Suriname

Socio-emotional education in crisis contexts: relevance, perspectives and materials
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Cases</td>
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<td>Tested POS</td>
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<td>Deaths</td>
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<td>Recovered</td>
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<td>ICU</td>
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<td>Quarantine</td>
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Impact on Education

The Covid-19 pandemic made it necessary for schools to be closed from 16 March 2020, at national level at primary, secondary and tertiary level:

- 574 schools are closed
- 143,393 students cannot go to school
- 10,433 teachers are unable to provide physical (classroom) education
- Exams have been postponed until further notice
Instructions MOESC at national level

Since the school is closed, the following instructions have been given from the ministry:

- As of March 17, 2020, teams have been composed with all actors, in particular distance education to compile the crisis plan “Distance Education in connection with the Covid-19 pandemic in Suriname” and to determine the preconditions for its implementation;

- On April 14, 2020: all school leaders, directors and teachers of the primary and secondary level should offer the students the learning material / exercise assignments as much as possible digitally through WhatsApp messages, email or a video;

- If possible, the school leaders and teachers should provide the parents or guardians digitally with information regarding the material and assignments;

- On the basis of the information obtained from the Inspectorate regarding the subject and exercise assignments, teaching packages are made weekly at the schools in order to be picked up by the parents;
Furthermore

- April 16, 2020: BE-Streaming (Basic Education Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and Innovation to inspire the Next Generation) classes have started via television.

- After April 16, 2020, various schools have started classes on their own initiative, including through Zoom, Moodle, Google Classroom, to reach their students on a daily basis.

- On 26th of June the Permanent Secretary of MOESC announced that school reopens on 6th of July 2020 for exam candidates on Primary and Secondary level.
Impact partial and total lockdown

a. For learners:
   - Which measure will be taken by the ministry, will they pass or repeat class
   - Children miss their (school)friends and other social activities at school

b. For parents:
   - No experience with homeschooling, seeking for support

c. For Teachers and all school staff:
   - How to provide distance education as instructed by the ministry
   - How to maintain safety and well-being if schools re-opens
   - How to continue the students learning
Socio-emotional education during COVID-19
“An collaborative approach”

• Collaboration between ministries, NGO’s and private partners.

• Ministry of Education: basic life skills department provides manuals for teachers how to cope with subjects such as: self and interpersonal relationships, coping with emotions, coping with stress, self management, communication skills, resilience, empathy.

• Develop TV-productions (series) on how to stay healthy.

• Use and provision of existing material for instance: “My Hero is You, Storybook for Children on COVID-19”. Also information sheets, flyers and articles are provided for parents how to cope with their children during lockdown.

• Public awareness campaign how to deal with socio-emotional aspects.
The government of Suriname has developed a COVID – 19 fund for:
- Financial support to persons/ families with loss of income due to covid-19
- Support (food and other basic needs) to persons and families.

The Child Helpline (toll free helpline 123) was utilized to provide socio-emotional service to a broader target group.
- Registrations for financial and provision of socio-emotional support (if needed referral)
- Development of IEC-material to empower parents, children and youth to better deal with strain on their day today life, due to covid-19

A partnership between NGO’s working on Women’s rights, SRH&R, child protection and child rights, citizenship, UN-agencies and the government focused on raising awareness on the increased risks for violence and abuse within the home and the need for (counseling) services.