



NSP 2020-2028

# Quality of Life and Well-being

By 2030, Aruba will have a good quality of life and well-being for all by warranting equitable and direct access to basic services and ample opportunities to develop one's full potential





Program 1 Report  
December 2019

## Quality of Life & Well-being



# By 2030, Aruba will....

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| SDG Target<br>1.2, localized | Improve the current level of wealth of men, women and children of all ages according to national definitions   |
| SDG Target<br>1.3            | Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable   |
| SDG Target<br>1.4, localized | Ensure that all men and women have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance |
| SDG Target<br>3.4, localized | Relatively reduce the overall mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases   |
| SDG Target<br>3.5            | Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol   |
| SDG Target<br>3.9, localized | Substantially reduce the number of illnesses due to air pollution  |
| SDG Target<br>3.a, localized | Reduce by 30% the prevalence of current tobacco use  |
| SDG Target<br>4.3            | Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university   |
| SDG Target<br>4.4            | Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship  |
| SDG Target<br>4.5            | Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, and children in vulnerable situations  |
| SDG Target<br>4.6            | Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy  |

# By 2030, Aruba will... (cont.)

SDG Target  
4.7

Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

SDG Target  
5.2, localized

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women, girls, men and boys in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

SDG Target  
8.5

Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

SDG Target  
8.6, localized

Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

SDG Target  
10.2, localized

Empower and promote the social and economic inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, with special attention to the most vulnerable

SDG Target  
10.4

Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

SDG Target  
16.1

Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

SDG Target  
16.1, localized

Reduction of all forms of violence against children

SDG Target  
16.2

End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

SDG Target  
16.3

Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

# **Strategic objectives**

## **Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups in the society**

Pg. 10

Aruba will have more collaborative and coordinated approaches across sectors, domains and disciplines are fostered when addressing the individual social needs of vulnerable groups in the society, seeking herewith to maximize the impact of the planned and ongoing interventions by the varied agencies in the public, private and voluntary sectors targeting the vulnerable groups

## **Reduce the prevalence of NCDs**

Pg. 13

Aruba will have a National Strategic plan on Non-Communicable Diseases in order to reduce morbidity and mortality and contribute to a longer healthier life

## **Strengthen and integrate mental health, social and emotional well-being at all levels**

Pg. 18

Aruba will have integrated, sustainable systems and programs in place contributing to the mental health, social and emotional well-being of the community with a focus on vulnerable children, youth, young adults and persons with disabilities

## **Develop an active and skilled labor force in order to warrant access to decent work**

Pg. 22

Aruba will have an active, skilled and competitive labor force to deliver productive employment, social protection and rights at work to support stability and inclusive economic growth with special attention to the most vulnerable

## **Strengthen child protection and safety system**

Pg. 25

Aruba will strengthen the child protection system in its capacity to prevent and timely respond to violence against children

## **Invest in an integrated approach on Life Long Learning**

Pg. 28

Aruba will improve and optimize human potential and human development by offering different pathways that enable individuals to actively participate in the Aruban society

## **Promote and develop universal values**

Pg. 31

Aruba will have an integrated and holistic approach on universal Values by stimulating both primary and secondary socialization

## Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) Quality of Life Group developed a description of ‘quality of life,’ and it conceptualizes that quality of life is an individual’s perception of his or her position in life in the context of the culture and value systems. It also depends on his or her goals, expectations, standards, and concerns. This is an inclusive and broad description of well-being encompassing social indicators, happiness, and health status. It also captures positive aspects of coping, resilience, satisfaction, and autonomy, among other issues. A United Nations resolution in 2011 stated: ‘..the pursuit of happiness is a fundamental human goal’. It also stresses that ‘the gross domestic product indicator by its nature was not designed to and did not adequately reflect the happiness and well-being of people in a country.’

With all the economic development and the growth of the tourism industry, Aruba’s social context has changed over time. The exponential growth of migrants and visitors to Aruba, resulted in significant changes in the society, bringing with it tremendous stress on the community. This growth in our population, because of the influx of people with different cultural customs and values, required rapid and more development of infrastructure, buildings, and consequently the destructive impact hereof on our nature and environment.

In recent years, the government concluded that Aruba is experiencing a social crisis. There seems to be a decrease in mortality and responsibility at all levels of society,

an increase of inhabitants living under marginalized conditions due to unemployment and cheap labor. It was also determined that there is a weakening of the social network of family that parents traditionally relied on to serve as a united front to instill good norms and values in their children. The reinforcement of this network should be one of the crucial elements in combatting the social crisis.

In the promotion of lifelong learning, it is essential to acknowledge the fact that Aruba is confronted with a rapidly aging population, increased pension-age, and a significant inflow of low-skilled immigrants. There is a lack of awareness and conviction that residents of all generations, including immigrants, are entitled to the same continuing education opportunities, which can empower individuals and those around them. As such, lifelong learning policies and programs must take into account those as mentioned earlier and encourage intergenerational learning, learning as a tool to help migrants integrate and be part of the Aruban society, learning to obtain a decent job and learning to improve quality of life and wellbeing.

Good mental health is integral to human health and wellbeing. The determinants of mental health and well-being are multifactorial, and some are found outside health systems. Such determinants include social exclusion, poverty, unemployment, poor housing, lousy working conditions, and problems in education, child abuse, neglect and maltreatment, gender inequalities as well as risk factors such as

alcohol and drug abuse.

It is of significant importance that action is taken to improve the conditions of everyday life, beginning before birth and progressing into early childhood, older childhood and adolescence, during family building and working ages, and through to older age. Action throughout these life stages would provide opportunities for both improving population mental health and for reducing the risk of those mental disorders that are associated with social inequalities.

Taking a life-course perspective recognizes that the influences that operate at each stage of life can change the vulnerability and exposure to harmful processes or stressors. Social arrangements and institutions, like preschool, school, and the labor market and pension systems, have a significant impact on the opportunities that empower people to choose their course in life. Formalizing partnerships between the health and other sectors such as social affairs, housing, employment, and education to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the population is of vital importance. As the world's most rapidly aging region, the Americas and the Caribbean face growing challenges from aging and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD); this plan will include efforts to meet these challenges through policies and programs that strengthen prevention, increase early detection, and ensure sustainable and universal access to appropriate, quality care, including long-term care.

Furthermore, using health promotion as a framework to promote mental wellbeing also offers a positive and inclusive concept of health as a determinant of the quality of

life, encompassing mental and spiritual well-being and adding to the overall quality of life.

**Plan  
Educación  
Nacional 2030**  
National Onderwijsplan

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**SCP**  
SOCIAAL CRISISPLAN

**RAPPORTAGE UITVOERING VAN HET  
SOCIAAL CRISISPLAN ARUBA OVER DE  
PERIODE 1 NOVEMBER 2018 EN 2019 EN  
EEN VOORUITZICHT VOOR 2020 & 2021.**



Aruba adopted the SDGs to achieve a better and more sustainable all-embracing future for our citizens. With the NSP we demonstrate that we have strengthened our efforts to achieve our goals. By achieving a good quality of life and well-being for our citizens, we support the following goals.



A young person with Down syndrome is shown from the waist up, wearing a white t-shirt with blue wavy lines and black shorts. They are holding a tennis racket and looking towards the camera with a slight smile. A yellow tennis ball is visible in the upper left corner of the frame.

## 2.1 Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups in the society

**Aruba will have fostered more collaborative and coordinated approaches across sectors, domains and disciplines when addressing the individual social needs of vulnerable groups in the society, seeking herewith to maximize the impact of the planned and ongoing interventions by the varied agencies in the public, private and voluntary sectors targeting the vulnerable groups**

## Overview

There is no universal definition of what vulnerable groups in society are. Based on the data , CBS is of the opinion that the vulnerable groups in general society can be best defined as the definition used by the European Commission:



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'Groups that experience a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion than the general population. Ethnic minorities, migrants, disabled persons, the homeless, those struggling with substance abuse, isolated elderly people and children all face difficulties that can lead to further social exclusion, such as low levels of education and unemployment or underemployment'.

The Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion DG of the European Commission

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The NSP fosters a sustainable and egalitarian development for all. Hence, it is pertinent to remediate conditions of social inequality, implicating ascertained disparities between and within social groups in, for instance, basic needs that are deemed unfair, preventable, and predictable. Arguably, unwarranted social disparities adversely influence balanced socio-economic development and concomitantly the quality of life.

## Desired Outcome 1

### Identification and empowerment of vulnerable groups in the Aruban society through an integral and coordinated approach

For the NSP, systematic actions are carried out to strengthen and expand the present institutional framework. Many of these actions will be targeting primarily such vulnerable groups as children and teens with mental and physical disabilities and troubled families with school-aged children. Furthermore, other projects will be aimed at other vulnerable and at-risk communities, such as victims of domestic violence, and men and women with disabilities.

#### Actions

- A. Strengthening the resilience of vulnerable groups by focusing on their strengths through community support and guidance initiatives
- B. Strengthen community-based and institutional long-term care by changing the subsidized financial scheme on social security
- C. Expand the present psychosocial services of FHMD to battered persons and their family members
- D. Create a national 24-hour crisis action-plan for child abuse and violence (in the context of the eventual enactment of the 'Landsverordening Meldcode' & introduction of the function of

- ‘vertrouwenarts’)
- E. Stimulate capacity building (by training and continuous follow-up) under teaching personnel to better address the social-emotional needs of the student body
  - F. Provide continuous capacity building for professionals in the health, education, and social support sectors targeting youth with low educational level and/or learning impairment
  - G. Create a collaborative partnership service across sectors and among social welfare agencies to support and empower troubled families with school-age children with assessed social-emotional problems ('systemisch hulpverlening met school als vindplaats')

## 2.2 Reduce the prevalence of NCDs

Aruba will reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment

## **Overview**

Non-communicable diseases are the leading cause of preventable and premature death and illness in the Region, with the Caribbean having the highest NCD mortality rates in the Americas. Reducing NCDs is now considered a prerequisite to addressing social and economic inequity and accelerating sustainable development for all countries. Healthy lifestyles and interventions to reduce key NCD risk factors—including tobacco use, unhealthy diet, harmful use of alcohol, and physical inactivity—can reduce the prevalence of NCDs by as much as 70%. One strategy recommended to ensure a more effective response to the issue is the development and implementation of a national NCD plan at the country level.

### **Desired Outcome 1**

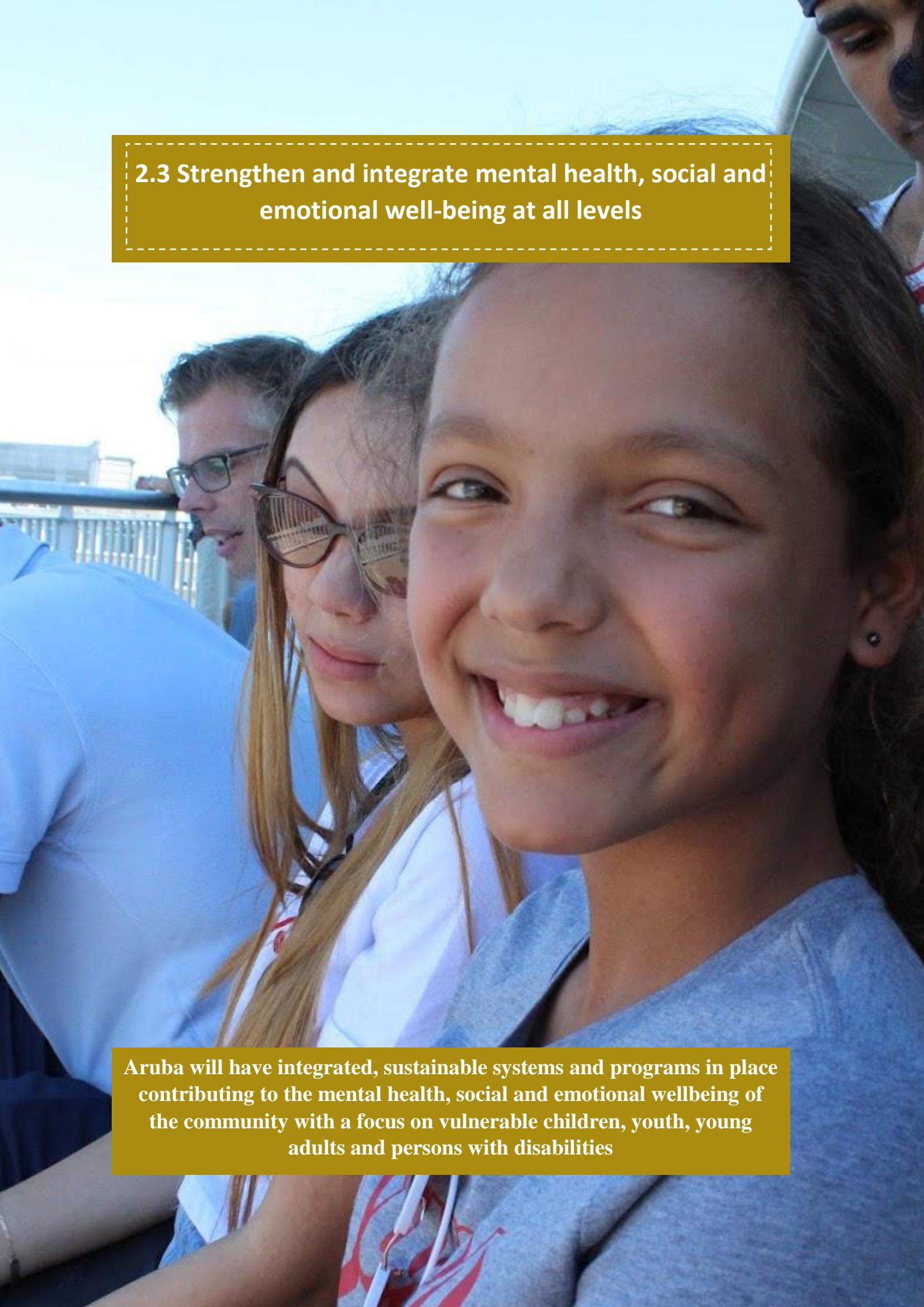
#### **Development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of NSP on NCDs**

There is an urgent need to tackle the burden of NCDs in Aruba and the resulting social, health, and economic impact on the population. NCDs are the leading cause of morbidity and mortality, with at least 58 percent of the total registered deaths from 2000 to 2010 in Aruba attributed to diseases of the circulatory system and neoplasms. Hence the necessity to develop a multisector NSP on NCDs to keep up with the global and regional guidelines. This plan will allow Aruba to respond to the current burden of NCDs in a strategic, multi-sectoral, coherent, and sustainable manner and mitigate such a burden in the future.

#### **Actions**

- A. Establish and implement an Information System for Health to facilitate surveillance, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and decision making on the NCDs
- B. Strengthen the multisector approach to reduce NCD risk factors, promote protective factors and address the Social Determinants of Health

- C. Strengthen the integration of preventative and curative services for the effective management of NCDs, including self-management.
- D. Effective leadership and governance for implementation of NSP, multisector action and Health in all policies as it applies to NCD prevention and control



A photograph showing a group of diverse young people, including a girl with glasses and a boy with a mustache, smiling and laughing together, illustrating the theme of mental health, social, and emotional well-being.

## 2.3 Strengthen and integrate mental health, social and emotional well-being at all levels

Aruba will have integrated, sustainable systems and programs in place contributing to the mental health, social and emotional wellbeing of the community with a focus on vulnerable children, youth, young adults and persons with disabilities

## Overview

Investing in social and emotional wellbeing and mental health is essential for our overall health and well-being. The WHO defines mental health as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and can contribute to her or his community. According to the PAHO, one in four people in the Americas experiences mental illness and/or substance abuse disorder in their lifetime. Around 20% of the world's children and adolescents have mental disorders or problems, and about half of the mental disorders begin before the age of 14. Neuropsychiatric disorders are among the leading causes of worldwide disability in young people.

According to a population-based health survey conducted in Aruba in 2016, almost one in every five people in the age group of 20 and older always, usually or regularly had trouble falling or staying asleep. Fifteen percent felt moody or bad-tempered without reason. One in every ten people felt sad without reason, about 16% felt lonely, 7% felt afraid without reason. One in every ten felt tense or nervous without reason and, importantly, 12% felt that it was not worth living on.

The survey result is in line with the findings from STEPS 2006 in which the respondents scored particularly high on sleeplessness (18 %), loneliness (19.3 %), and anger (18.6 %). The 2016 survey shows a steep increase in the percentage of respondents between 25 and 64 who indicate not feeling loved or desired (6-fold increase compared to 2006), not having someone entrust (2-fold increase), not being able to control one's thoughts, emotions and behavior (3.5-fold increase) and not being emotionally stable (2-fold increase).

According to data from the Epidemiology and Research Unit of the Department of Public Health, the suicide mortality rate since 1999 ranges between 2.1 and 10.8 per 100.000 population with an average rate of 6.3 per 100.000 (see Figure 1).

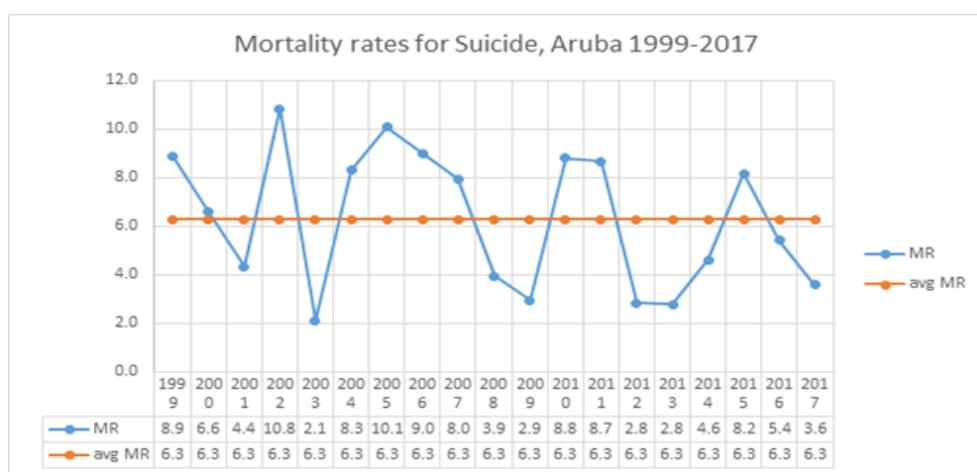


Figure 1. Mortality rates for suicide in Aruba 1999-2017

Furthermore, the Youth Health Survey Aruba conducted among 4765 school-going youth between 12 and 19 years in 2013 showed that 43.2% of those surveyed felt lonely at least sometimes during the year before the survey, 42.0% felt sad and hopeless at least sometimes,

and 36.8% felt sleepless because of worries. As for suicidal thoughts, almost 15% of the youth surveyed have seriously thought about killing themselves during the year before the survey. Of these, 99.9% made a plan of how they could execute the act, and 61.1% did try to kill themselves. Thus, a special focus on Aruban youth is justified.

## **Desired Outcome 1**

### **Improved physical and mental health system through strengthening institutional capacity**

In order to improve physical and mental health, institutional capacity needs to be addressed. Providing continuous training and education to those working in the sector, giving social-emotional support and mental health care, can improve the institutional capacity. It is also imperative to strengthen and expand facilities and programs targeting vulnerable groups such as children and teens with mental and physical disabilities.

#### **Actions**

- A. Strengthen school and community-based screening, early detection and referral (students and parents)
- B. Strengthen workforce through education, training, shared knowledge and follow-up in mental health (i.e., nursing education social, medical care, including mental health specialization MGZ-opleiding)
- C. Strengthen institutions providing care to children and teens with mental health problems, including institutions that focus on addiction and long term psychiatric conditions
- D. Procurement of a new automated youth registration and tracking system for the DVG
- E. Strengthen institutions that provide residential care for mentally impaired children/young adults up to 24 years of age for the foundation for mentally disabled persons (SVGA)

- F. Strengthen institutions providing residential care and daycare facilities for mentally impaired children requiring skilled nursing and daycare facilities for multiple disabled children/adults - Stichting Ambiente Felis
- G. Capacity expansion of day-care capacity for mentally disabled adults (Stichting Ambiente Nobo)
- H. Strengthen the rehabilitation institutional framework pertaining to drugs and alcohol addiction

## **Desired Outcome 2**

### **Integrated policies and activities that promote mental health and social-emotional well-being reviewed and developed**

The WHO defines mental health promotion as actions to create living conditions and environments that support mental health and allow people to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles. The aim of the above-mentioned desired result is foremost to prevent mental illness while promoting positive mental health and well-being through strengthening and implementing evidence-based interventions and programs. These include early childhood interventions, support to children; programs targeted at vulnerable people; mental health promotion activities in schools and at work, and violence prevention programs, to name a few. Mental health promotion should be mainstreamed into governmental and non-governmental policies and programs

across sectors such as education, labor, justice, transport, environment, housing, and welfare sectors. Beforehand it is necessary to review current policies and activities across the different sectors and examine the reported effectiveness to identify those interventions that can support current policy and to identify the need to develop new ones.

#### **Actions**

- A. Strengthen and expand health promotion programs in schools (the healthy school initiative “Scol Saludabel”)
- B. Strengthen health promotion programs at the workplace and in the community
- C. Strengthen the workforce through education and training in mental health promotion (promote protective factors minimizes risk factors)
- D. Implement school and community-based awareness - and prevention programs regarding drugs and alcohol
- E. Conduct national study/research on drugs and alcohol use among the youth

**2.4 Develop an active and skilled labor force in order to warrant access to decent work**



**Aruba will have an active, skilled and competitive labor force to deliver productive employment, social protection and rights at work to support stability and inclusive economic growth with special attention to the most vulnerable**

## **Overview**

Investing in human capital today will guarantee an active and skilled labor force for tomorrow. Globally, but also here in Aruba, we are faced with a skills mismatch in the labor market, this is when there is a misallocation between the attributes of individuals seeking jobs and the attributes and needs, which employers require for their vacant positions, hence; forcing employers to consider other possibilities to fill their vacancies and elongate the process of job seekers. This in turn results in higher unemployment because the employers are having difficulty filling current job vacancies due to skills shortage. On the other hand, employers are seeking foreign-born workers to fill the vacant positions in the Aruban labor force. There is a need to refocus Active Labor Market Policies on building a skilled labor force to support the reintegration of the unemployed or being at risk of becoming unemployed and fostering an inclusive labor market.

Governments should also ensure a legal and regulatory environment suitable to the creation of decent jobs with particular attention to the most vulnerable. Equal opportunities for women and youth in accessing jobs could be fostered by enforcing national affirmative action policies in hiring, wage legislation – including equal pay, better prospects for personal development and social integration, and the promotion of civil rights.

### **Desired Outcome1**

#### **Improved access to the labor market based on their assessed level of self-sufficiency across different life-domains**

In order to improve the accessibility to the labor market, the current policy needs to be addressed. Policies should highlight and provide support to the most vulnerable in their quest to enter the labor market. Furthermore, policies should also be targeted to new entrants into the labor market and for retaining workers by providing job training and coaching.

#### **Actions**

- A. Develop and strengthen coordinated policies to improve access to the labor market
- B. Provide resocialization programs, both institutional (age 13-21 in the local prison, KIA) and community-based (up to 24 by Stichting Lifecoach Centrum Aruba) for (ex) detainees age 13-21 of KIA to mitigate recidivism

and to re-socialize with the primary objective of job placement

- C. Create a help-desk at the national recruitment agency, DPL, for vulnerable unemployed groups (youth, single parents with children under 18 and 55+) including persons who are in/on welfare and persons with disabilities

### **Desired Outcome 2**

#### **Necessary conditions are in place for a healthy work-life balance**

A healthy work-life balance plays a vital role in the well-being of workers and the success of enterprises. Aruba's labor market is dominated by the service-oriented industry, which tends to lean more towards long working hours. Therefore, existing policies and legislation need to be reviewed and the new law on "Occupational, Safety and Health" needs to be introduced to move towards more

flexible working conditions, unbundling the everyday reality of employees at work ; managing life at home and in the community in a more balanced manner.

#### **Actions**

- A. Reviewing policies and legislation on work-life balance with an emphasis on working time and working hours.
- B. Conduct research program(s) in order to develop evidence-based policies to advise and give practical information that addresses modern realities and meets the needs of 21st Century families.

- A. Use existing Tri-partite platform to discuss relevant labor themes to provide advice for revising policies and legislations
- B. Develop and implement national occupational health and safety legislation
- C. Strengthening labor inspection capacity and compliance control mechanisms
- D. Enhance awareness on fundamental workers' rights through information sessions and workshops
- E. Revise ongoing labor policies and develop and implement a National Employment policy

### **Desired Outcome 3**

#### **Strengthened labor policies and labor legislations' scheme**

To achieve a sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all, existing policies and legislation must be revised and adapted. For revising policies and legislations and their implementation, there is support needed from the government, employers, and labor unions. A tri-partite platform is a solution to organize and discuss these changes, allowing the relevant and key partners to share their knowledge on labor standards and policies.

Moreover, applying labor inspection, structurally, in the labor market will contribute to a reduction of offenses in the labor market. Workers need to be continuously informed of their rights and obligations at work.

#### **Actions**

## **2.5 Strengthen child protection and safety system**



**Aruba will strengthen the child protection system in its capacity to prevent and timely respond to violence against children**

## **Overview**

The apparent increase and awareness in (child) abuses and violent relational crimes need immediate tackling and mitigation. This is a consensus among policy-makers and decision-makers. It is widely acknowledged that the present social protection system needs to be promptly overhauled to address these issues. The latter necessitates alignment, collaboration, and coordination among stakeholders. Shared objectives and targets, as well as clear mandates and task assignments across agencies and sectors in achieving these are prerequisites to strengthen the corresponding interventions at primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention levels (preventive, repressive, and curative levels).

### **Desired Outcome 1**

#### **Strengthened networking between stakeholders across domains and sectors**

Having access to actualized national registration data on child abuse and domestic violence to determine risk and the needed (joint) interventions are deemed indispensable to mitigate the incidence and prevalence. The latter, along with a common recognition under key participants, that working collaboratively produces better outcomes. Attention is placed in reviewing and revamping the existing work processes.

#### **Actions**

- A. Have in place a formal national registration system for child abuse and negligence/Bureau SosteneMi
- B. Research and technical assistance from custodial agencies to strengthen the institutional framework of the Aruban child protection system/UNICEF
- C. Acquire and implement automated registration systems in all relevant public agencies

### **Desired Outcome 2**

#### **Strengthened primary prevention, early intervention, and early detection of risk situations and conditions**

An important departure point in

overhauling the local child protection system is the notion that ascertained needs and risks rather than formal categories and thresholds of care and support ('contradicatives') should be the basis of the proposed/planned orchestrated (joint) responses and interventions.

Concomitantly, the needed heretofore common language, shared values and methodologies are being fostered by the ongoing 'Signs of Safety' program, which is an innovative strengths-based, relationship grounded, safety organized approach to child protection practice being successfully applied in Australia, United States, Canada, Japan, and several western European countries.

#### **Actions**

- A. Capacity building for professionals and decision-makers across sectors and domains about child protection through the methodology of Signs of Safety

### **Desired Outcome 3**

#### **Strengthened secondary and tertiary prevention**

The support of key agencies in their endeavors to improve the effectiveness of their service delivery is based on individual, organizational needs. Improved staff's qualifications and skills in addition

to timely and increased accessibility to key existing and new mandated services are the aims.

#### **Actions**

- A. Strengthen organizational capacity to address waiting list and waiting time problem at different key agencies (mandated with wardship/guardianship, foster care, probation services, juvenile center) to timely respond to the demand of services and be able to provide basic services that are lacking (Stichting GuiaMi, Stichting Kindertehuis Imeldahof, Directie Voogdijraad, Stichting Reclassering en Kinderbescherming, Bureau Sostenemi, Orthopedagogisch Centrum)
- B. Increase amount of foster care families - Stichting GuiaMi
- C. Training and counseling for parents and children in the system to enhance parental skills, personal development, personal self-reliance and resilience - Stichting Kindertehuis Imeldahof, Stichting Casa Cuna Progreso
- D. Provide training and certification to the staff of Stichting Reclassering en Kinderbescherming

## 2.6 Invest in an integrated approach on Life Long Learning



Aruba will have an integrated and sustainable approach to lifelong learning by offering different pathways that enable individuals to actively participate in the Aruban society

## **Overview**

Investing in an integrated and sustainable approach to lifelong learning benefits us all, for it offers learning pathways that enable individuals to participate in the Aruban society actively and beyond. Rapid technological advances worldwide and the shift to the information era demand of an individual to continuously acquire new knowledge and skills. For a country, knowledge is considered a strategic tool in order to compete on a global scale. It has been recognized as such in the Aruban economic policy, with one of the strategic objectives being the transition of the Aruban economy to a knowledge economy. The labor and social sector also recognize the importance of the acquisition of knowledge as a factor, which enables people to obtain a decent level of living. The education sector considers lifelong learning as an essential contributor to enable active participation in society and to embrace sustainable living.

The challenge in this matter is that even though lifelong learning is widely considered a valuable asset, the actual concept of lifelong learning is not clear to everyone, neither are the skills necessary for lifelong learning. These include active learning, self-directed learning, reflection, and working toward the development of own competencies.

The general perception still exists that learning is something that happens in formal education and not in a non-formal, or especially not in an informal education setting. Learning is perceived to be only possible in a formal education setting and limited to children and the youth. Adults tend to be considered as not flexible enough to learn new material. As such, many educational projects are directed to schoolchildren and the youth, with the hope that they can change their parents and society.

In general, lifelong learning should enable residents to fit better in and contribute to the development of our society. Also, the learning of new competencies like 21st-century skills, better mastery of Papiamento and of other relevant languages are excellent tools to encourage individuals to continue on their path of lifelong learning regardless of the phase of life they are in.

### **Desired Outcome 1**

#### **A learning community providing opportunities for all ages to develop on a professional and personal level**

For the coming years, systematic actions will be carried out to provide awareness and programs that will improve the skills of learning in all aspects and contexts. Educational programs for migrant students and adults will be improved to provide better access to continuing education. New courses will be developed to include skills

that meet labor market needs, thereby increasing the employability of the participants. 21st-century skills and language policies will be developed and implemented in schools, to improve school results and provide students with the necessary competencies to succeed in the labor market and as global citizens.

#### **Actions**

- A. Increase awareness in learning in all aspects and contexts
- B. Improve migrants students education

- program (promote integration)
- C. Offer second and third chance education for adults(including basic education)
  - D. Develop new courses that meet the needs of the labor market
  - E. Develop training programs (learning-working trajectories) in public schools agency, DPS (SPO, a school for labor) and the SVGA for students/learners with special needs
  - F. Create policies and programs to develop 21st-century skills
  - G. Development and implementation of language policy across all school types

## 2.7 Promote and develop universal values



Aruba will have an integrated and holistic approach on universal values by stimulating both primary and secondary socialization

## **Overview**

Investing in an integrated and sustainable approach towards Universal Values is essential for Aruba in order to enable its residents to live in freedom in a society based on equality, equity, solidarity, and tolerance. It is crucial as a result of this that respect for nature and pride of each individual's identity and the Aruban culture are continuously placed at the forefront. Currently, several issues are influencing the core values on Aruba.

The booming tourism industry brought upon an exponential growth of migrants and visitors to Aruba, resulting in significant changes in the society and tremendous stress on the community. The island is dealing with overpopulation, an influx of people with different cultural customs and values, rapid development of infrastructure & buildings, and consequently, the destructive impact hereof on nature and environment.

After analyzing several unlawful occurrences on the island, the government concluded that Aruba is experiencing a social crisis. There seems to be a decrease in morality and responsibility at all levels of society, an increase of inhabitants living under marginalized conditions due to unemployment and cheap labor. It was also determined that there is a weakening of the social network of family that parents traditionally relied on to serve as a united front to instill good norms and values in their children. The reinforcement of this network should be one of the crucial elements in combatting the social crisis.

The digital era brings upon additional challenges as people all around the world can interact with each other effortlessly. This type of media certainly has its benefits, but one should also acknowledge its lowdown in the form of cybercrime, cyberbullying, cyberstalking, etc. Media literacy and savviness have an important role in encouraging better communication and the use of digital media. Simultaneously, awareness must be fostered to counteract security and trust violations by unscrupulous people on the net.

We all have the responsibility to protect our island for future generations. To make this world a better place where people can live in peace, harmony, and able to express themselves freely despite their differences. From a historical perspective, the emancipation of the effects of colonialization has to be further stimulated, whereby Arubans achieve the confidence that our identity and language carry the same worth as others in the world.

### **Desired Outcome 1**

**Reviewed, aligned and coordinated policies and programs promoting both primary (with specific attention to media literacy) and secondary socialization**

For the coming years, integral interdepartmental actions will be carried out to encourage proper child upbringing

by parents and their social network, in order to stimulate positive primary socialization at an early stage in a child's life.

Policies and conditions will be developed to encourage cultural competencies in order to improve cultural awareness and appreciation among the inhabitants of Aruba. Universal values will play a

significant role now in building a society based on freedom of expression, equality, equity, solidarity, and tolerance. Furthermore, policies and conditions will also be developed to improve sustainable living where children and teachers learn the balance between social and economic development and the preservation and care of nature and environment.

#### **Actions**

- A. Develop cultural competencies
- B. Develop conditions (policy, curricula, competency of teachers, etc.) for sustainable development in education
- C. Develop and embrace a national vision on “the upbringing of the Aruban child and youth as a satisfied contributing member of the Aruban society.” The shared responsibility of the community in this matter will be considered as the key to success
- D. Incorporate digital & social media literacy in the 21st-century skills development policy

1. .

## Acronyms

C		U	
CBS	Centraal Bureau of Statistics	UN	United Nations
D		UNICEF	United Nations (International) Children's (Emergency) Funds
DPL	Departamento pa Progreso Laboral	WHO	World Health Organization
DPS	Dienst Publieke Scholen		
DVG	Directie Volksgezondheid		
F			
FHMD	Fundacion pa Hende Muhe den Dificultad		
K			
KIA	Korrectie Instituut Aruba		
N			
NCD	Non-communicable Diseases		
NSP	National Strategic Plan		
M			
MGZ	Maatschappelijk Gezondheidszorg		
P			
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization		
S			
SDG	UN Sustainable Development Goal		
SPO	Scol Practico pa Ofishi		
STEPS	STEPSwise Approach to Surveillance – World Health Organization		
SVGA	Stichting Verstandelijk Gehandicapten Aruba		



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# ARUBA DEPENDS ON YOU

Quality of Life and Well-being

NSP 2020-2022