospital in case of emergency, including the uninsured and illegal.

A further decrease in maternal mortality in Curaçao and Sint Maarten does not seem realistic because the present number of maternal mortality ratio is already low.

Table 5.1: Adolescent (2001) and total fertility rates in Curaçao and Sint Maarten, 2006-2008

Live births	Curaçao			Sint Maarten		
	2001			2001		
Adolescent fertility rate (ages 15-19)	0.09			0.12		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
TFR (Total fertility rate)	2.09	2.04	2.2	1.78	1.54	1.75

Source: National Census, 2001 and Statistical Yearbook, Netherlands Antilles, 2009

### Pregnancy prevention

The islands of Curaçao and Sint Maarten have their own HIV/AIDS working committees.

They all have a budget for safe sex promotion. These non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or the Health Department distribute free condoms to those who request them or sometimes hand them out during public events, like Carnival.

In school special attention is paid to this topic. An NGO has produced a booklet, based on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), about using contraceptives and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. This booklet is distributed for free among all students of secondary education. The former Preventive Health Department developed a Sexual Education Manual that is also used in schools in addition to the Girl Power Program that aims to teach adolescent girls tools to empower them in making decisions.



Table 5.2: Number of teenage mothers in Curaçao, 2004-2006

Age of mother	2004	2005	2006	2007
11	0	0	0	0
12	0	1	0	0
13	1	0	4	0
14	4	6	5	3
15	13	13	6	3
16	31	27	27	7
17	39	38	37	20
18	68	61	54	21
Total	156	146	133	54

Source: Population Affairs Department, Curaçao

In comparison to the other islands, Sint Maarten has fewer teenage mothers, but at 8% in 2001 they still accounted for a large proportion of the female population (aged 12-19). According to the estimate made in the report “*Kids getting Kids*”, the total percentage of teenage mothers was around 13% in 2002<sup>54</sup> of the total female population. The average age of girls who get pregnant is 15/16, but more girls are getting pregnant at an even earlier age than before because they are sexually active at an earlier age. The Sint Maarten Sector of Health Care Affairs, now the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor, states that this group is at risk with regard to transmission of HIV/AIDS (about 6% of total female).<sup>55</sup>

After delivery, teenage mothers have problems finding a job, because they have not completed school with a diploma. Teenagers who are pregnant have to leave school, but some schools make arrangements for them to come back when they have delivered the baby. Most teenage mothers do not take the opportunity to go back to school to complete their education because they need to work to support their child.<sup>56</sup>

In Curacao, the problem of a drop-out teenage mother has been dealt with by giving these teenagers a helping hand by helping them take care of their offspring. Kas broeder Pius gives accommodation for teenage mothers.

### Contraceptive demand

The ‘pill’ is widely available at all local drugstores. Condoms are widely sold at vending machines and drugstores and are also distributed for free at the Program Management Team (PMT) at the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor and HIV/AIDS committees. These contraceptives resulted in a decrease in teenage pregnancies in the 70’s. Nevertheless many women are still getting pregnant unplanned. Girls and women frequently visit their family physician for “the morning after pill” on Sint Maarten. During the period between November 2008 and November 2009 there were about 1300 ‘registered’ abortions. Abortion is officially not allowed on Curaçao and Sint Maarten; however, the Public Prosecutor will not start legal proceedings.

Table 5.3: Number of contraceptive methods by the Foundation for the Promotion of responsible parenthood, 2008

	Curaçao	Sint Maarten
Contraceptive pills, cycles (orals)	7624	5700
Condoms	11946	432
3-months injectable	1301	100

Source: Statistical Yearbook, Netherlands Antilles, 2009

54 K. Vrieling Hermanides, Kids getting Kids(2002) 23.

55 Health Care Sector Sint Maarten (2002) 10.

56 Ibid. 25.

## Sexually transmitted diseases

The only reliable existing data on sexually transmitted diseases are the data on HIV/AIDS. Data on sexually transmitted infections are not systematically collected.

Of the group of 15-44 year old women in Curaçao and Sint Maarten, 509 women were reported HIV positive during the period 1985-2007. In 2007, 21 new cases were reported in this age group. The average prevalence range in the age category 15-49 is estimated to be between 1.25% and 2.09% (see also Goal 6, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases).

## Indicators Goal 5: Improve maternal health

	MDG (Caribbean) Indicators	Baseline 2001, Curaçao and Sint Maarten	Latest available	Remarks
5.1	Maternal mortality ratio	N/A	N/A	
5.2	Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	95%	99-100%	
5.3	Proportion of contraceptive demand satisfied.	Sufficiently satisfied	Sufficiently satisfied	Interviews Health and AIDS/HIV-prevention officials
5.4	Adolescent (10 – 19) fertility rate (babies per 10,000)	202	N/A	CBS
5.5	Proportion of adolescents (10 – 19 years old) attending ante-natal care clinics	Estimate 95%	Estimate 95%	Interviews island health departments
5.6	Number of women aged 15 – 49, per 1000 women of this age group, contracting sexually transmitted infections by type		For AIDS/HIV: 13-21 persons per 1000	Source: HIV/AIDS surveillance 1985-2007
5.7	Number of women aged 15 – 49, per 1000 women of this age group, treated for sexually transmitted infections by type	N/A	Note: approx 25-33% of AIDS/HIV will be treated.	See: HIV/AIDS surveillance





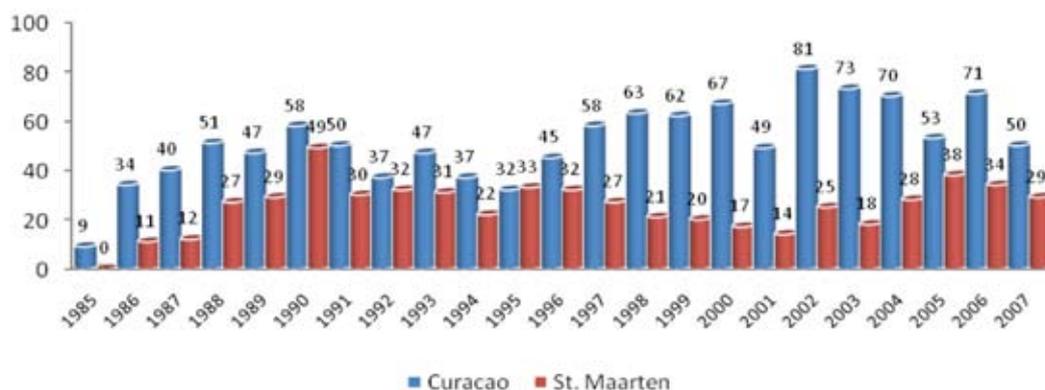
## Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

### Target 6.1: Halt the spread of HIV/AIDS

Registration of HIV/AIDS started in 1985. By the end of 2007 a cumulative total of 1184 cases were recorded in Curaçao and a cumulative total of 579 cases was recorded for Sint Maarten according to the report HIV/AIDS surveillance Netherlands Antilles 1985-2007; Epidemiology and Research Unit GGD-Curaçao (the HIV cases of Sint Maarten are also registered at the Research Unit in Curaçao). Of these cases, 58% are male and 42% female in Curaçao and 56% are male and 44% female in Sint Maarten. Due to different challenges only a rough estimate can be given of the actual number of Persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA.) However it is hard to say how accurate the available data really are. For example, on Sint Maarten many persons are tested in the labs on the French side of Sint Martin. This has caused severe under-registration of the numbers on the Dutch side. Also, due to challenges with the HIV test protocol in the past there has been a significant but unknown element of under-diagnosis and under-registration. To illustrate this, one has to at least notice that fact that on French Sint Martin the present number of persons under care is twice that from the Dutch side while population size is approximately the same. Since 2005 a much more accurate laboratory and doctor clinic based registration has made the more recent data more dependable. Besides, some people are getting tested in a different country; many people are unaware of their status, people are afraid to get tested due to stigma and discrimination, etc. Furthermore, it must be taken into consideration that on both islands the population is rather small which makes it difficult to collect statistically significant data. In the next figure only the recorded cases are shown.



Graph 6.1: Recorded HIV/AIDS cumulative cases in Curaçao and Sint Maarten, 1985-2007

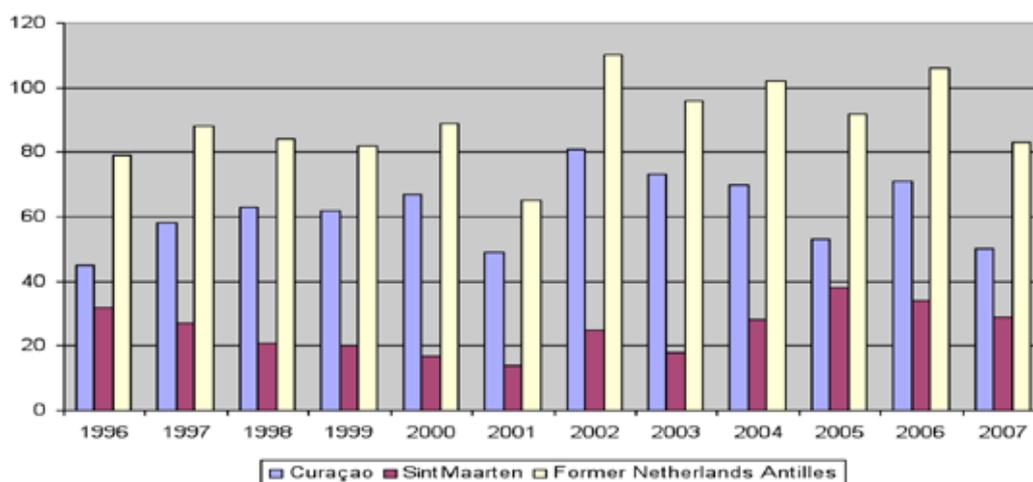


Source: HIV/AIDS surveillance, Netherlands Antilles, 1985-2007

### Incidence of HIV infections

The steady increase in incidence during the past decade is depicted using the trend line in the following graph.

Graph 6.2: Known new HIV infections from 1996-2007



Source: HIV/AIDS surveillance, Netherlands Antilles, 1985-2007

The yearly incidence of HIV infections in the former Netherlands Antilles is rising. The overall amount of new infections is increasing. Partially due to population size, HIV-infections are more prevalent on the islands of Curaçao and Sint Maarten, respectively 1184 (65.3%) and 579 (48.9%) of all registered cases. When analyzing the data from the two largest islands separately, the increase seen for the Netherlands Antilles can almost entirely be explained by to the sharp increase in incidence in Sint Maarten, especially among the male population. The incidence among women on Sint Maarten only has a slight increase. The trend also indicates a stable yearly incidence over time in Curaçao, while the total population number has gone through a decline in the past decade reaching its low in 2002. Although it is now on the rise again, the current population as forecast by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) is still lower than the population in Curaçao in 1997. The incidence is highest among younger age groups. It is a fact that, notwithstanding a decrease primarily among young population, the incidence has remained stable in Curaçao.

### Recorded cumulative HIV/AIDS cases

In the period 1985-2007, a total number of 1184 were recorded in Curaçao, of which 683 were males and 501 females. In Sint Maarten a total of 579 cases were recorded of which 322 were males and 257 females. According to the report

the number of women tested is about 3 times higher than the number of men tested. One of the reasons is that all pregnant women are routinely tested for HIV. Therefore these findings can mean different things: first of all it is conceivable that had as many HIV-tests been performed on males as had been done on females, the HIV+ male-to-female ratio might further shift towards the males, implying a possibly more male to male transmission modality than was assumed hitherto. On the other hand, the findings might underline the fact that there is more scrutiny among physicians in deciding when to test male clients. Furthermore due to cultural background men are also less likely to visit a doctor. Although several more remarks can be made overall, it can be concluded that more males than females are infected.

### **HIV by age**

The mean age at diagnosis for all 1812 registered HIV positive persons was 36.0 years. For males the mean age at diagnosis was 38.3 years and for females the mean was 39.9 years (calculated for persons 12 years and older). Most of all the recorded positive HIV/AIDS cases fall in the age category of 25-44, or 64%; 15-24 years account for 9% and 21% for the age group of 45-64 years. The number of babies with HIV/AIDS is low as a result of the testing and treatment of almost all pregnant women in Curaçao and Sint Maarten. During the period 1985-2007, 49 HIV/AIDS cases were recorded among the babies (0 years old); that is 2.7% of all known cumulative HIV/AIDS cases in Curaçao and Sint Maarten during 1985-2007. Most of these infections however occurred in the earlier years. In recent years no vertical transmission has occurred.

The estimated prevalence for the age category 15-49 for Curaçao is approximately 1,03-1,72% and for Sint Maarten 2.09-3,48%.

### **Mortality in HIV/AIDS**

Data on HIV/AIDS mortality are only available for the island of Curaçao and only until 2004. There is an overall decline in the absolute number of deaths and the crude mortality rate (CMR) due to HIV/AIDS, especially after starting the use of Combined Antiretroviral Therapy (cART) in 1996. The HIV/AIDS mortality statistics however are not reliable because it is assumed that other causes of death, like (opportunistic) infections or other diseases are mentioned as causes of death instead of the infection with HIV. Since 2004 HIV/AIDS has become a chronic disease which does not necessarily lead to death. There is adequate treatment provided with Combined Anti Retroviral Therapy (cART); based on data from specialists who are treating most HIV patients in Curaçao, the actual number of PLWHA was 281 on Curaçao at the end of March 2008. Most of these known zero-positives are under care. On Sint Maarten 216 persons were under care for HIV/AIDS at the end of 2010, of which 70 % received antiretroviral treatments. 30 % was not in need of ARV's as yet or refused to take them. Although there is no universal access to treatment on Sint Maarten (neither on Curaçao?), on Sint Maarten the local AIDS Foundation treats uninsured persons for free which means that since 1993 all persons in need of treatment and interested in receiving treatment have actually also received treatment, either paid for by their insurance or through the program of the Sint Maarten AIDS Foundation.

### **Modes of transmission in HIV/AIDS**

In Curaçao 51% of men and 83% of women living with HIV reported having contracted the virus by heterosexual transmission. More than a quarter of all the male PLWHA (28.2%) report having being infected through homo- or bisexual intercourse, while only one woman reported to be infected by an homosexual relationship. Infections through blood, blood products and drug use were the least reported. Although official data from Sint Maarten are lacking there are good data from the collaborative surveillance data obtained through collaboration between French and Dutch Sint Maarten through the Nadis patient monitoring system. Collaboration at private initiative level between all treating clinics), these data indicate that on Sint Maarten 80 % of PLWHA were infected through

heterosexual transmission.

19% through same sex male to male transmission and 1 % through vertical transmission. One has to take into consideration however that there is a good chance that same sex male to male transmission is in fact higher than registered because in a homophobic culture many men do not openly declare their same sex behavior for fear of stigma and discrimination.

### **HIV/AIDS Response**

HIV/AIDS continues to be the leading cause of death among people aged 25 – 49 and continues to be a major developmental challenge for countries in the Caribbean basin including Sint Maarten and Curaçao. The importance of a strong HIV/AIDS response is being recognized and several projects are conducted on both islands. Sex education in schools is particularly focused on prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections as well as the prevention of teenage pregnancies. Sex education is part of the curriculum at most of the schools. Information booklets and brochures are often distributed to the students at secondary schools on all the islands. Several NGOs are providing information on how to prevent sexually transmitted infections. The Government of Sint Maarten also plays a great role in the HIV/AIDS response. Since 2002 progress has been made in the areas of increased awareness and visibility of the HIV/AIDS response, an efficiently functioning program management team at government level, the active involvement of PLWHA in the response at all levels, scaling up of prevention efforts, a high quality provision of care and treatment for PLWHA and the establishment of strong linkages with regional institutions and neighboring territories.

### **Condom use**

On Sint Maarten condoms are widely accessible on the whole island. They can be purchased in many stores and are given out at no expense by the Government and the Sint Maarten AIDS Foundation at different sites. A project with commercial sex workers is conducted to ensure safe sex is being practiced at the brothels. Behavioral studies on the use of condoms need to be performed to provide data on the consistency of the use for the different populations.

## Target 6.2: Halt and begin to reverse major diseases

### **Malaria and tuberculosis**

Malaria and tuberculosis are considered to be a minor cause of death in Curaçao and Sint Maarten. The mosquito that transmits malaria is not found on the islands, so every case of malaria is imported from a country where malaria is endemic. To date, malaria has never been an immediate cause of death as is the case with tuberculosis. Bacille Calmette Guérin (BCG) is given to risk groups or persons who travel to tuberculosis endemic countries.

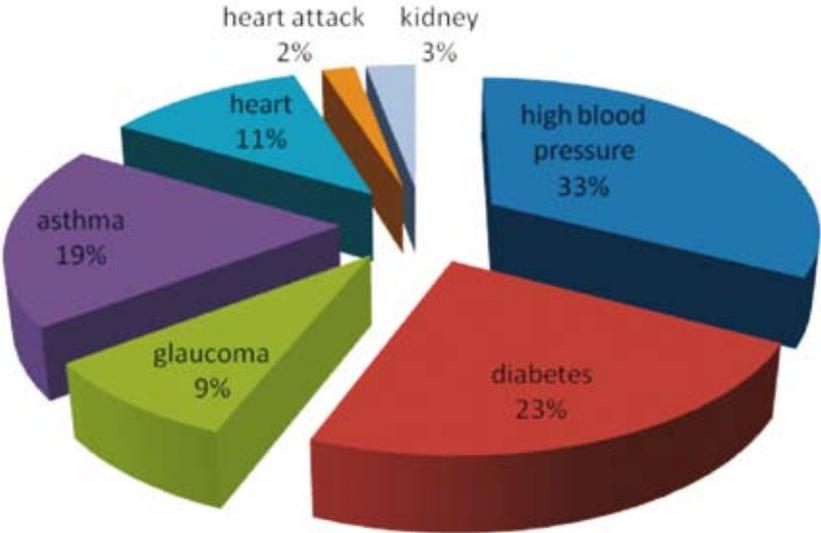
### **Dengue**

Dengue is a viral disease caused by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which does exist on the islands. Cooperation between the Health Departments, general practitioners and laboratories, as well as a system of sentinel stations serves as an alert mechanism for early outbreak detection. Curaçao has witnessed a high prevalence of dengue cases in 2010 with over 800 cases reported with two deaths confirmed by the health department.

Even though the overall dengue related deaths during the last decade has been low, there is need for vigilance as both Curaçao and Sint Maarten have experienced heavy storms and rainfall that caused stagnant water as breeding grounds for dengue mosquitoes in recent years. The minister of health in Curaçao plans to initiate an information campaign.

**Other major diseases**

Health studies for all the islands of Curaçao and Sint Maarten point out that some diseases are more common on the islands than elsewhere in the world. These diseases include: diabetes mellitus and hypertension, obesity, hypertension, chronic kidney diseases and glaucoma.



*Graph 6.3:  
Most common  
diseases in 2001  
in Curaçao*

Source: CBS, National Census 2001



## Indicators Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

	MDG (Caribbean) Indicators	Baseline 2001, Curaçao and Sint Maarten	Latest available	Remarks
6.1	HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-24 years	N/A	N/A	Source: HIV/AIDS surveillance
6.2	Condom use, rate of contraceptive prevalence: (a) condom use at last high-risk sex by sex; (b) percentage of population 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS by sex (c) Contraceptive prevalence rate	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	Note: condoms are widely available.
6.3	Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS by sex			Sex education has become part of the curriculum at school
6.4	Condom use as a proportion of overall contraceptive use for persons 15 – 24 in consensual unions	N/A	N/A	
6.5	Percentage of population 15 – 24 years in support of abstinence	N/A	N/A	
6.6	Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged under 14 years	Nil	Nil	Orphans are usually cared for by the family. Not registered
6.7	Proportion of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS by age group	Nil	Nil	Ibid
6.8	Prevalence of Malaria by sex and age	Not relevant	Not relevant	No evidence of malaria
6.9	Death rates associated with malaria by sex and age	Not relevant	Not relevant	
6.10	Proportion of population in malaria risk areas using effective malaria preventive and treatment measures.	Not relevant	Not relevant	
6.11	Prevalence of Tuberculosis by sex and age	Not relevant	Not relevant	Few cases are reported
6.12	Death rates associated with tuberculosis, by sex and age	Not relevant	Not relevant	
6.13	Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course (DOTS)	Not relevant	Not relevant	
6.14	Prevalence of Dengue, by sex and age	N/A	800 but not by sex	800 in Curacao in 2010
6.15	Death rates associated with Dengue, by sex and age	Nil (or limited)	Nil (or limited)	2 deaths in Curacao in 2010
6.16	Prevalence of selected chronic non-communicable diseases by sex and age	Per 100 cases: Hypertension: 14,5% Glaucoma: 3,6%		Source: Health Studies, GGD Curaçao
6.17	Death rates associated with selected chronic non-communicable diseases by sex and age	Not recorded	Not recorded	



## Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

This Goal is not on track although critical for small islands and their inhabitants. The Nature & Environment Policy plan Netherlands Antilles 2004-2007, issued by the Environmental Department-Ministry of Public Health & Social Development, notes that the state of nature and environment in the former Netherlands Antilles urges serious policy actions. It further notes that the lack of a coherent policy for the prevention, reduction and recycling of waste in the past has led to a steady growth of the volume of waste, whereas the small islands have very little space for waste disposal. Healthy coastal waters and protection of the extremely sensitive coral reefs is of fundamental importance. A healthy environment and a rich diversity of nature are required for the existence and well being of humankind and for economic development. The management and conservation of nature and the environment was the responsibility of the central government as set out in article 2, paragraph e.10 of the Islands Regulation Netherlands Antilles (ERNA, 1998): “Environmental and nature management and conservation as they derive from treaties” and based on legislation (the yet to be passed National Environment Ordinance, and National Nature Conservation Ordinance, passed in 1998).

The key environmental issues facing the islands as discussed at the 2006 and 2007 EU-OCT For a, include the high impact from human activities both direct and indirect introduction of alien species and pollution (effluents, waste, noise). The links with tourism are equally important as the islands need to develop tourism for economic development. The report notes that if this is not subject, however, to conservation of biodiversity and environmental care, the development will be self defeating.



The oil industry is important for the economy in the former Netherlands Antilles and particularly for Curaçao. At the same time the serious environmental effects of the production oil products and potentially disastrous effects of the inadequate transfer and transport of these products warrants careful attention. Similarly, tourism is of great economic importance to all the islands, but can have serious environmental impacts. As it is often the natural attractions that are an important motive for tourists to choose for the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles as a destination, preservation is essential, while minimizing adverse environmental and societal impacts. Due to the limited resources of Curaçao and Sint Maarten, protection and conservation of nature, though a priority, has been delayed in spite of its economic and intrinsic value of biodiversity. Finally, sustainable energy is a policy priority of several islands from a sustainable and economic point of view.

The practical implementation of environmental protection has been slow and difficult although the interest exists. This is due partly to a lack of understanding of the intricacies of the environment and the act that taking care of nature and the environment generally yields rewards on the long term. As nature and environment usually lose out when short term exigencies get priority, it is consequently the environmental sector which tries to concretize the pursuit of sustainability. Short term needs have been the focus, hindering broad support for long term planning, implementation and monitoring.

Curaçao has legislation on nature conservation and zoning. Zoning plans are under way and expected in 2011 in Sint Maarten. The environment, like the air pollution in Curaçao and the solid waste and waste water problems in Sint Maarten require urgent attention. Dealing appropriately with environment and nature conservation is critical for the future of both islands which, to a large extent, depend on tourism.

A significant risk factor for tourism development and also for civil life in Sint Maarten is the hurricane threat during six months each year. The effects of climate crises seen through an increasing number of hurricanes like Luis (1995), Lenny (1999), Omar (2006) and Earl (2010) in Sint Maarten, have made this very clear. Although no impact assessment studies have been conducted yet, the environment is believed to be already feeling the impact of the global economic and climate crises through reduction in tourism, rising sea levels, coral reef destruction and environmental pollution. Changes in temperature, precipitation and sea levels are observed as well as extreme weather events causing a variety of stress and shocks to the environment. These weather patterns have direct impact on the economy and livelihoods of citizens as seen in the coastal storms and floods that destroyed crops, damaged schools, health facilities and businesses, property and even led to the loss of lives. While a calculation of the impact on sectors like agriculture, industry and energy is being made, it can be expected that it will have a bearing on the economic situation in GDP growth rates, employment and government revenues resulting in more people falling into deeper poverty.

## Target 7.1: Sustainable development as policy & reverse the loss of environmental resources

### **Nature legislation**

Curaçao and Sint Maarten have fisheries regulations. The fisheries regulations of Curaçao and Sint Maarten apply to the EEZ. Curaçao has Island Fisheries legislation which applies to the waters within the 12 mile zone. The fisheries regulations are enforced by the Coast Guard of Curaçao and Sint Maarten. A key challenge in Curacao relates to the phytosanitary law that has been pending approval sine 1985 in the island council. The Invasive species law proposed in 2009 and the biodiversity treaty are also pending approval. It is hoped that now that these responsibilities have been passed unto the new Ministry of Environment and Natural resources, they would be given priority due attention. In 2008, the former Netherlands Antilles became a non contracting member of ICAD. This helped to

facilitate a quota system determination based the fisheries historical catch of a particular kind of fish over a given period of 10 years. The former Netherlands Antilles has one of the highest effective catch limits fleet in the world with a quota of up to 2001 metric tons of the previously allowed quota of 11,810 tons. Australia has the highest catch limit at 4,015, followed by Japan (2,261). But this catch potential is rather exploited by Spanish fishing vessels that use their Antillean quota permits to fish in the west coasts of Africa. The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna has six members and three non cooperating members of which the European Union is a non cooperating member on behalf of the former Netherlands Antilles.

**Institutions**

A section of Environment and Nature (MINA) in Curaçao and Sint Maarten was established in 1995. Tasks and responsibilities related to nature conservation are divided between different departments on the islands of the Antilles. The issue of nature conservation is not high on the political agenda, which results in a limited government budget for this sector. The possibilities of setting up a national ecological network will be timely and very important with the main objective to nationally plan the preservation of indigenous nature and biodiversity.

**Zoning**

An important instrument of nature conservation is the establishment of nature and marine parks on the islands. All are managed by NGOs which are financed through entrance fees, dive tags and some government subsidies. Some of the parks have a formal status; others are still waiting to obtain official recognition as such.

Another instrument is zoning. Curaçao has a zoning plan and Sint Maarten is in the process of drafting one.

*Graph 7.1: Conservation areas on Curaçao , publicly and privately owned*



**Forest and reefs**

In Curaçao and Sint Maarten, there are no forests like those of the Amazon or pine forests like in the U.S. and Canada.

The vegetation on the islands consists of bushes and trees, sometimes called mesic forest because they grow in a dry and warm climate.

Many of these areas are parts of national parks or are protected by zoning laws, earmarking the areas as “conservation” areas. The size of the mesic forest areas is much larger: there is mesic forest as well next to conservation areas (see table 7.1) and on some hillsides on the islands.

Table 7.1: Preliminary quantitative\*<sup>57</sup> overview of coastal habitat categories

	Curacao	Sint Maarten
Surface area (km <sup>2</sup> )	444	34
Area protected (national parks & conservation area)	Approx 20%	0%
Status nature park	Formalized	Pending
Status marine park	Planned for 2011	Pending
Littoral Habitats (approx. surface areas* in ha)	Littoral Habitats (approx. surface areas* in ha)	Littoral Habitats (approx. surface areas* in ha)
Coral reefs	4560	692
Sea grass beds	494	2799
Reefal algal beds	2223	unknown
Mangroves	55 <sup>(2)</sup>	20
Saliñas	378	60
Undeveloped coastline <sup>(3)</sup> (km)	90	5

Source: Debrot and Sybesma (2000)

The coral reefs of Curaçao and Sint Maarten find themselves in a variety of stages ranging from relatively healthy to severely degraded. No reefs in these islands have escaped anthropogenic disturbances (e.g. pollution, terrestrial run-off, coastal development, overfishing). The place is unique in that its reefs have been investigated for more than 30 years enabling availability of much information on the state and changes in the marine ecosystems such as fringing coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds. Due to the limited space available on the islands, uncontrolled urban habitation and coastal development are considered the major threats to the islands' marine resources. Sint Maarten also has an extensive coral reef network but faces significant challenges due to lack of official protection and effective management. The islands are considered a biodiversity hot spot and harbor approximately 68 species of stony corals, about 450 species of fish and thousands of algal and invertebrate species of which only their existence is known. Together they form coral reefs, but die-offs of certain key organism such as the corals *Acropora* spp. (1981) and the sea urchin *Diadema antillarum* (1983) in combination with overfishing are believed to have resulted in a gradual change from coral- to algal-dominated communities in an increasingly larger area on these islands. While total collapse of these systems has not yet occurred (in contrast to many other locations in the Caribbean region), the islands should prioritize legal frameworks that will allow for the protection of these reef systems providing food, coastal protection and tourism revenue to the islands. On Sint Maarten there have been various incidents of shipping damage caused to coral reef ecosystems, particularly Cruise Ship damage in 2002 and cable damage from a tug in 2010.

## Energy use

The energy on the islands is not produced with fossil fuels. Curaçao has a windmill park and is developing a new one which will be operational in 2011. Solid fuels, except for the BBQ, are hardly used on the islands.

57 \*Habitat surface area estimates are strictly preliminary and indicative, as coastal and marine surveys have been only partial for most territories. Only secondary, largely qualitative sources were used.

(1) Exclusive Fishery Zone (Staatsblad: 1993, 409) and Exclusive Economic Zone (Staatsblad: 2010, 277)

(2) This estimate (Debrot and de Freitas, 1991) is based on mangrove coverage as from aerial photographs, and is more precise than, and not comparable to, the other preliminary estimates presented.

(3) Includes only coastline which is unsuitable for industrial and urban development (e.g. exposed coasts of the Leeward Islands), or coastline protected by government zoning regulations.

(4) Sint Maarten has one of the most extensive wetland ecosystems in the North Eastern Caribbean, and many of those wetlands are covered by Mangroves. There are mangrove areas in Belair Pond, Fresh Pond, the Great Salt Pond, Mullet Pond and the Simpson Bay Lagoon.

Table 7.2: Electricity production per capita, 2001 and 2007

	Curaçao **)	Sint Maarten*)
Electricity production per capita 2001 in kWh	5.786	8.239
Electricity production per capita 2007 kWh	6.079	8.852

Source: Water and power companies of the islands  
 Figures are total electricity turnover

\*) Energy use in Sint Maarten is high because of the tourism industry

\*\*\*) In Curaçao, not included the energy production for the oil refinery.

## Pollution

Oil pollution is a problem, particularly in Curaçao. The Curaçao government owned oil refinery managed by the PdVSA is one of the contributors. The refinery is producing substantial air pollution, causing health problems for the people living 'under the smoke' of the refinery. The refinery is planning to invest in pollution reducing measures. The area around the refinery has been polluted with oil.

Sint Maarten is suffering from landfill problems whereby they are running out of appropriate space for dumping waste. Plans are underway to solve (at least part of) the waste problem.

## Target 7.2 Access to sustainable drinking water and improve sanitation

Water use is high and costly on the islands. The production of water is also energy intensive because Sint Maarten utilizes the process of reverse osmosis while in Curaçao vaporizers are used. The desalination of the sea water in Curaçao is realized by the state-owned enterprise Aqualetra, which holds a monopoly in this.

Table 7.3: Water production per capita in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2001 and 2007

	Curaçao	Sint Maarten
Water production in 1000 m <sup>3</sup> , 2001	14271	3284
Water production in 1000 m <sup>3</sup> , 2007	13683	4589
Water production in m <sup>3</sup> per capita, 2001	109	108
Water production in m <sup>3</sup> per capita, 2007	99	118

Source: Water and power companies of the islands  
 Figures includes leakages, losses and theft

Table 7.4: Electricity and water use in Curaçao in 2008-2009 (x ANG 1000)

	Dec 31, 2009	Dec 31, 2008
Sales electricity in mwh	654,390	633,691
Average sales tariff households in ANG per kwh	0.6369	0.6395
Sales water in 1,000 m <sup>3</sup>	9,785	9,420
Average sales tariff households in ANG per m <sup>3</sup>	10.11	12.78

Source: Aqualetra Consolidated Annual Report, 2009

## Target 7.3 Improvement in the lives of persons living in poor communities

There are no large slum areas on the islands of Curaçao and Sint Maarten, though there are smaller areas on the islands of Curaçao and Sint Maarten with a relatively high percentage of inadequate housing. The highest percentage of poor housing was registered during the census of 2001 in Sint Maarten. In that year, 90% of the occupied and unoccupied houses in Curaçao were found adequate and for Sint Maarten this was 83%.

Table 7.5: Living accommodations by quality, in Curaçao and Sint Maarten in 2001

Quality of the accommodation	Curaçao		Sint Maarten	
	occupied	unoccupied	occupied	unoccupied
Adequate	40348	3935	9905	680
Inadequate	1853	850	1314	168
Very inadequate	457	710	272	94
Unknown	503	389	236	95
Total	43161	5884	11727	1037

Source: CBS, National Census 2001

## Target 7.4 Awareness of economic, social and environmental threats for at least 5 years

Curaçao and Sint Maarten have nature conservation legislation which is consistent with CITES and the SPAW protocol. Although Curaçao and Sint Maarten have a nature policy, they do not have a nature conservation plan and the implementation, the responsibility of the local governments, has been poor. The former Netherlands Antilles government required each island to have a nature conservation plan but there was no compliance with this requirement. As indicated from the report 'Review Status of Implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity of Dutch Caribbean' in July 2010, Curaçao and Sint Maarten now have to draft their own nature conservation and zoning legislation and will be responsible for the implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Natural disasters exert an enormous toll on development. In doing so, they pose a significant threat to prospects for alleviating poverty by 2015. Globally, annual economic losses associated with such disasters averaged US\$75.5 billion in the 1960s, US\$138.4 billion in the 1970s, US\$213.9 billion in the 1980s and US\$659.9 billion in the 1990s. Although the majority of these losses have been concentrated in the developing world, they have failed to adequately capture the impact of the disaster on the poor who often bear the greatest cost in terms of lives and livelihoods, and rebuilding their shattered communities and infrastructure. While 85 per cent of the people exposed to earthquakes, tropical cyclones, floods and droughts live in countries having either medium to low human development, recent experience in Curacao and Sint Maarten show that SIDS is also vulnerable to these impacts.

The Fourth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that was held in Incheon (Republic of Korea) in October 2010 linked disaster risk reduction to the need for green growth. Green growth is indeed also gradually getting on the agenda in Curacao. The Ministry of General Affairs and Planning and Services are leading on the preparations for a national governing program which will include components to address on sustainable development issues in (poverty alleviation, progress on MDGs, increased forest cover; climate change effects; Green House Gas emissions) etc.. Such programming should use new, modified sustainable development indicators to inform analysis and policy development, with special focus on climate change relevant aspects. Assessment of cost and benefits of alternative energy sources, and on the implications of climate change for large scale infrastructure development will also be necessary.

Climate change is perhaps the strongest driver for bringing “future generations” back on the development agenda in recent years, because of the threat of irreversibility (as in the broad understanding of what constitutes dangerous climate change) as well as the long term nature of the problem (even if major emissions cuts would be undertaken now, climatic change is already a near-certainty for several generations). Climate change is one of the priority issues for many countries in the region; though obviously not the only one.

Policy work on the impact of climate change as a risk to human development in Curacao and Sint Maarten is urgently required with need for concrete programs that build capacities at different levels. Some global experiences show that climate change constitutes additional shocks and stresses on livelihoods, lives, ecosystems and economies; and climate change action including greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change also means additional demands on financial and other resources: climate change is a double challenge.

However, opportunities from climate change action and environmental protection for economic, social and environmental co-benefits exist. The United Nations Collaborative Program on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD) offers opportunities in this regard, for example by strengthening local livelihoods, and improving biodiversity. More generally, opportunities can arise with the additional financial, human and technological resources that could become available under recent agreements such as those under the UNFCCC and CBD, and with well targeted, strategic action.

The latter is not always about additional (financial and human resources but also about doing things differently, learning faster, applying the best practice lessons that have been learned in many places and times already. Examples are about governance improvements and urban planning (changes in city development plans may avoid future vulnerabilities and costs, with very limited or no cost in the present).

Resilience for environmental stresses, climate change effects, financial shocks and other problems must somehow increase, while policies and programs must target specific social groups in this regard. Increasing resilience should be a central (sustainable) development objective, that goes beyond climate change adaptation.

Social differentiation in analysis and action is critical, even though tough in the face of limited data availability. Only social differentiation in analysis and action can deliver opportunities, for example increased gender equality from new action instead of new or worsened social challenges because of gender blind programs. Several global best practices are available for reference. The hope is that the upcoming census of 2011 will provide updated national data sets to be made available for the socio economic long-term planning, costs and benefits of different development pathways and linkages to policy making.

The events of 2010, primarily in Sint Maarten, demonstrated that only a strong concerted effort of the government and community supported by up to date knowledge on disaster risk reduction will make a difference for people affected by disasters. Taking this into consideration the regional disaster risk reduction initiative with the UNDP in Barbados is jointly developing the training course on Disaster Risk Reduction. Curacao is also a partner in this program.

Hurricanes are the biggest threat to the islands, in particular Sint Maarten, with its location in the so called ‘hurricane belt’.

Economic losses due to hurricanes are substantial, for private persons as well as enterprises while the hospitality industry in particular loses business. After hurricane Luis many lost their job and many migrant workers on Sint Maarten returned to their home country for some years. Estimates are that 5.000 -10.000 immigrant workers and their family members left Sint Maarten in the year after hurricane Luis. In the years thereafter, the population increased again because of the return of migrant workers and their family members.

Table 7.6: Impact of hurricanes in certain years in Sint Maarten

year	hurricane	Remarks & impact
1995	Luis	Category 5 up to 140 miles/hour, severe damage to the island of Sint Maarten: 1000 people rendered home less
	Marilyn	Within a week after Luis; wind speed up to 105 miles. Much water
1996	Bertha	Wind speed up to 80 miles. Damage in French part, Gran Case
1999	Jose	Up to 100 miles. Minor damage: trees and roofs
	Lenny	Up to 120 miles. Severe damage. Other results: insurance are cancelling policies or dramatically raising premiums. Tourism is down.
2010	Earl and Tomas	Up to 110 miles/hour. Limited damage: trees, some roofs and electricity distribution problems Tomas caused serious damage to properties and public facilities and loss of lives

Although Curaçao is not classified as located within the hurricane belt and has not experienced major weather issues for over three decades, the recent heavy rainfall followed by the storm ‘Tomas’ in October and November 2010 caused damages.

There is a high need for mental and attitudinal changes with regard to the utilization of natural resources and overall environmental protection. Environmental conservation, through land reclamation, solid waste management, composting and recycling is urgently required. To reduce the amount of chemicals used in agriculture, a combination of alternative and organic agriculture should be explored. In fact, exploring linkages between the poverty and environment nexus could stimulate socio-economic growth by developing energy efficiency gains through Community Centers with solar powered energy, energy efficient designs, providing renewable energy corridor sustainable street lighting with solar power, and through sustainable land management. This will reduce poverty by creating income and employment opportunities for young people while helping to conserve the environment, for instance by creating solid waste management and recycling programs based on examples from countries like the Netherlands, Canada, Singapore, etc. Another stress on the environment is pollution from traffic congestion with more vehicles on the roads regardless of limited physical space. This is due to a lack of alternative transportation systems and harmony between the people while the environment seems to be a priority of only few sections of society. The impact among others will include availability of freed up land which can be used to develop recreational facilities/parks for physical activity among the youth with a spin-off in health goals to reduce obesity. It is high time to establish adequate environmental governance policies through an integrated proper natural resource conservation plan. However, one cannot be done at the expense of the other.

The most important aspects of this target are to take measures in energy conservation in all major sectors, increase the use of renewal natural resources and make cost effective use of non CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It is recommended to seek opportunities for tapping into the Kyoto Protocol commitment of the Netherlands through the Clean Development Mechanism that enables financing of emission reduction projects and receives credit for doing so. The Netherlands has commissioned approximately 80 CDM projects with an aim of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emission with 67 million tons.

The 2010 MDG Report of the Netherlands highlights the benefits of the long tradition of national Environmental Policy Planning with long term quantitative objectives by developing an integrated approach to the economic, socio-cultural and ecological aspects of sustainable development. This is evident in the latest national plan NEPP 4 of 2002 which considers the interactions between these three dimensions and puts a strong emphasis on global environmental issues in global warming, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss by signing the Kyoto Protocol in 1998.

**Environment related protocols and agreements on nature protection and biodiversity to be ratified if not already:**

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity
- Convention to Combat Desertification
- Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species

Indicators Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

	MDG (Caribbean) Indicators	Baseline 2001, Curaçao and Sint Maarten	Latest available	Remarks
7.1	Proportion of land area covered by forest	0%	0%	
7.2	Ratio of area protected (to maintain biological diversity) to surface area	15%	15% (2010)	Estimate, based on data of parks and EOP
7.3	Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP)	N/A electricity use per capita: 6234 kWh	N/A electricity use per capita 6625	
7.4	CO2 emissions, total, per capita and per \$1 GDP (PPP)	N/A	N/A	
7.5	Proportion of population using solid fuels by type of tenure	Nil	Nil	
7.6	Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source	100%	100%	
7.7	Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	98,5%	N/A	CBS, National Census 2001
7.8	Proportion of urban population living in slums (adjusted from Caribbean indicators)	N/A	N/A	CBS, National Census 2001 There are no large slumps on the islands
7.9	Percentage of coral reefs destroyed by human activity and by natural diseases			Source: Carmabi
7.10	Incidence of natural disasters			
7.11	Economic losses from natural disaster	Not registered	Not registered	Huge hurricane risks in Sint Maarten and most recently in Curaçao
7.12	Social dislocation resulting from natural disaster	After Luis in 1995 migration of 10-20% of population	Earl in 2010 had no effect on social dislocation Tomas in Curaçao caused major damage and loss of lives	Based on population data CBS



## Outlook

Balancing economic, ecological and socio cultural aspects is crucial for sustainable development. If the ecology - nature and the environment – deteriorates or if socio-cultural values are neglected, the quality of life will directly diminish. Just as important, a decent existence for the whole of the population will not be possible without economic growth. The awareness of these interlinkages has been overlooked in contributing to sustainable development in the former Netherlands Antilles.

Environmental policy must be closely coordinated with other policy areas such as public health, spatial planning, industrial development, agriculture and fisheries, and must be clear and transparent. In the present situation economic development and poverty alleviation have the highest priority for Curaçao and Sint Maarten but sustainable development is only possible in combination with sound environmental. For example, without corals there will be fewer stay-over tourists and less economic development whereas a polluted environment and disappearing nature will cause new forms of poverty. Efforts have been put to identify priorities and come up with recommendations, advice, and legislation and to put standards in place. Cooperation with stakeholders, island governments and NGOs must be maintained on environment and nature management. The development of a clear and coherent policy and implementation plan based on the MDG framework can now support this process.

In the reassessment of the 2001-2005 Multi-Year Plan, it was concluded that the previous years work served to provide a solid foundation for sound environment and nature policy through inventories, assessments, analyses, policy documents, information materials, regulation & legislation and guidelines. Although not fully completed in all cases, it is time for a next step, which is to improve the ways to measure and monitor the state of the environment and the progress made in improving, preserving and restoring it. Further indicators, baseline values and targets need to be identified and formulated. Measurement is knowledge, and makes the problems and challenges tangible. It is the only road that leads to effective enforcement of regulations.

Taking into account the financial limitations of Curaçao and Sint Maarten governments and the fact that external financial sources as Dutch development cooperation funds in this sector will be discontinued in 2012, strict priorities must be set in projects and activities. In the past, an estimated budget for the NEPP of ANG 11.2 million, considered a bare minimum in order to execute activities and meet the objectives and targets, was not realized. Where the contribution of the Central Government is calculated at ANG 1.5 million, it is anticipated that some ANG 9.7 million will come from donor funds. It is now critical to assess the state of the available financial and human resources in projecting a realistic environmental implementation budget for the next five years. This budget should be based on a clear strategy and on indicators to be achieved. A review of the execution of the “National Exploration of the State of the Environment” will assist in this process. The National Exploration of the State of the Environment will provide more clear indicators and baseline data and better tools for measuring developments as well as monitoring the effects of policy actions.

As indicated at the EU-OCT forum, the small scale of the islands translates into a lack of capacity and or funding that can only be addressed by cooperation, either regionally or globally, towards sustainable development. Though Curaçao and Sint Maarten are now autonomous countries, it is important to identify areas of complementarities for regional environmental programs.

In the areas of plant protection for more possibilities for crop production and as a hub for shipment of plant goods could be explored with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Other areas that require immediate attention also include solid waste management and sewerage water treatment, water management (rain water harvesting), aquaculture, energy for solar power, deforestation, erosion, protection of dams and urban planning with an environment consciousness.



## Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The 8th Millennium Development Goal deals with open markets of goods, services and financial services, but also with development aid and debt relief for developing countries and islands. The goal also includes the implementation of development strategies for youth between 15-24 year olds and the use of modern or new technologies.

The key elements emanating from the constitutional changes of 10/10/10 when Curaçao and Sint Maarten became new countries, are within the following fiscal framework:

Debt cancellation by the Netherlands of approximately 80% of the total public debt started as of December 31, 2005. Although the operation of the scheduled debt relief was delayed, some progress has been recorded. The debt relief is nonetheless conditional on the establishment of a fiscal (budgetary/financial) framework that includes:

- introduction of medium term budgeting;
- establishment of a financial supervisor chaired by the Dutch appointee to supervise borrowing decisions and implementation;
- a balanced current budget rule with borrowing restricted to within year cash management needs with deviations from this rule only in cases of disaster relief, subject to the approval of the financial supervisor;
- borrowing ceiling for capital expenditure which limits annual interest payments to 5% of the average total revenue of the preceding three years, with loans for investments to be approved by the financial supervisor only if budget implementation is in line with financial rule;
- a common central bank for Curaçao and Sint Maarten responsible for monetary policy and financial sector supervision for both countries and
- a socio-economic initiative (SEI) to tackle social and economic problems. Within the following analysis, these aspects would be considered.



## Target 8.1 International trade and financial relations: open markets

The Netherlands is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). According to the WTO website, the Netherlands is a member of WTO for the Kingdom in Europe, Aruba and the former Netherlands Antilles. The Kingdom as a sovereign state with territory in Western Europe and in the Caribbean, its four countries of Aruba, Curaçao, the Netherlands, and Sint Maarten can participate on a basis of equality as partners within the Kingdom. The Netherlands as a member of the European Union, its WTO negotiations are conducted for the country by the EU. Aruba, according to its CBS and economic research website, confirms that it is not a complete member of the WTO, because of adaptations of the schedules of goods and services that have to be rounded off. Aruba nonetheless keeps up with the developments around this multilateral trade regime because of the global economic ties. The former Netherlands Antilles as informed by the Directorate of Economic Affairs, indicates that the former Netherlands Antilles was a member of GATT since 1997. However, with the transition of GATT to WTO it was required of the GATT members to submit a tariff schedule to acquire membership in WTO. The submission and approval of this tariff schedule was still pending at the time that the Netherlands Antilles were dissolved. The former Netherlands Antilles was therefore not a WTO member. Another requirement for eligibility of WTO is by countries with an independent customs territory. The former Netherlands Antilles met this requirement that is automatically passed unto its new countries. The responsibility is now that of Curaçao and Sint Maarten, if desired to seek membership of WTO by submitting the required tariff schedules.

Curacao and Sint Maarten as partners of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, are qualified as Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) by the European Union since 1964. This qualification, laid down in the Overseas Association Decision means that products originating from these countries are imported into the community free of import duty. Products are considered as originating in Curacao or Sint Maarten if they are wholly obtained or if they are products obtained in both countries incorporating materials, which have not been wholly obtained there, provided that such materials have undergone sufficient working or processing in either country. Non-originating products in free circulation which are exported as such to the community have duty-free access into the community market as well, provided that: the import duties paid in Curacao and Sint Maarten are at least equal to those applicable in the community on the import of the same products originating in third countries eligible for the Most-Favoured-Nation clause (MFN). The products have not been the subject to an exemption from, or a refund of, in whole or in part, customs duties or taxes having equivalent effect. The products are not agricultural products. The products are not subjected, on import into the community, to quantitative restrictions or limitations or to anti-dumping duties. The products are accompanied by an export certificate. Because Curaçao and Sint Maarten have a separate customs territory within the Kingdom, they also have their own bound tariffs.

### **Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act**

Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI). Aruba, as a former beneficiary country of this Act derives trade benefits for eligible exports into the US market, provided that these products comply with the rules of origin. At the publication of the report, the status of Curacao and Sint Maarten's membership or the interest to join was not available.

### **Free Trade Agreement Aruba-former Netherlands Antilles**

Between Aruba and the former Netherlands Antilles, a free trade agreement was in force allowing products from either territory, complying with the rules of origin, free market access. These have been automatically transferred to the new countries of Curacao and Sint Maarten.

For other multilateral agreements such as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) founded for the purposes of contributing to the economic and social development of Latin America and the Caribbean community, coordinates actions directed towards this end, and helps to reinforce economic relationships among the countries with other nations of the world. Aruba is an associate member of this regional commission of the United Nations while Curacao and Sint Maarten need to renew their associate memberships.

The Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee (CDCC) is another sub-regional component of ECLAC with relevance for Curacao and Sint Maarten. With headquarter based in Port of Spain, Trinidad, this organization can help make it possible for Curacao and Sint Maarten to participate more in regional programs with respect to economic and non-economic aspects.

The Association of Caribbean States (ACS), with key objectives that include the development of tourism, international trade and transport between the country members can provide benefits in trade and market access. Aruba has been an associate member since 1999.

According to the Modus Statistisch Magazine, CBS, August 2010, Curaçao has exported merchandise with a value of approximately 245 million guilders in 2008. In comparison with the previous year the total export value of Curaçao has augmented with almost 57 million guilders, which is an increase of 30% in 2008. In 2008 the import of goods from the United States of America is 35% of the total island imports, excluding oil products. The total import from this country amounts to an approximate value of 844 million guilders. In 2008 most exports of goods from Curaçao were to the Netherlands, which consists of 36% of the total exports.

*Table 8.1: Imports to Curaçao by main countries in 2008*

Country	Value	%
USA	844.271	34.8
Netherlands	544.001	22.4
Puerto Rico	126.854	5.2
Panama	90.779	3.7
Venezuela	86.735	3.6
Colombia	65.728	2.7
Japan	65.279	2.7
Aruba	54.892	2.3
Brazil	53.395	2.2
Rest of the world	491.854	20.3
Total	2.423.788	100.0

Source: Modus Statistisch Magazine, CBS, August 2010

*Table 8.2: Exports of Curaçao by main countries in 2008*

Country	Value	%
Netherlands	88.354	36.0
USA	53.066	21.6
Aruba	25.887	10.6
Sint Maarten	18.978	7.7
Germany	7.049	2.9
Venezuela	5.397	2.2
Antigua	3.736	1.5
Canada	2.996	1.2
Jamaica	2.464	1.0
Rest of the world	37.228	15.2
Total	245.155	100.0

Source: Modus Statistisch Magazine, CBS, August 2010

Table 8.3: Total imports and exports (excluding oil products) Curaçao, 2004-2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Import</b>	1.395.271	1.475.077	1.713.450	1.908.529	2.423.788
<b>Export</b>	136.394	139.807	212.232	188.576	245.155

Source: Modus Statistisch Magazine, CBS, August 2010

Table 8.4: Goods and services account in Curaçao in million ANG, 2000-2006

Goods and Services Account	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Export of goods</b>	794.7	783.9	750.1	648.5	742.4	887.3	1069.5
General merchandise	552.3	563.9	566.6	451.3	524.5	606.6	693.8
Oil products	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0	2.7
Goods for processing	12.3	16.1	28.1	22.5	18.3	18.7	16.8
Repairs on goods	95.6	85.6	67.2	63.0	86.8	78.0	98.5
Goods produced in ports	134.5	118.3	88.2	110.8	112.8	184.0	257.7
<b>Export of services</b>	1551.7	1698.2	1651.8	1641.9	1583.5	1609.7	1719.1
Transportation services	161.9	184.7	174.7	145.6	117.4	107.1	106.2
Travel	329.0	362.2	388.7	400.2	400.2	436.8	496.2
International Financial services	420.4	474.3	457.3	379.0	375.4	351.4	332.7
Other services	640.4	677.0	631.1	717.1	690.5	714.4	784.0
<b>Resource Import of goods</b>	1951.9	2024.1	2006.1	1904.8	2083.4	2302.9	2537.3
General merchandise	1603.6	1691.3	1707.0	1629.4	1774.8	1893.3	2015.3
Oil products	269.0	246.3	243.2	227.3	267.9	391.4	511.7
Goods for processing	62.9	73.8	40.1	33.3	29.2	17.0	6.7
Repairs on goods	2.0	0.0	2.5	0.3	0.8	0.0	1.9
Goods produced in ports	14.4	12.7	13.3	14.5	10.7	1.2	1.7
<b>Import of services</b>	766.6	855.0	861.9	845.8	808.3	817.9	886.0
Transportation services	116.4	146.9	124.8	84.2	109.6	120.9	114.1
Travel	228.1	230.2	238.5	313.0	313.9	293.9	341.3
International Financial services	98.4	139.6	116.6	132.1	115.0	104.6	122.1
Other services	323.7	338.3	382.0	316.5	269.8	298.5	308.5

Source: Modus Statistisch Magazine, CBS, April 2010

## Sint Maarten

On Sint Maarten there are no import duties on products and services, however on Curaçao there are. The high import duties to protect the local industries were abolished at the beginning of 2000 on Sint Maarten<sup>58</sup>.

A limited number of locally grown products are protected by import quota. In general, Curaçao and Sint Maarten have trade policies related to the import of agricultural products and textiles.

Curaçao and Sint Maarten benefit from trade arrangements from the European Community's Council Decision on the Association of Overseas Territories (OCTs) until the year 2013. The former Netherlands Antilles was an associated member of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and was an observer at Caribbean Community (CARICOM) until 2001. The new CARICOM constitution required that the former Netherlands Antilles reapplied for observer status in one of its Councils. The process is under review for a future decision on membership on both observer and associate memberships.

<sup>58</sup> The Windward Islands are formally exempted from import duties and excise by the Central Government to stimulate economic development on the islands.

## Target 8.2 Official Development Assistance (ODA) and debt relief

Curaçao and Sint Maarten receive development assistance from the Netherlands and the European Development Fund<sup>59</sup>.

The Dutch development aid to Curaçao and Sint Maarten is tied to programs in the field of national security and justice, social-economic development, good governance and education. The programs are agreed upon at official meetings. The executions of the projects under these programs were discussed between the former Central Government or the former island governments and the Netherlands. The table below gives an idea of the size of the development cooperation.

Table 8.5: Multi-annual plan expenditures, Dutch development cooperation, in million ANG, 2001-2008

	Former Netherlands Antilles	Economic infrastructure	Education	Health	Housing	Tourism	Agriculture etc.	Trade, industry & other services	Various
2001	76,2	10,2	11,6	1,9	4,3	1,1	0,0	0,1	47,0
2002	57,8	8,1	9,6	6,4	4,3	12,9	0,0	1,8	14,7
2003	50,5	18,4	14,2	0,2	0,4	4,5	0,0	0,4	12,4
2004	38,3	6,0	17,2	1,1	0,1	1,7	0,0	0,4	11,7
2005	78,8	7,5	26,6	0,0	0,0	9,3	0,2	1,0	34,1
2006	93,7	4,6	49,7	1,2	0,4	1,0	0,0	1,2	35,6
2007	106,1	12,4	34,6	5,7	1,1	1,1	0,7	1,7	49,0
2008	117,1	16,4	35,6	6,7	2,1	2,1	1,7	2,7	50,0

### Curaçao and Sint Maarten and the European Development Fund (EDF)

Some 25 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT's), are linked to Denmark, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and associated with the European Union. In principle, their nationals are EU citizens, even though the OCTs are not part of the EU or directly subject to EU law<sup>60</sup>. The basis for cooperation with the European Union (EU) through the European Commission (EC) has been laid down in the Treaty of Rome 25 march 1957 and various documents<sup>61</sup>.

The OCTs are organised in an association (Overseas Countries and Territories Association), the purpose of which is to promote the economic and social development of the OCTs and establish close economic relations between them and the EU as a whole. EU-OCT relations are governed through regular trilateral meetings between the Commission, the OCTs and the concerned Commission Member States. The purpose of this association, according to Article 182, is "to promote the economic and social development of the countries and territories and to establish close economic relations between them and the Community as a whole."

The objective of the cooperation with the EU is to provide a basis for economic, scientific, educational and cultural cooperation founded on the principles of mutual responsibility and mutual support. Focus of the cooperation (until 2013) with the EC is: Reducing and eventually eradicating poverty consistent with the objective of sustainable development and gradual integration of the ACP countries in the world economy.

59 The definition of ODA is not used in official statistics of for instance the Central Bank of Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

60 While nationals from British OTs could refuse to carry the British passport, nationals from French, Dutch and Danish OCT have the nationality of the related member state automatically, which makes them be citizens of the European Union.

61 ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (Cotonou Agreement 23 June 2000, amended 25 June 2005, amended in 2010) Overseas Association Decision (Council Decision OCT-EU 2001/822/EC 27 November 2001, amended by Council Decision 2007/249/EC 19/03/2007) General Regulations, Conditions, Procedural Rules, Arbitration and Guides to contract and financial procedures for the EDF's Cotonou Agreement (ACP) – Article 1

The cooperation between the former Netherlands Antilles (and now the new entities Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius) and the European Community permits close and lasting links to be maintained and mutual interests to be taken into account. The partnership between Curaçao /Sint Maarten and the Community aims in particular at broadening and strengthening relations between them and contributing to sustainable development. EC cooperation with the former Netherlands Antilles evolved from growth-oriented support to revenue-generating activities like tourism and stimulation of small and medium enterprises (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> EDF) to more socially-focused activities under the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> EDF like youth development, upgrade of infrastructure in deprived areas and environmentally-focused sewerage programs.

According to the overview up to 2011 a total amount of EUR 174,4 million has been delivered to the former Netherlands Antilles. (source : *Department of Development Cooperation (former DEVCO)*).

*Table 8.6: European Union Development Fund (EDF), 1959-2008*

EU Contribution NEA/AUA IST - 10TH EDF (in * 1000)						
EDF *	Covention	Period	Grants	Loans	Total	Focal Sector
EDF 1	-	1959/64	€ 13,757	€ 0	€ 13,757	Educ. Econ. Infra.
EDF 2	Yaoundé I	1964/70	€ 18,372	€ 0	€ 18,372	Econ. Infra. & Soc. Sector (Hlth)
EDF 3	Yaoundé II	1970/75	€ 13,833	€ 4,000	€ 17,833	Econ. Infra. & Tourism
EDF 4	Lomé I	1975/80	€ 12,587	€ 8,042	€ 20,629	Econ. Infra., Tourism & Training
EDF 5	Lomé II	1980/85	€ 15,410	€ 9,594	€ 25,004	Tourism
EDF 6*	Lomé III	1985/90	€ 14,175	€ 6,750	€ 20,925	Tourism
EDF 7	Lomé IV	1990/95	€ 23,725	€ 0	€ 23,725	Educ. & HRD
EDF 8	Lomé IV-Bis	1995/00	€ 18,672	€ 0	€ 18,672	Mun. Infra. & Soc. Dvmt
EDF 9	Cotonou	2000/07	€ 20,000	€ 0	€ 20,000	SuSint Soc. Dvmt
EDF 10**	Cotonou	2008/13	€ 24,000	€ 0	€ 24,000	Specific for each island
TOTAL			€ 174,531	€ 28,386	€ 202,917	

As of 2014 a new relation between OCTs-EU will be in place (Green Paper: 28 Jun 2008).

\*: EDF 1-EDF 6: Amount for the Former Netherlands Antilles and Aruba

\*\* : EDF 10: Total amount for the former Netherlands Antilles € 24 million, for Curaçao: € 11.25 million and for Sint Maarten: € 4.75 million.

#### **Under the 8th EDF, two focal areas were agreed:**

- Expansion and rehabilitation of urban infrastructure (70% of Indicative Program resources), and Support to the social sector (25% of Indicative Program resources). The remaining 5% were reserved for activities outside the focal sectors. Amongst others the following projects were implemented:
- Support to the Netherlands Antilles Youth Development Program (SNAYDP)
- Rehabilitation of Saba Harbour.
- Feasibility and technical study "Sewerage & Sanitation System Bonaire"

Under the **9th EDF**, the EC cooperation outlined in the SPD focuses on the promotion of economic and social development. Within this broad framework it was agreed to focus EC development cooperation on poverty alleviation through social development. One focal sector was identified, being urban infrastructure for socially deprived areas.

### The following projects are being/have been implemented:

- Urban Infrastructures for Socially Deprived Areas (in execution)
- Sewerage and Sanitation Project Bonaire (in execution)
- Restoration of The Queen Emma Bridge (implemented)

### 10th EDF

A total of € 24 million was allocated to the former Netherlands Antilles the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF(2008-2013). This is allocated per island, as follows:

Table 8.7: Overview amount and projects for cooperation European Commission- Netherlands Antilles and the Island territories

Entity	Amount	Proposed sector/ project
Curacao	11,25 M €	Urban Infrastructure follow up on the 9th EDF)
Sint Maarten	4,75 M €	Sewerage for socially deprived areas (Dutch Quarter)
Bonaire	3 M €	Infrastructure/Environment - Sewerage and Sanitation System Bonaire
St-Eustatius	2 M €	Economic Infrastructure – Port Development of St Eustatius – expansion of container storage area
Saba	3 M €	Urban infrastructure - Under the Hill – Infrastructure for Social Housing – Phase 2

Source: Former Department for Development Cooperation

### Future EU relations

Until now, based on a classic development approach, the EU has focused mainly on fighting poverty. But the economic situation in the OCTs has changed. The future relationship needs to take account of this new reality, and it should also better reflect the OCTs' specific status: The micro-island economies are very vulnerable given their dependence on very few sectors and the considerable differences between the islands themselves. Also OCTs, as outposts of Europe all over the world, should be seen as assets for the EU.

In view of the expiry of the current Overseas Association Decision at the end of 2013, three central objectives tailored to the OCTs' specificities have been identified:

enhancing competitiveness; - (2) strengthening resilience (reducing OCT vulnerability rather than fighting poverty and improving capacity to respond to economic shocks, energy dependency and environmental challenges);- (3) promoting regional cooperation.

### Debt relief program

The former Central Government registered a cash surplus of ANG 761.8 million in 2009, a turnaround compared to the deficit of ANG 172.1 million that had been registered in 2008. Noteworthy is that this was the first cash surplus since 1986. This significant improvement can be ascribed largely to the debt relief that was initiated in 2009 in the form of debt service payment assistance for the former Central Government and the former island government of Curaçao. As part of the debt relief program, the Dutch government paid 100% of maturing principal and 70% of interest payments due by these two entities during 2009 and settled a large part of outstanding payment arrears.

The debt relief not only resulted in a significant improvement of the budget balance, but also contributed to a considerable reduction in the consolidated public debt of the former Netherlands Antilles. Hence, the debt ratio dropped from 82.0% in 2008 to 73.7% of GDP in 2009. These developments show the significant positive impact of the debt relief on the public finances.

From the ANG 5.7 billion owed ANG 3.7 billion will be redeemed and the remaining ANG 2.0 billion will be financed by the Netherlands. The redemption and interest payment on this loan have to be paid by the (new) country of Curaçao (approx. ANG 1.6 billion) and Sint Maarten (ANG 400 million).

In 2009 the ANG 875.2 million or 12.4% of the 2009-GDP was transferred to the former Netherlands Antilles under the debt relief program.

## **Curaçao**

Multi-year Economic Program (MEP) was introduced covering the period 2004-2007, the Curaçao Executive Council and Minister de Graaf of the Netherlands approved a budget of ANG 25 million annually to support macro economic stability, enabling business environment, stimulating specific economic sectors and supporting policies.

An agency, USONA, was established to manage the execution of the fund. The mechanism requires financing proposals to be submitted to the former Department for Economic Affairs (DEZ) and subsequently for approval of the Executive Council before presentation to USONA. After approval USONA handles the payments and DEZ monitors and reports on the implementation. In 2007, 32 projects were submitted with a total value of ANG 145 million. Of the 32 projects, only 8 projects were approved by USONA, amounting to a total of ANG 31.1 million. Of this amount, almost ANG 19.3 million was committed in contracts and only an amount of ANG 15 million was actually paid.

An evaluation in 2007 indicated that although the results were positive, a halt of two years out of the four year period by DEZ has been too disruptive for the implementation of the MEP. This led to a proposal for a new integral program covering the period 2008-2012 with a focus on education and youth, security, institutional development and public administration reform. The report concluded that since September 2006, no new economic development projects have been funded. The result of this dialogue process was the birth of the Socio Economic Initiative (SEI).

The SEI was formed as part of the Final Agreement of November 2006 and the Transition Agreement of August 2007 between the Island Government of Curaçao and the Dutch Kingdom as part of the process of becoming an autonomous country. This initiative was meant to support implementation of the backlog on some fundamental areas of concern in economic, social and governmental policy in order to achieve a government balanced budget, a better economic structure, more investments and a successful reorganization of government systems. The overall outcome was to establish a sound starting position for the new autonomous country Curaçao within the Kingdom. The SEI was funded by the Netherlands by making available ANG 60.5 million. The Netherlands also agreed to allocate 30% of the total development funds through the SEI for the period 2008-2010 to Curaçao. The budget allocated by the Netherlands to the SEI for 2008-2010 amounted to a total of ANG 130 million. The Island Government of Curaçao, the private sector and the Antillaanse MedeFinancierings Organisatie (AMFO) also made contributions to the SEI bringing the overall budget to ANG 273 million.

SEI was the basis for facilitating the agreement between the partners in the Dutch Kingdom related to the process of obtaining an autonomous country status towards stable economic growth with steady labor market growth taking into account a balanced social and economic development strategy as a framework for sustainable development of the new countries.

With this perspective, Curaçao was to stimulate economic growth through direct investment boosts and economic reforms enabling it to achieve an annual economic growth of 4% and reduce unemployment rate annually by 2-3%.

In the social sector, structural adjustments to improve the situation of people in critical conditions will be measured by an improved score based on the UNDP HDI, and solve persistent bottlenecks in educational reform, measured by an improved participation degree in education and on the labor market as envisioned in the SEI objectives in the Curaçao Economic Outlook Report 2010.

The actual situation as reported in the last SEI report of July 2010 is that only ANG 40 million has been committed from the ANG 273 allocated.

## Target 8.3 Strategies for more employment for the youth, especially for the vulnerable groups

Although youth unemployment has decreased on the islands, the unemployment rate for youngsters is still high. Per percentage this rate is high, in numbers the problem is decreasing; that is because the labor force of youngsters between 15-24 years of age is decreasing due to the introduction of compulsory education. The former Central Government also introduced a compulsory Youth Development Program for the youth aged 18-24 who lacked labor market qualifications. Although the program is not fully effective it is believed that in the long run, together with improved and more labor market oriented vocational education, this will reduce youth unemployment. More details under this target are already provided in Goal 1e.

*Table 8.8: Unemployment by sex in Curaçao in 2004 and 2008*

	Curaçao		
	male	female	total
Unemployment rate by sex, 2004	15.1%	17.0%	16.1%
Unemployment rate by sex, 2008	8.1%	12.4%	10.3%

Source: Statistical Yearbook, Netherlands Antilles 2005 and 2009

*Table 8.8.1: Youth unemployment in Curaçao in 2003-2008*

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Youth unemployment	33.6%	36.8%	44.0%	37.8%	24.8%	26.3%

Source: Statistical Yearbook, Netherlands Antilles 2005 and 2009

*Table 8.9: Unemployment by sex in Sint Maarten in 2003 and 2007*

	Sint Maarten		
	male	female	total
Unemployment rate by sex, 2003	15.0%	20.3%	17.5%
Unemployment rate by sex, 2007	7.6%	13.8%	10.6%

Source: Statistical Yearbook, Netherlands Antilles 2005 and 2009

*Table 8.9.1: Youth unemployment in Sint Maarten in 2001-2007*

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Youth unemployment	25.3%	31.9%	30.4%	26.0%

Source: Statistical Yearbook, Netherlands Antilles 2005 and 2009

## Target 8.4 Benefits from new technologies, in particular ICT

For the development of a country, its citizens and for the availability and access of telecommunication, internet and computers are crucial. In table 8.10 some indication is given on the developments. It seems that there has been a large increase in the number of personal computers, internet and cellular telephones on the islands.

*Table 8.10: Telephone lines and internet users in Curaçao and Sint Maarten*

	Curaçao	Sint Maarten
Telephone lines per 100 people	57.3	31.2
Personal computers per 100 households 2001	33	38
Internet per 100 households 2008	53.6	58.5
Internet per 100 households 2001	21	15
Cellular subscribers per 100 population, 2008	125.5	168.0

Source: CBS, National Census 2001, December 2008 – BT&P (telephone connections), 2007/2009 Curconsult (internet)

In Curaçao, the creation of a new organization was proposed, Global Internet Futuristic Development Center. The center is founded and driven by the private sector such as the Toastmasters Club or Rotary with the participation of all local institutions, service clubs, businesses, local trade and individuals in partnership with government. Such a Global Internet Development Center will serve to develop the mental capacity of the total population to stimulate sustainable social and economic, industrial and tourism development by engaging the youth, retirees, senior citizens, the elderly, etc. Such a program should aim to provide free Internet Centers at all times in the neighborhoods with funding from trade, banks and offshore with support from other International sources, such as the EU, UN, Japan, India, Canada, the US and other countries. Different modalities of volunteering should be created to give the youth opportunities for local and foreign exchanges, on the job training, mentorship and coaching for professional development. Online volunteering and other directed information and communication programs will contribute towards developing the youth's mental stability, social skills, service mindedness, teaching them about trade and jobs and how to be responsible citizens in society.

## Indicators Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

	MDG (Caribbean) Indicators	Baseline 2001, Curaçao and Sint Maarten	Latest available	Remarks
8.1	ODA-1: Net ODA as a percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national product (targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs)	0,0%	0,0%( 2010)	N/A do provide development aid to other countries
8.2	ODA-2: Proportion of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary healthcare, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)	0.3-0,4%	0.6% (2008)	Source CBS (NR), BNA (multi-annual plan), development aid for education and health.
8.3	ODA-3: Proportion of ODA that is untied	Nil	Nil	All aid is tied, excl. debt relieve program
8.4	ODA-4: Proportion of ODA in Small Island Development States	1,5%	1,6% (2008)	Source CBS (NR), BNA (multi-annual plan),
8.5	NB. Proportion of ODA for transportation in land-locked countries	Not Relevant	Not Relevant	
8.6	MA-1: Proportion of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted of duties and quotas	N/A	N/A	Tariffs are in line with WTO Regulation
8.7	MA-2: Export of services as a proportion of total goods and services MA-3: Average tariffs and quotas on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries	gricultural 0% Textiles & clothing: 11.5%	Agricultural 0% Textiles & clothing: 11.5%	Quotas for some agricultural products (no import duties)
8.8	MA-4: Agricultural subsidies for OECD countries as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product for respective countries	None	None	
8.9	MA-5: Cost of implementing sanitary/phytosanitary measures as a percentage of the total value of exports for which these measures are required	Nil/not relevant	Nil/not relevant	
8.10	MA-6: Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity	Nil	Nil	
8.11	Debt relief as a percentage of export of goods and services	0	17,2%	Debt relief as % of exports of goods and services (BoP, 2009)
8.12	Proportion of ODA provided as debt relief	0%	12,7% of GDP (2009)	Part of debt relieve program with the Netherlands
8.13	Unemployment rate for the 15-24 age group by sex	Male + female: 14.5%	Male + female: 14.1%	Based on Labor Force Survey BON, CUR, SXM (2008/9)
8.14	Proportion of population with access to affordable essential, approved drugs on a sustainable basis	100%	100%	Not including undocumented
8.15	Telephone lines per 1,000 people (cell phone)	Approx. 210 *)	1298	Source: BT&P
8.16	ersonal computers per 1,000 people	Approx. 135 *)	Est. 330 **)	Estimates based on research

\*) Census 2001, derived from number of households

\*\*\*) Estimate: of all households 55% internet, one internet connection 1,5 computer, Avg household size 2,5 persons.



*National MDG Theme group*

## Moving Forward, Challenges and Final Outlook

The next step should be for Curaçao and Sint Maarten to use the findings of this report as suggestions to develop policies and make decisions or to inform policy and decision makers. Appropriate strategies must be adopted to address the goals and targets that are not being met and to sustain or make further progress in those areas where progress has been made.

The MDG workgroup must play a critical role in moving the MDG agenda forward. The following should be key considerations as adapted from the Global MDG Synthesis Report 2010:

Targeted investments in key areas will have a significant multiplier effect on growth and prosperity and across all the MDGs. This includes providing access to energy; boosting agricultural production; expanding opportunities for women and youth, and investing in health and education services.

The MDGs are indeed achievable. Every effort must now be made to accelerate progress to achieve these goals through national action plans, policies and strategies that address barriers to progress. The UN remains a key partner in this global effort. The Government looks forward to the continued support of the UN.

The role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. However, since domestic economies are now interwoven with the global economic system, an effective use of trade and investment opportunities can help countries fight poverty. Development efforts at the national level need to be backed by an enabling international environment that supports national actions and strategies.

Acceleration of progress is possible when strong government leadership, effective policies and institutional capacity for scaling up public investments are complemented by adequate financial and technical support and an enabling policy environment from the international community. Recent examples [select based on geographic interest]:

**Panama's** conditional cash transfer program provided free primary care services, vaccinations and reproductive health care to 70,599 households, or 95 per cent of people living under the poverty line, during 2007 – 2008.

**Cambodia's** 100 per cent Condom Use program contributed to doubling condom use among sex workers. HIV prevalence declined from 1.2 to 0.7 per cent between 2003 and 2008.

Small-scale micro-projects, such as provision of low-cost electricity in the form of bio-fuel multifunctional platforms in **Burkina Faso, Mali** and **Senegal**, have created income-generating opportunities for women, while reducing time poverty.

**Albania** adopted an MDG 9 to reform overall state systems of public administration, legislation and policies in accordance with EU Standards by 2015. The country has made significant progress.

## Challenges:

### On how to introduce an MDG Strategy

The new countries of Curaçao and Sint Maarten need a coordinating mechanism for the development of a coherent MDG strategy. Attention should be given to the incentives in place for an overall MDG Strategy to function properly as government ministries, departments and units have to work in a coordinated fashion among sectors. Appropriate institutional structure that will facilitate an effective overall localization plan because while the MDGs are cross cutting to several departments, it will be worthwhile to have the coordinating mechanism operate from a central Ministry such as within the Office of the Prime Minister, General Affairs or a Unit within the Ministry of Planning/ Finance for the new countries Curaçao and Sint Maarten. A separate unit with focal points from all other ministries could be an alternative.

Assess the social and cultural issues in neighboring countries in the Caribbean which may be relevant to the local needs of the Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

Facilitate clearer aid coordination and debt relief mechanisms that are backed by evidence based statistics from this report to address trade openness issues, and island identified priorities that address social and economic issues.



### **On obstacles and opportunities**

Instability of government and lack of consistent policy direction particularly as witnessed in the transition to a new relationship with the Netherlands presents both obstacles and opportunities. Subsequently, the instability of governance as a result of frequent changes of government frustrates the economy and social developments, and sets back implementation and monitoring efforts. The lack of direct, broad-based stakeholder participation in key national discussions has frustrated the consumer, the employer and the worker. Their voices must not only be heard, but their combined strategies must be utilized.

Continued highest political commitment by countries Sint Maarten and Curaçao working together with all stakeholders in the future regarding the adoption of the MDGs in the policy is very important especially in the allocation of resources.

### **On old age pension**

Old age pensions in the Kingdom of the Netherlands differ according to the political, constitutional status of the entities, which is in violation of the non-discrimination principle, the equality that the state party the Kingdom of the Netherlands had to implement throughout the Kingdom. This needs to be properly assessed and included in new policies.

### **On Statistics and MDG adaptation/localization**

Particularly in Curaçao, the health goals have to be adapted to the local reality, obesity being a priority, while a preventive and 'lifestyle' approach to health habits should be utilized, particularly with youth.

The role of UNDP and other UN agencies in statistical collection in the region, including PAHO (HIV/AIDS statistics project in English and Dutch overseas territories) and UNESCO (Caribbean MDG Platform) needs to be strengthened.

The government should assign a number of governmental responsibilities for official statistics production and capacity building e.g. ministry of health, veterinary, health statistics, etc.). This should be considered for set up in the new island countries of Curaçao and Sint Maarten.

Attempt to make all available data as usable statistics to produce national averages or disaggregated analyses. Establish DevInfo database for a more robust and detailed gathering of data, codifying and producing data points as preparation for the next MDG monitoring.

The upcoming indicator for sustainable growth is the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare (ISEW). The ISEW is an economic indicator intended to replace the current definition of gross domestic product. The ISEW takes into account the defensive cost to preserve the natural resources and thus is less than the GDP. In order to measure the impact of pollution on our economy, it is of utmost importance that the statistics office collects data for the ISEW.



## On Capacity gaps

Issues of human resource and capacity gaps in two-fold capacity gap: missing people with specific skills in the islands; few people that have certain high-demand skills that therefore have little time to share across functions. The huge delays in hiring new personnel come from problems that exist with “personnel affairs” departments.

The problem of government staffing in the area of environment which is complemented by relatively weak CSOs in that area (particularly in the case of Curaçao, even more after the Netherlands has ceased funding NGOs in the island), efforts to sustain NGOs as watch dogs and capacity building of civil society movement are needed. Government capacities can be complemented by CSOs to provide guidance and even technical expertise in some areas of work. NGOs contribute through innovation, adaptation, advocacy, mobilization and behavioral change (e.g. sustainable environment campaigns). Learn from countries where MDGs are on track due to heavy NGO involvement.

The former Department for Programs and Projects in Sint Maarten was tasked with designing the new Development Plan for Sint Maarten and it suggested working with the UNDP in-house technical support to develop a strategy note aligned with the MDGs that take into consideration human rights based approach.

How can an intensive skills availability based on needs assessment relevant for the islands be ensured?

What scenario should be adopted for any adoption of the MDGs?

In what ways can the UN/UNDP further support the processes of prioritization, monitoring, strategic planning and service delivery?

How can the MDGs be strategically localized, particularly in the new countries of Curaçao and Sint Maarten?



## Outlook:

On the basis of a sense of shared international responsibility, Curaçao and Sint Maarten have now joined the international agreement to pursue the global time-bound MDG. Against the background of the agreed targets and quantitative indicators, this report has documented empirical evidence of the situation of Curaçao and Sint Maarten to date, the challenges confronting them and provides to some extent the prospects for achievement in the light of existing and anticipated policies and programs. The goals that present a potential to lag behind, need to be further identified through research, budget estimates and allocation for their achievement. On the domestic front, there is need for a government-led and coordinated effort utilizing its national resources as well as support from the international development community. Such a process should involve a shared responsibility for in-depth consultations, planning, implementation, monitoring and documenting the contributions of the development partners including civil society organizations, the private sector, the universities, the media, the institutions of the United Nations, the Bank Development of the Netherlands Antilles (OBNA) and other international development agencies, including the advanced economies and other countries.

On poverty reduction, compelling evidence shows that GDP growth without accompanying development contributes to rising poverty. One reason for this is the tendency to view MDG-related investments in education, information, health and housing as social sector investments aimed especially at the poor or the vulnerable in society. However, far more than being mere social sector investments, these are perhaps the most important forms of (domestic) economic capital investments required to provide the social and economic fabric within which markets can foster transformative growth. Specifically, in the face of the frequent sharp negative random price and technology shocks to which the economy is often subjected, they embody the main capacities needed by Curaçao and Sint Maarten to undertake rapid switches of technique, joint production of commodities and effective utilization of knowledge spillovers from the rest of the world and to routinely raise the efficiency of utilization of relatively scarce foreign exchange. To that effect, a significant shift in the way that coordination of the MDG process is handled should be debated.

## Ministerial Leadership of the MDG Coordination Process

In the case of Sint Maarten where a decision has been made to design an MDG based National Development Strategy, it must be done through a nationally owned consultative process guided by a needs assessment and costing exercise and lead to providing broad investment parameters which in turn can fit in with the ongoing national effort to define a pathway to 2020. This process is coordinated under the leadership of the Ministry of General Affairs, Department of Interior Affairs and Kingdom Relations. Such a strategy should have clear programs and projects with timelines and fiscal projections as well as clearly defined roles and responsibilities including a phased implementation plan that incorporates: setting the guidelines, instructions and necessary legislation, creating the financial management guidelines, and setting the timeline and costs for the various process components. The components may include but must not be limited to:

- Develop a detailed program for the current and future programs
- Identify short and long term priorities for each strategy
- Write program management and operational goals, objectives and strategies aligned with the targets and indicators
- Establish an MDG Budgeting plan with financial and human resources required to support the plan
- Summarize the actions at the strategic and operational levels
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework based on the DevInfo system.

In Curaçao, dialogue has been established to set the context for the coordination of the MDGs. The Ministry of Economic Development (MED), through the Sector Foreign Economic Cooperation formerly known as the

Department for Development Cooperation has been working on the MDG sensitization since the early part of 2010. The new MED within its wider mandate to define a multidimensional socio economic and environment development path and programming of Curaçao should liaise and closely coordinate for instance with the relevant Ministries such as Social Development and Welfare, Health, Education, Agriculture and Environment. Such coordination will help define the path to poverty reduction in pursuit of providing a improved livelihood for the citizens. MED with the Ministry of Finance can rationalize its pursuit of necessary development financing to cover the key sectors that contribute to the HDI. In that regard, the MED should consider a well-calculated reasonable financing a necessary minimum target even if commitments cannot yet be made about how the resources would be obtained to pursue such a goal. Given the general need to rely on multiple data domains, including the political data domain, to define the final configuration of the development effort, strong leadership by the MED is required to estimate and allocate the target budget to stimulate growth paths among Ministries. Once the resources are identified, the MED should facilitate the introduction of a sector-wide approach to the allocation of resources among Ministries, such as to attain the optimal path to achievement of the MDGs. For this to take place, a quick defining of the priorities and capacity building for leadership of the planning, policy orientation and coordination all require growth in investment expenditure. A ministerial decree is urgently required to ensure that the coordination of the MDG process is organized more robustly, involving the active participation of relevant, both government and non-government institutions.

The IMF projections of capital estimates and growth factors indicate that MED investments will tend to decline from US\$6.6 million in 2009 to US\$5.7 million in 2011. The projections also suggest that MED capital expenditures will not recover to the required levels, and instead will be only US\$6.2 million in 2015. Thus, in its efforts to recalibrate and lead implementation of the national poverty elimination plan, the MED will face an overall capital expenditure deficit of US\$5.1 million over the period 2009 to 2015. Thus, even if the will to lead exists, significant budgetary problems are likely to imply that Curaçao and Sint Maarten will face considerable challenges in defining sound development solutions and programs that will result in the achievement of the MDGs. It appears that strong international cooperation will be required to mitigate these challenges and facilitate achievement of commitments by 2015.

Foreign Direct Investment also can generate economic growth, employment and export revenues in addition to providing access to new and better technologies. It is therefore of utmost importance that both governments address how to attract more FDI and optimize its development relevance for the new countries. Such facilitating factors as existing/potential markets, availability of natural and human resources, a vibrant business climate, physical and social infrastructure, the legal environment and the quality of governance approaches play key roles. To promote an active investment climate, some of these factors are improving but concerted efforts need to be made to address the ones still lagging behind in Curaçao and Sint Maarten such as creating effective policies for higher education and vocational training, labor laws, industrial policy, research and development and human resources development. Another important component is fostering the promotion of corporate social responsibility, the active role of NGOs and Universities, and exploring how the OECD Guidelines can be applied with relation to initiatives like the Global Compact and Global Reporting Initiative in close partnership with the EU, UN organizations, NGOs, trade unions and the Chamber of Commerce.

Establishing a global partnership for development, particularly on ODA and debt relief, the Netherlands, a major donor to Curaçao and Sint Maarten, will cease its financial support currently provided through the Socio-Economic Initiative by 2012. The two countries will need to urgently define a way forward in generating the required resources to maintain the economic, social, cultural and environmental programs under this scheme. The development of a coherent integrated policy that links aid, trade, agriculture, environment, international financial and business services and tourism where development and poverty reduction are facilitated through tools such as aid, trade and investment in big businesses to create thousands of new jobs and a healthy and wealthy economy. A clear and concrete national development plan in each country developed on a consultative process with all relevant stakeholders in international organizations, NGOs, private sector and universities will be the key. The plan should incorporate various components, policies for joint programming, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and



communication on the lessons learned for the next five years. A midterm monitoring and evaluation will inform the challenges and bottlenecks and enable necessary action to keep on track.

The political situation must be geared at all levels to work and serve the people, the voters who gave them the confidence and vote to represent the government and parliament.

The MDG working groups have been set up and the negotiation with multilateral agencies should be continued for both countries. Among others, these groups will assist in fostering greater donor coordination,. The Rome Declaration on Harmonization principles can be applied with the four principles for recipient countries coordinating development assistance, donors align their aid with recipient countries, priorities and systems, streamline aid delivery, adopt policies, procedures and incentives that foster this harmonization process. To enhance effectiveness of such a process and measure the progress, a result based monitoring system will be necessary.

The current challenge in data accessibility is mainly due to the fact that the many government ministries and departments are not applying standardized data management procedures in maintaining the official records at a central location for easy access. Although the data are indeed available, the situation with its management creates increasing challenges from data consumers who need information in an electronic format for policy planning, monitoring and evaluation. To address this problem, the Central Bureau of Statistics in cooperation with the former Department for Development Cooperation and the UNDP and UNICEF recently concluded a training in Curaçao and Sint Maarten on knowledge and awareness of the system called Development Information System (DevInfo). Once actually set up, the consolidated DevInfo database will serve as an ideal tool for evidence-based planning,

results-focused monitoring and advocacy for policy making and closely monitoring project performance, sector performance, and the overall country performance on achievement of each of the development goals by 2015. The systems envisioned to be set up in Curaçao and Sint Maarten should be up and running by February 2011 and support the production of the country specific MDG Reports by 2012. A committee should be formed to jointly plan for the new country database, consisting of officers from various social and economic ministries and departments and assign a small team from the Statistical Office to capture existing data stored in-house as well as from other ministries and departments. The data gathered through these efforts in addition to the MDG statistics should serve as the basis for populating CURInfo, and SXMInfo, the first standardized socio-economic databases for the new countries. Sint Vincent and the Grenadines recently adopted the DevInfo system and localized it into VinInfo for its 32 Islands as their socio economic analytical, monitoring and advocacy tool.

The importance of institutional capacity for policy coherence cannot be overstated. Given the inter linkages between poverty reduction and development, it is crucially important that institutional capacity is urgently built so that other ministries and departments become closely involved in issues related to the MDGs through a coherent policy. Such a policy should consider the capacity building in results based management with a human interest perspective that will ensure the timely delivery of services with improved results that are within budget and more satisfactory and sustainable. Such a policy should consider the recognized social dialogue platforms that already exist in Curaçao and Sint Maarten with knowledge and skills for consultative dialogue and providing opportunities that should be utilized by government. This MDG Report was facilitated by such networks.

If Curaçao and Sint Maarten desire an economy of wealthy, prosperous and fulfilled citizens with aspirations for sustainable socio economic development by 2016, it is crucially timely to set an appropriate vision and priorities and align strategies/policies in short, medium and long term plans. The strategies should support a labor force development where the right values, skills sets and attitudes meet the local and international industrial demand. Such programs must be funded in the multi-year budgets of the government by an implementation and monitoring process that ensures efficiency in implementation and contributes to a strong economic development environment. There is need for new legislation, policies, procedures and infrastructure that is supported by relevant stakeholders and synchronized with all relevant ministries and processes. Best practices must be documented and shared: particularly in the fields of economic *productivity and efficiency measures, creative pay systems and incentive packages; situation of migrant workers; professional development, and social programming.* The synchronization and cross fertilization of governmental actions regarding labor, economy, education, health, environment, infrastructure and social programming can assist to improve the quality of life of the Curaçao people by 2016.

Investing in people is an urgent need for the aggressive pursuit of an economy that values every worker and provides optimal opportunity for growth and participation in the economy. To succeed in this environment systems and practices that develop manpower can assist to respond swiftly to the new challenges and opportunities. In the past, manpower was just a factor of production; today, it is a key source of wealth. This requires focus on the education of adults and seeing them as learners. Hence, it must engage in a systemic reform process that synchronizes policies and priorities across all sectors of society to create an integrated system that results in an integrated labor force development plan and related policies proving a foundation, vision and direction for long term economic growth, labor force creation and improvement of the social status of the people.

Barbados, an uprising Caribbean nation has reduced its poverty levels from 23 to 7% in the past ten years by taking international best practices and applying them to its local context with relatively short term success through focused, master planning vision, and change of mindset about the shared responsibilities and shared sacrifice needed for long term durability and sustainability. If Barbados could do it, Curaçao and Sint Maarten can learn from this experience and do it better.

There is only one opportunity for doing things right. The time is now. Let's start by building a national coalition of partnerships of government, NGOs, communities, volunteers, private sector, universities, media, multilateral agencies and others to develop a consultative practical plan of action and jointly implement, monitor and evaluate so that by 2016, we can tell the world together about our achievements. The time is now to act.

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## A Process Driven Exercise

Since the beginning of 2010 UNDP and the former DEVCO under the project '*Capacity Development for Nation Building of the Netherlands Antilles*' embarked on the preparation of this first diagnostic report with an understanding that a clear situational analysis would provide a backdrop for the future adoption and localization of the MDGs. With the support of academic, private sector and civil society representation, intensive consultations commenced with two back-to-back MDG sensitization and advocacy workshops and public lectures held in Willemstad, Curaçao and Phillipsburg, Sint Maarten with participation of representatives from all the five islands of the former Netherlands Antilles. This helped to create awareness and encourage commitment to the achievement of the MDGs by introducing the participants to the MDGs, provide a description of what they are and are not, the history and role of the UN system and of UNDP; support the process of mapping statistical assets and challenges, principles on how to organize a National MDG-based Strategy with focus on supporting the mapping and assessing for an MDG Report; build understanding of how MDGs can be made relevant in the national policy & planning process, implementation, monitoring and evaluation for accountability and sharing of examples from the Caribbean region. As a follow up to the workshops, building on the momentum already created, a series of Island level national consultations in the former Netherlands Antilles immediately took place to track the data availability, accessibility and institute a smooth process towards production of this report. An MDG Tracking log-frame developed by the UNDP was used by the islands to start documenting available data, the departments that may have access to the needed data and identifying possible data gaps. Information from the log-frame was validated during the field missions to all five islands. One field mission to Sint Maarten coincided with the Hurricane season where mission members were caught in Hurricane Earl that was nonetheless braved. UNDP is pleased with the process of report preparation whereby it is a government led process with a high degree of national ownership yet at the same time inclusive of the involvement of an independent author, civil society, academia and private sector. This contributed to the draft findings' independence, credibility and a process owned by the governments and citizens of the islands of the former Netherlands Antilles.

In view of the need to institutionalize the process towards future localization and monitoring of the MDGs, the project provided a training of trainers for the set up of DevInfo databases in Sint Maarten and Curaçao. DevInfo will be used to support the monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the MDG, the results of which will be directly applicable to the strategic planning of the Government of Sint Maarten. It is a web-based database that is used to compile and disseminate data on socio-economic development monitoring and evaluation.



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