

This project will focus on improving pre-pregnancy health among vulnerable women/couples, thus those from deprived areas of the urban cities and from non-urban areas of Suriname. The existing preconception care will be adapted to the needs of these vulnerable groups.

How were members of the local community involved in planning the project? Does your project align with any current or ongoing local initiatives?

Project manager and intervention developers from the Perisur group in Suriname were involved in writing the project proposal. Interventions developers and project assistants as well as (future) parents and other local stakeholders will be involved in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the programs as described in the current proposal.

Describe any training, community outreach, or educational programs, if applicable, and who will conduct them. How will recipients be selected?

Perinatal professionals in Suriname will be trained in providing innovative preconception care to vulnerable women/couples. The training will focus on three main activities:

1. Selecting indicators of pre-pregnancy and pregnancy risk for sustained preconception counselling in Suriname: data from women/couples who already visited the preconception clinics will be used to adapt the existing detailed preconception form to the Suriname needs and developed into an electronic web-based system.
2. Implementing preconception care to vulnerable women/couples: regions/villages with higher rates of adverse perinatal outcomes will be identified using data from Perisur on pregnancy and birth outcomes.
3. Developing a model for interconception care in Suriname: women/couples delivering will be offered interconception care within 48 hours after delivery. The interconception counseling will either be done by the midwife at the clinic or hospital or by the women/couples (from home) by completing a weblink to the interconception care form.

Maternal and child health

Which goals will your activity support?

The programs described in this proposal will support several SDGs on maternal and child health including strengthening health systems and reaching every woman and newborn and will also support the Rotary goal to make innovative health care available to vulnerable mothers/babies.

How will you measure your impact?

Impact will be measured by monitoring of

- 1: Number of perinatal health professionals trained
- 2: Number of women/couples receiving preconception/interconception care
- 3: Experiences of women/couples with preconception/interconception care
- 4: Change in number of adverse perinatal outcomes in Suriname (lower rates of stillbirths, preterm births, low birth weight, low Apgar score) if feasible among women/couples receiving preconception/interconception care.

Who will be responsible for collecting information for monitoring and evaluation?

Perisur will be responsible for collecting information for monitoring and evaluation of intervention programs. Perisur has a data base with perinatal indicators from 2011 onwards. It includes all births from 22 completed weeks of gestation or with a birth weight of 500 grams for years 2011-2012, and for the years 2013-2018 for four hospitals (70% of all births). Perinatal indicators include indicators of babies health (live birth status, gestational age at birth, birth weight, APGAR score at 5 minutes, congenital anomalies), maternal health (morbidity and mortality), maternal demographics (age, parity, ethnicity), healthcare service (health insurance, mode of delivery, place of delivery, skilled birth attendant).