

SYSTEMATIZATION
OF EXPERIENCES
**RAPID DIGITAL
SOCIO - ECONOMIC
IMPACT
ASSESSMENT**
OF COVID-19
AMONG INDIGENOUS
HOUSEHOLDS

▶▶▶▶ *SURINAME*

May 2021



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Board of the Association of Indigenous Leaders in Suriname (VIDS), chaired by Captain Theo Jubitana, and the technical team of the executive office of VIDS, represented by

*Maria Josee Artist,
Cylene France
and Carla Madsian*

*Jacinda Fairholm and the SEIA team
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Leon Wijngaarde

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Deputy Resident Representative at UNDP Suriname

All respondents, local facilitators, translators and members of the households in the various Indigenous Villages in Suriname

Systematization of Experiences:
*Ditta Trindade
Maria Josee Artist*



ACRONYMS

HH	Households
NGO	Non-governmental organization
RD SEIA	Rapid Digital Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEIA	Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP CB	United Nations Development Programme Crisis Bureau
UNDP CO	United Nations Development Programme Country Office
UNDP CSMT	Country Support Management Team
UNDP RB LAC	United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Latin America and Caribbean
UNDP RH	United Nations Development Programme Regional Hub
UNDP RRF	United Nations Development Programme Rapid Response Facility
GEF/ SGP	Global Environment Facility/ Small Grants Programme
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
VIDS	Vereniging van Inheemse Dorpshoofden in Suriname - Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname



INTRODUCTION

This document presents the unique experience of the Rapid Digital Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (RD SEIA) of COVID-19 survey implemented in 300 indigenous households in Suriname¹. In a complex context of COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP Country Office with the support of the UNDP Crisis Bureau in New York and the UNDP Regional Hub in Panama, together with a team of experts and with the involvement of the representatives of the indigenous communities through the organization Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname (VIDS)² designed and implemented throughout 2020 a survey that brings light to the living conditions of diverse indigenous communities across Suriname.

Thanks to this survey it is for the first time that a dataset with indicators of indigenous communities has been developed and analyzed with the lenses of socio-economic vulnerability, as well as gender. It is also for the first time that a digital survey has been applied with the indigenous population.

Part of a broader context of UN integrated response to COVID-19³ in which *“the COVID-19 pandemic beyond being a health crisis, has become a socio-economic*

crisis and a humanitarian crisis. While the impact of the pandemic will vary from country to country, it will most likely increase poverty and inequalities at a global scale, making achievement of SDGs even more urgent.”; UNDP together with its country offices worldwide have become the technical lead to assess the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on economies and communities and formulate a socio-economic response⁴.

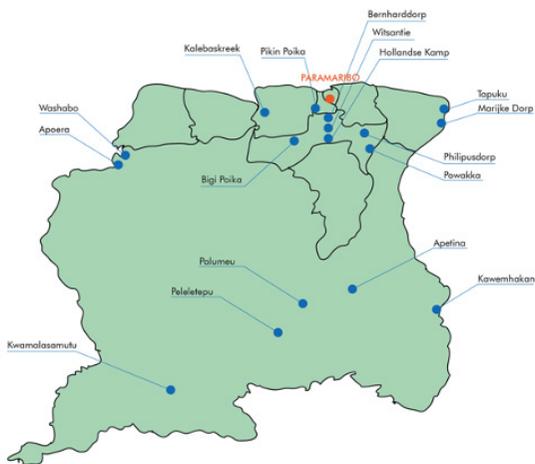
Together with the UN Country Teams, UNDP developed over 70 socio-economic impact assessments, aiming to advise policy-makers early on of socio-economic impact scenarios and consequences.

The rapid assessment on impact of COVID-19 in 300 indigenous households was conducted by UNDP Country Office Suriname and was triggered by the initial identification of vulnerable groups in the UNDP-led UNCT SEIA, as part of the overall UN Socio-Economic Impact Assessment and Response Plan for Covid-19 in Suriname prepared by the UN Country Team⁵ with technical lead of UNDP and aiming to help expedite and facilitate urgent support⁶.



“THIS INITIATIVE HAS A LONGER TERM PERSPECTIVE, IF THE PILOT IS SUCCESSFUL, IT HAS A GREAT POTENTIAL TO INFLUENCE POLICY, HEALTH MANAGEMENT POLICY, INTERIOR AND COSTAL ENGAGEMENT WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN SURINAME.”

Jacinda Fairholm, UNDP Crisis Bureau



The objective of RD-SEIA in the face of the COVID-19 crisis was to assist the government of Suriname with an analysis that would support the early relief measures, recovery strategies and to facilitate decision-making processes regarding the indigenous population.

In particular, the Rapid Digital SEIA aimed:

- To provide guidance on how to minimize the consequences of COVID-19 for the households at risk of falling into poverty and ensure that the most vulnerable populations are protected.
- To identify and address immediate needs and pave the way for UNDP to assist the national government to address the more structural socio-economic bottlenecks in Suriname, with specific focus on the Indigenous Community, and build back stronger and greener.

With the support of VIDS and the authorization of the indigenous village leaders, the process involved 17 villages, as indicated in the map⁷ aside, from the five regions of Suriname (East Suriname, West Suriname, Central Suriname, East-South Suriname – Trio, Southern-West - Wayana) out of 52 villages which are members of VIDS. Over 300 indigenous households were visited, and 289 surveys were successfully completed.

UNDP decided to document this process through the Systematization of Experiences, a methodology that enables a reconstruction of the process of RD SEIA, a critical reflection and harnessing learning from the experience.



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“THIS MAY BE THE FIRST EVER VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT OF THE INDIGENOUS GROUPS IN SURINAME. THE SEIA IS NOT A ONE OFF EXERCISE. THIS FIRST ONE SETS A BASELINE, AND IT CAN BE USED IN DESIGNING THE INTERVENTIONS. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BE ABLE TO MONITOR AND MEASURE THE PROGRESS.”

Ruben Martoredjo, UNDP Country Office

¹The aim was to survey 300 indigenous households. In total more than 300 households were visited. In the end 289 valid data surveys were collected. Around 15 of the initially contacted households' respondents declined their participation.

²VIDS is the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname that collaborated with UNDP on the field work implementation.

³UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. p.32, accessed on 15 February 2021, <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/UN-framework-for-the-immediate-socio-economic-response-to-COVID-19.pdf>

⁴UNDP report, Beyond Recovery: Towards 2030, p.4

⁵UN Socio-Economic Impact Assessment and Response Plan for Covid-19 in Suriname, p.84 and 97, accessed on 15 February 2021,

https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/covid19/Suriname_SE%20Assessment%20and%20Response%20Plan_FINAL.pdf

https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/COVID-19_30_million_Rapid_Response_Facility_launched_for_vulnerable_countries.html ,
accessed on 15 February 2021.

⁶https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/COVID-19_30_million_Rapid_Response_Facility_launched_for_vulnerable_countries.html ,
accessed on 15 February 2021.

⁷Note that is map has been developed for the purpose of this document and has an illustrative character. The villages are not placed based on specific geographical coordinates.



SYSTEMATIZATION OF EXPERIENCES

“WHAT TO LEARN, HOW TO LEARN, WHY LEARN, WHY AND FOR WHOM DO WE LEARN – AND CONSEQUENTLY, WHY AND AGAINST WHOM DO WE NOT LEARN – ARE THEORETICAL - PRACTICAL AND NOT INTELLECTUAL ISSUES THAT WE PROPOSE REGARDING THE ACT OF LEARNING (...) THERE ARE, FOR THIS VERY REASON, NO NEUTRAL SPECIALISTS, “OWNERS” OF NEUTRAL TECHNIQUES... THERE ARE NO “NEUTRAL METHODOLOGISTS.”

Paulo Freire - Letters to Guinea - Bissau¹⁰

The systematization of experiences is a method inspired by the critical pedagogy of Paulo Freire⁸ and has been used in different contexts to strengthen learning through the exercise that produces critical knowledge through practice⁹.

The choice of the systematization of experiences, as a methodology, opens a possibility to embrace the different understandings, knowledge clusters, persons and what they represent, as well as lines of action that were part of the process and to organize and communicate learnings, while highlighting good practice.

The systematization facilitated documentation and experience sharing of the UNDP Country Office Suriname and all the stakeholders and rightsholders¹¹ involved in the Rapid Digital Socioeconomic Impact Assessment (RD-SEIA) on Indigenous Households.

As a first Socioeconomic Impact Assessment dedicated to Indigenous Communities, UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean and UNDP Suriname decided to document the experiences, the process and the outcomes, in order to highlight the learnings and reflect on the possibilities of improvement of RD-SEIA having in mind the specificities of the indigenous population, with regards to their socio-economic realities, as well as their lifestyles, identities and cultural heritage.

This systematization sets a precedent for other countries to follow in regard to respect of the indigenous worldview in the data collection process;



SYSTEMATIZATION PHASES

The Systematization of Experiences adapted to this specific context included six phases:

Phase 1 - Setting up the initial premise

Phase 2 - Definition and fine-tuning of key questions

Phase 3 - Reconstruction of the experienced process

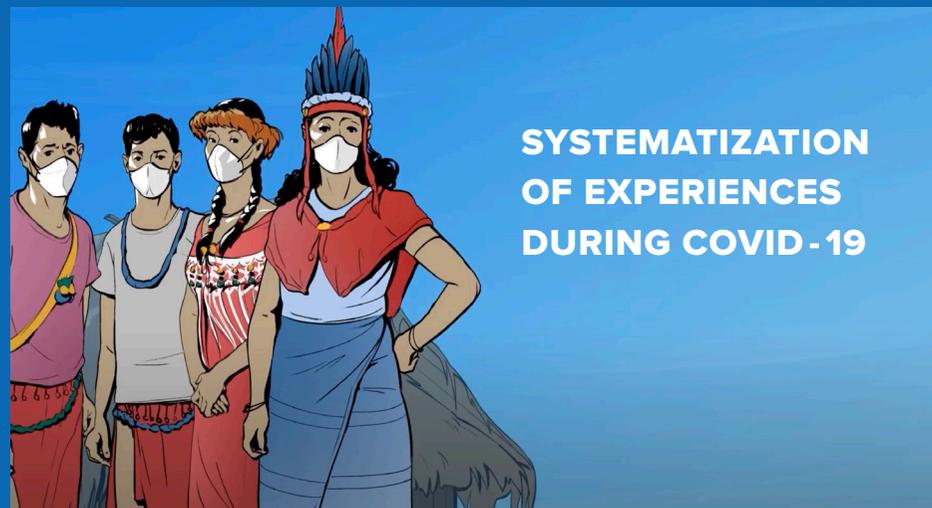
Phase 4 - In-depth critical reflection of the process

Phase 5 - Identification of key learnings from the process

Phase 6 - Communication of conclusions

creation of ownership among the indigenous communities; considering the specific challenges of the indigenous communities; empowering them by improving their leverage with other stakeholders and rightsholders; raising awareness of the key issues towards the national authorities, civil society and international community; and informing public policies and interventions to be adapted and sensitive to the indigenous needs and priorities¹²”.

Additionally, it may have been for the first time that the methodology of the systematization of experiences has been applied virtually, without face-to-face meetings of the actors involved and without visits to the communities in question. Thanks to the digital tools and the involvement of VIDS and its network, individual testimonies were collected, and a dialogue and reflection among the key actors involved in the process were possible.



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SYSTEMATIZATION PHASES

Phase 1 - Setting up the initial premise

A systematization often challenges people's expectation about learning and working in a team. To avoid misunderstandings the organization and the participants have to be aware of what they are getting into.

A formal initiation of a systematization process involved a meeting between the representative of the UNDP CO and the representatives of VIDS who supervised the data collection process in the field of the RD SEIA implementation.

UNDP CO informed the UNDP colleagues by email of the systematization of experiences process as well as pre-recorded a short voice message addressed to the indigenous community leaders, facilitators and translators that explained the method and the process in detail.

This phase also involves the taking stock of all the existing documentation, materials, in-depth dialogue between the facilitators of the systematization and the supervisors of RD SEIA implementation in the indigenous communities.

Phase 2 - Definition and fine-tuning of key questions

The process of systematization of experiences involves the definition of its boundaries. In this framework it was agreed that:

- The objective of the systematization is to gather the learnings from the process of RD SEIA carried out in 300 indigenous households in Suriname.
- The systematization process looked at the process of RD SEIA implementation in indigenous households in Suriname as a whole, highlighting the key phases and momenta.
- The key questions focused on the experience of the process and the main lessons learned:

1. How did you get involved in RD SEIA and what is your understanding of it (story behind, meaning and understandings)
2. How was this experience for you (what happened and when, met and unmet expectations, unforeseen outcomes)
3. What are the main learnings (what can you celebrate, what would you do differently)



KEY ACTORS

UNDP CRISIS BUREAU, NEW YORK - experts from the integrated Country Support Management Team, Management services and Country recovery processes, and the focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Provided support with the socio-economic assessment, support to LAC country offices, expertise via a team of economists, data analysts, information management and digital assessment.

UNDP LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL HUB, PANAMA - provided expertise on gender equality and mainstreaming, review of RD SEIA questionnaire and support to data analysis and interpretation.

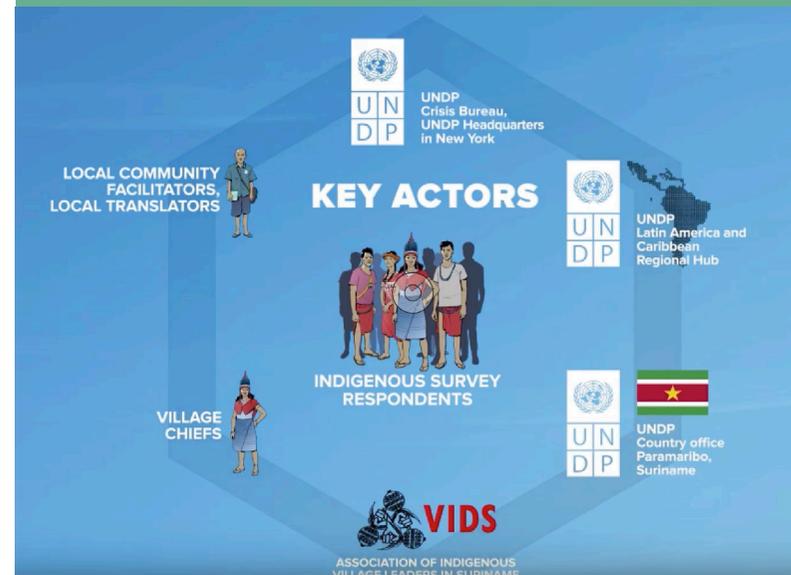
UN COUNTRY TEAM SURINAME - comprises of both resident and non-resident agencies. Preparation of SEIA with 12 vulnerable groups including children, youth, disability, elderly, women and girls, informal sector, and indigenous and tribal peoples. UNICEF reviewed and provided input to the questionnaire from a child-rights perspective.

UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE SURINAME - Launched the initiative, actively engaged in design and planning of the survey, including questionnaire adaptation. Responsible for partnership and cooperation, monitoring, support to the implementing agency VIDS, communication with the Surinamese government. Also involved support from the UNDP Small Grant Programme.

INTERNATIONAL SENIOR ECONOMIST - responsible for the report writing process.

NATIONAL UNV SUPPORT - National UN volunteer recruited under the Tandem Initiative of the Regional Bureau of Latin America and UNV, supported the International Senior Economist with the report writing.

VIDS - ASSOCIATION OF INDIGENOUS VILLAGE LEADERS IN SURINAME - Implementing agency responsible for field work supervision, coordination, local partnership development, respect to indigenous leadership and culture. Involved three supervisors.



VILLAGE CHIEFS - Authorised the survey implementation in 17 villages. In two cases, the village chiefs acted also as community facilitators.

LOCAL COMMUNITY FACILITATORS - Responsible for survey data collection in 300 households in 17 villages. In larger villages there were five facilitators responsible for data collection in 5-6 households each; in smaller villages there were three facilitators.

LOCAL TRANSLATORS - Responsible for translating the questionnaire, support during the Teach in, and other translations to and from Dutch and the indigenous languages Sranan Tongo, Wayana and Trio.

INDIGENOUS SURVEY RESPONDENTS - Respondents of the digital survey of the RD SEIA from the 17 indigenous villages in Suriname.



Phase 3 - Reconstruction of the experienced process

The reconstruction phase involved biography work, telling and writing down of the history/process. It focused on what happened, and not on what was supposed to happen, or what was planned to happen. The key was to describe the experience from all stakeholders and rightsholders' points of view in a non-judgmental manner, restraining from interpretations or evaluations.

This phase involved actively 80 persons in the systematization of experiences process, see table aside.

INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS – 27 local facilitators conducted 28 interviews with RD SEIA survey respondents. Four facilitators, two village chiefs and five translators participated in in-depth interviews, as well as three members of UNDP CO Suriname, four persons from the UNDP Crisis Bureau and two persons from the UNDP regional hub. Three supervisors of RD SEIA implementation from VIDS were also interviewed. The individual interviews were recorded, filmed or responded to in a written way and then translated.

SINGLE STAKEHOLDERS' GROUPS MEETINGS with village chiefs, local facilitators and translators took place on 16th, 17th and 25th February 2021. In addition, separate meetings have taken place with the Wayana and Trio facilitators and village leaders.

A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER MEETING took place with the key stakeholders and rightsholders on 24th February 2021, after the semi-structured interviews and the initial single stakeholder meetings among the village chiefs, the local facilitators and translators have taken place.

The reconstruction of the process of RD SEIA of COVID-19 in indigenous communities in Suriname from its design till the end of the process of the systematization of experiences involved collective efforts. It was part of the interviews, as well as collective single-stakeholders' meeting agenda. Interactive online tools for the re-construction of the processes were used such as Padlet, Power points presentation and Zoom.

To facilitate the reconstruction process at a distance, a timeline has been developed online through a collective effort involving the UNDP CO, UNDP CB, UNDP RB LAC and VIDS.

<i>Key stakeholders</i>	<i>Number of persons involved</i>	<i>Number of persons interviewed</i>	<i>Participants in single-stakeholders' meetings</i>	<i>Participants in multi-stakeholders' meeting</i>
<i>UNDP Country Office Suriname</i>	3	3	1	2
<i>UNDP Crisis Bureau</i>	4	4	0	3
<i>UNDP Regional Hub</i>	2	2	2	2
<i>VIDS</i>	4	4	4	4
<i>Local facilitators</i>	27	4	11	8
<i>Village chiefs</i>	7	2	5	5
<i>Local translators</i>	5	5	4	3
<i>Indigenous survey respondents</i>	28	28	-	-
Total	80	52	27	27



TESTIMONIES

TESTIMONIES FROM SOME INDIVIDUAL SURVEY RESPONDENTS

"At first I only understood COVID-19 as getting sick, but it's more than just getting sick."

"I want to know what is happening, what this infection is about. We only hear what is being said. When they have chosen to interview me, I agreed and listened carefully to what was being said. Based on this I would decide if it was something good or not."

"I think it is good because the same people who did the survey are the same people who conduct this current interview. I am not too fond of it (research), but i am proud that our fellow villagers in Kalebaskreek have conducted these interviews."

TESTIMONIES FROM SOME TRANSLATORS

"I am very proud of villagers who were able to download the ZOOM app and get connected without any assistant in the community and only online instructions." "I have also learned what to do and what not to do in an online (zoom) training; It should not take too long (max. 1,5 hour) and interaction between trainer and trainee is a must."

Jupta Itoewaki, Wayana translator

"I did translation in Trio but use of words differs between Kwamalasamutu and Tepu. I needed to support facilitators from Tepu with extra explanations. I also used google translation to understand some Dutch terms."

Maike Jaachpi, Trio translator

TESTIMONIES FROM SOME LOCAL VILLAGE FACILITATORS

"For me it was exciting to do this online work and I was happy I could speak Wayana. I also felt sorry for my brother because he also wanted to be a facilitator but his mobile was out of date and he could not download the app. I also felt sorry for this person (female) from Palumeu who did not have

opportunity to charge her mobile so after the training she stopped doing the work. We all should get the opportunity to learn. Now it is for the lucky one who have mobile phone and power. I did communicate often with the translators when I did not understand questions; they helped me very well."

Arex Koemaja, facilitator from Apetina

"It was really challenging for me to type in the answers. Besides entering it into my phone, I wrote down all the questions. Sometimes I had internet problems. I had written the questions down so I could look there. Standing up was also exhausting."

Thea Romalho, facilitator from Witsanti

TESTIMONY FROM A VILLAGE CHIEF

"It (RD SEIA) was new to us, to work online. This was different then going around with a questionnaire on paper." "It was good to participate in this study as village leader because daily I see what is happening in the community, I hear what people say about the situation, their concerns. Some had lost their job, some started planting a plot, just to continue providing for their family. That was a major change, because if you are accustomed to work full time, or in the timber or gold industry, or at the airport, and everything had come to a halt, this was a big challenge to survive. I experienced that as threat to my people. We were relegated to beggar. We had to make a list of names of those in need, and we did so, but we kept waiting."

Chief Theo Jubitana, Hollandse Kamp

TESTIMONY FROM VIDS

"Why was it important that VIDS participated in the UNDP survey – if not us, then who? If the traditional village leaders did not support the process, there would not be the community involvement. The involvement of the village leaders was crucial and their consent on the cooperation with the UNDP."

Cylene France, VIDS supervisor



Phase 4 - In-depth critical reflection of the process

The multistakeholder meeting of the 24th February 2021, served both the purpose of the reconstruction of the process, as well as facilitated sharing and a more critical reflection of the process of RD SEIA. It was followed up by another meeting of representatives of the village chiefs, translators, facilitators, VIDS and UNDP CO on the 25th February 2021, where additional perspectives were shared, and future perspectives gathered.

Phase 5 - Identification of key learnings from the process

A collection of key issues was gathered online on Padlet, and it also presents some of key learnings. Based on this overview, as well as on the in-depth interviews and discussions during the single and multi-stakeholders' meetings, the recommendations section has been developed to facilitate further reflections and learning.

⁸ Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Paz e Terra, 1970.

⁹ Oscar Jara Holliday, *Systematization of Experiences, Research and Evaluation: Three Different Approaches*

<http://educacionglobalresearch.net/wp-content/uploads/02B-Jara-Ing1%C3%A9s2.pdf>

¹⁰ Paulo Freire, *Letters to Guinea Bissau*, Paz e Terra, 1978

¹¹ By referring to the rightsholders, we want to make sure that a rights-based approach is applied in an explicit manner, highlighting the rights of indigenous peoples.

¹² Adapted from Terms of Reference for RD SEIA

Phase 6 - Communication of the conclusions

The outcomes of the systematization of experiences have been gathered in an official report, this knowledge product and a video gathering some of the key testimonies.

During the process of systematization, it was pointed out that the most suitable way to present the outcomes and results of the RD SEIA to the indigenous communities is in a printed form in Dutch as well as the local languages.

It is of utmost importance that both the outcomes of the RD SEIA and the Systematization of Experiences of RD SEIA are shared with the indigenous communities, in particular with the village leaders, local facilitators, translators and respondents that participated in the process of the survey.



TIMELINE *March - July 2021*

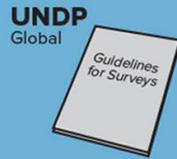
MARCH 2020

First Contact



APRIL 2020

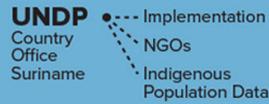
Response



Global training on Rapid Digital Socio-Economic Impact Assessment



Initial Proposal



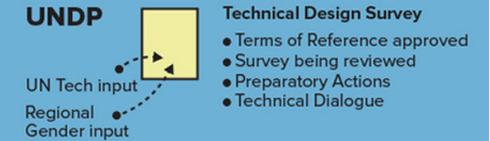
MAY 2020

Importance of the Survey



JUNE 2020

Survey Development



JULY 2020

Implementation Challenges



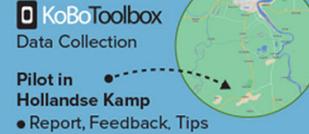
Internal Communication



Cooperation Agreement



Pilot Test

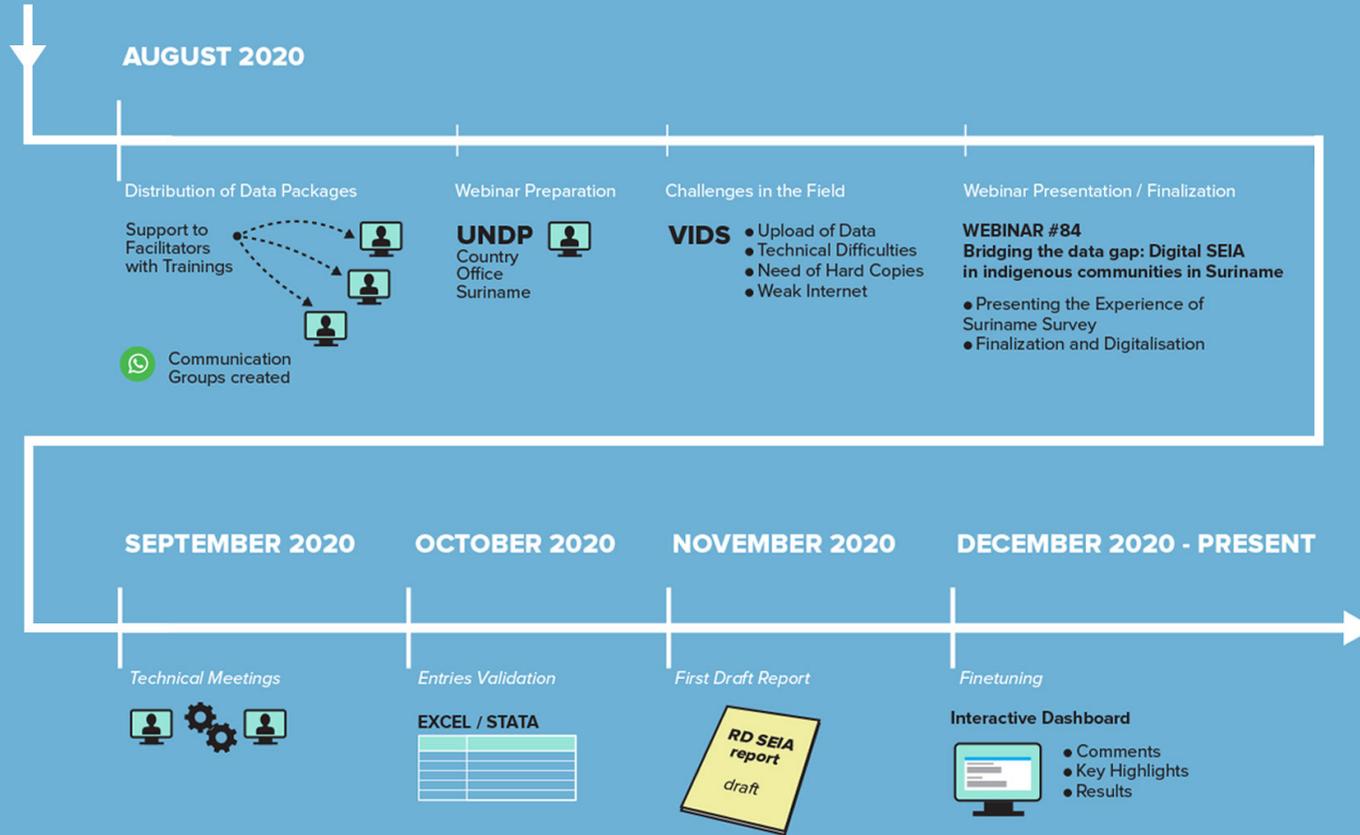


Contacting Villages



Survey Translations

TIMELINE *August - December 2021*



KEY LEARNINGS

“WHEN NOTHING IS SURE, EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE.”

Margaret Drabble, English Novelist and Critic

If someone asked if a digital survey on socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 to be implemented in 300 households in indigenous communities, including in some of the most remote areas is possible, how many would respond positively?

There is a saying that everything looks impossible, until it is done.

Looking back at the process of RD SEIA on COVID-19 in Indigenous communities in Suriname, there is lots to celebrate:

- **New partnerships developed** and existing **partnerships strengthened** between UNDP CB, RH and CO, UNDP and VIDS, as well as at the community level between VIDS and the villages chiefs, local facilitators, translators and people in the indigenous villages;

- **Trust developed** among developed among UNDP offices involved; between UNDP and VIDS as partners; and UNDP, VIDS and contributors of the survey, including fieldworkers / facilitators. At another level, trust was also strengthened among the local indigenous actors and VIDS – village leaders, villages facilitators, translators and survey respondents;

- **New learning experiences** for all involved in the process at different levels;

- **Empowerment** of the local indigenous actors **to use and apply digital research tools, participate in online meetings**, and communicate on a regular basis via social media;

- **Renewed hope for a better future**, once the data gathered is analysed and presented to the local authorities, the government, and the funders community to address the multiple and diverse needs of the different indigenous communities;

- **Openness to new opportunities** for cooperation in the communities, whether on continuity of research and other activities to address peoples' needs.



Summary overview of the key learnings from the process

UNDERSTANDINGS

- Challenges in the understanding of specific terms such as health and money
- Use of local languages that refer to local realities; often far away from concepts used in the survey
- Assumptions of monetary economy vs. reality of barter relations and self-sufficiency
- A thorough preparation with local actors saves time in the implementation

TRUST

- Communication and trust building process strengthened the partnership between UNDP and indigenous people
- Excellent support from VIDS, village chiefs, facilitators and translators

COMMUNICATION

- Translations were key to the understanding of the survey
- Diverse and multiple communication tools used in the process
- Most respondents welcomed the opportunity to share information through the survey

BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

- Access to internet
- Access to technologies
- Access to electricity
- Isolated communities were included by responding via hard copies

UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Those involved in the process improved their digital skills and appreciated learning
- Translators created a true ownership of the process and acted as mentors
- Young people, often young women, who acted as local facilitators, felt valued and empowered
- The created ownership of the research process was highly valued by the community and can be further build upon

PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

- Trust in the traditional leaders and support from the community
- Respect for gender balance
- Involvement of all actors from the beginning till the end of the process
- Timely information on the process in the indigenous communities, and their decision to participate in the survey or not



CONCLUSIONS

To offer a simple summary of the complex and unique process of the first RD SEIA on COVID-19 in indigenous communities in Suriname is not an easy task. It may be that the word cloud *(image on the following page)* that emerged as a synthesis of the Multistakeholder meeting of the systematization of experiences, is the most telling.

While it may be useful to highlight some immediate recommendations for follow-up and some the opportunities that emerged from the systematization process, the overall purpose was to invite all the stakeholders to further collaborate on communicating the results of the RD SEIA survey to the different audiences and initiate a joint dialogue on the most suitable ways to respond to the situation depicted in the survey.

These **recommendations** were mentioned, as an immediate follow up:

- Sharing of the results of the RD SEIA with the indigenous communities and subsequent communication on how to address their needs specifically in the different communities.

- Sharing of the results of the RD SEIA with the relevant national authorities inquiring on the possible policies and programming that would respond to the situation depicted in the report.

- Revision of the process of RD SEIA with the key stakeholders, including the key village chiefs, the translators and some facilitators based on the systematization of experiences report and re-thinking the technical aspects and how these could be further improved in future.

- Sharing of the key lessons learned from this very first experience RD SEIA on COVID-19 in indigenous communities with the wider UN system, in context where this or similar tools were applied in indigenous communities in the region.



The RD-SEIA provided timely, specific analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on indigenous populations and that this data provided important baseline which was utilized in resource mobilization for a project to respond to the needs of the indigenous peoples including the improvement of the access to water, livelihoods, income generation opportunities. There may be other new opportunities emerging from this process.

Finally, there is hope that future steps will also involve a dialogue with the national ministries, and the other funding institutions to develop adequate policies and design programming that addresses the rights of the indigenous peoples in Suriname.



Taken during the online multi-stakeholders' meeting on 24/02/2021





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