University of Aruba

Libraries for Literacy, Access to the Information Society and Lifelong Learning

KB ⟩ national library of the netherlands

LUC ALOFS, SANDER VAN KEMPEN & THAÏS FRANKEN

June 7, 2022

THIS PROJECT

Motivation:

Public Library Facilities Act (Wsob) for Caribbean municipalities BES, this project also includes the CAM countries.

Focus:

* Promote Literacy

* Access to the information society

* Lifelong Learning

Participants:

* Public Libraries in the Dutch Caribbean (regional network)

* National Library of the Netherlands ('KB') (initiative)

* University of Aruba: Institute for Good Governance and Leadership (research & advice)

A CARIBBEAN-EUROPEAN KINGDOM

	Surface	Population	BBP per capita
Autonomous countries			
Aruba	180 km^2	107.000	US $ 37.500
Curaçao	444 km^2	154.000	US $ 24.500
Sint Maarten	34 km^2	41.000	US $ 35.300
Special municipalities			
Bonaire	288 km^2	21.000	US $ 27.000
Sint Eustatius	21 km^2	3000	US $ 38.000
Saba	13 km^2	2000	US $ 24.000

MOST SPOKEN HOME LANGUAGES IN

	Aruba	Curaçao	Bonaire
Papiamento	**72%**	**78.6%**	**68%**
Spanish	**14%**	6%	**19%**
Dutch	6%	9.4%	11%
English	7%	3.5	4%

MOST SPOKEN HOME LANGUAGES IN

	Saba	St. Eustatius	St. Maarten
Papiamento	0.5%	1.6%	2.3%
Dutch	2.0%	4.3%	4.2%
English	**89.0%**	**84%**	**64.3%**
Spanish	4.4%	5.5%	**14.8%**

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS:
(N)EITHER DUTCH NOR CARIBBEAN

Hindering factors for inclusion and equal opportunities

* Dropout rates

* Language policies and the mother tongue

* Curriculum: Caribbean and/or Dutch oriented

* Student care and student support

* Teacher support and lifelong learning

* Parental support

* Alignment to the labor market

* Low success rates Caribbean students in the Netherlands ….

* …. leading to Brain Drain.

* Education, finances and governance.

FUNCTIONAL LITERACY

Aruba: 97%

Bonaire: 85%

Curaçao: No data

Saba: Not data

Sint Eustatius: No data

Sint Maarten: No data

PARTICIPATION IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: ARUBA

Youth	Daily use of internet	87%
	Daily use of mobile phone	92%
Elderly (65+)	Use of smartphone phones	46%
	Use of ICT devices	64%
	Use of internet	47%

PARTICIPATION IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: CURAÇAO

General	Computer Access	51.6%
	Internet Access	64.5%
Youth - Adult	Use of internet (6 years +)	68.1%
	Use of a computer (6 years+)	69.7%
Elderly (75+ years)	Use of internet (75 years +)	16.5%
	Use of computer (75 years +)	16.5%

LIFELONG LEARNING IN THE DUTCH CARIBBEAN

* Adult education

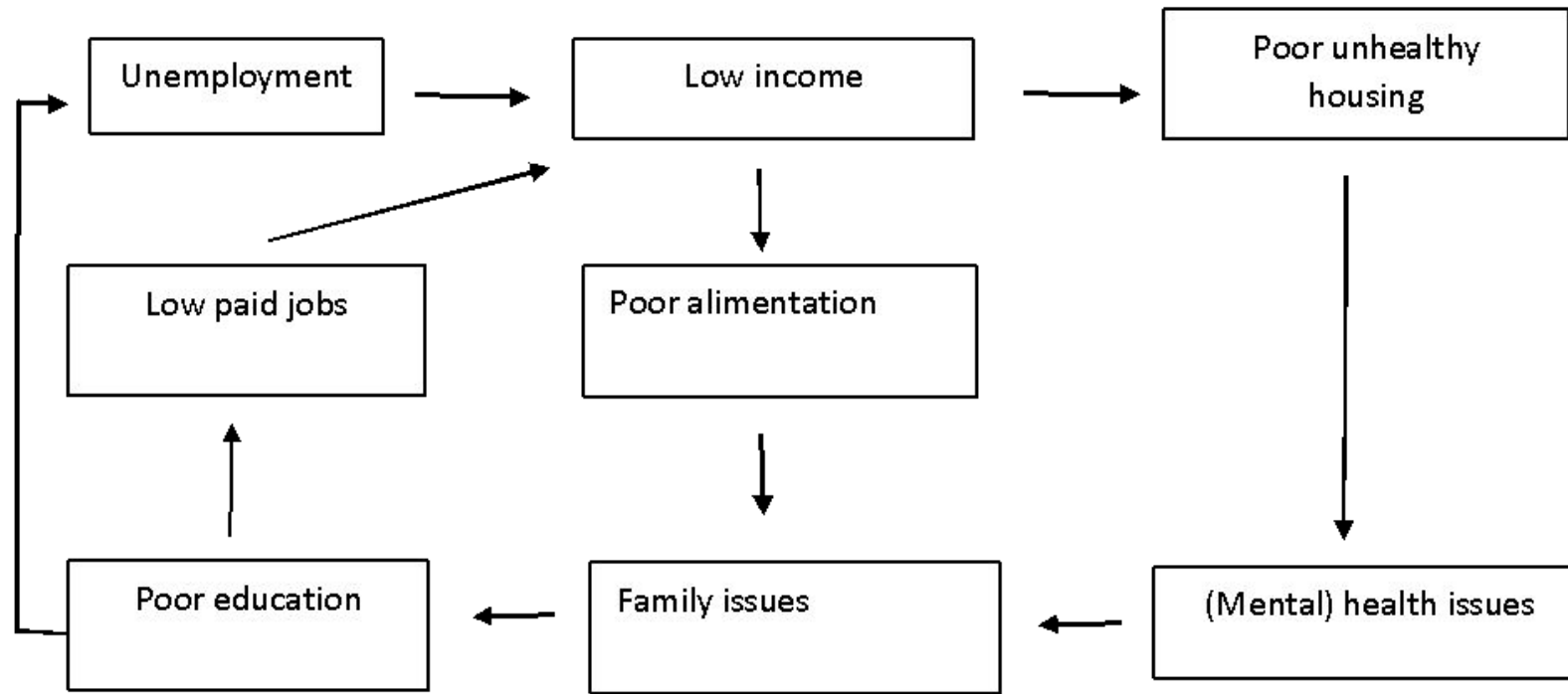* Lifelong Learning and the labor market

* Community empowerment – development

VULNERABLE GROUPS AND URGENT NEEDS IN THE DUTCH CARIBBEAN

* Poverty and unemployment

* Family and sexual violence

* Children and youth

* Elderly

* Persons with limitations

* Health and mental health

* Migrants and (mostly Venezuelan) refugees

THE CIRCLE OF POVERTY AND
EXTERNAL SHOCKS:
HURRICANES, REFUGEES & COVID-19

DUTCH CARIBBEAN LIBRARIES: JOINT CHALLENGES

* Data for evidence-based policies

* Lack of Multi-lingual book collections (Papiamentu, English, Dutch, Spanish)

* Membership and outreach to most vulnerable groups

* Public funding and governmental priorities

* Scale and (physical, digital) infrastructure

* Staff: aging professionals, lack of trained staff

* Vulnerability for external shocks

TOWARDS A CARIBBEAN-DUTCH NETWORK APPROACH

Dutch Caribbean libraries in the driver's seat

* Build consensus and goals for Kingdom network collaboration.

* Joint lobby towards local Caribbean and Dutch governments.

National Library of the Netherlands

* Mediator: connect with Dutch Foundation for Provincial Support Institutions ('POI')

* Mediator: Twinning DC – Dutch Libraries

* Expertise Centre for knowledge transfer, (digital, material) infrastructure, projects, et cetera

A search for wider Caribbean collaboration:

* Explore potentials of wider Caribbean collaboration.

* A role for ACURIL?

DUTCH-CARIBBEAN DIALOGUES FOR THE 21 CENTURY
SOME PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

* Discuss realistic quality standards for Dutch Caribbean libraries for the 21 century

* Define language policies based on local language situation

* Specify (specific and general) strategies for capacity enhancement Dutch Caribbean libraries

* Strengthen collaboration with schools, (adult) education and NGOs

* Define realistic integrated national SDG *End Poverty* Library strategies and partnerships

* Free membership fort the youth and other vulnerable groups

* Collect Data (WSOB) for fact-based policies.

INTERMEZZO:
SOME DUTCH LIBRARY INITIATIVES

Some projects

* Bookstart (Boekstart)

* Project Quality Impulse for Low Language Skilled Parents

* Project: Treasure hunt for digital sources Digital Access to National Library of the Netherlands

* Project Reading Offensive

CARIBBEAN LIBRARIES FOR

LITERARY,

ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION SOCIETY,

LIFELONG LEARNING.

All comments welcome!

Masha danki
Thank you,
Merci bien,
Muchas gracias,

Contact:
luc.alofs@ua.aw
thais.franken@ua.aw
Sander.vanKempen@kb.nl

Q&A

DUTCH CARIBBEAN LIBRARIES: PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE

* Data for evidence-based policies

* Membership and outreach to most vulnerable groups

* Multi-lingual book collections (Papiamentu, English, Dutch, Spanish)

* Public funding and governmental priorities

* Scale and (physical, digital) infrastructure

* Staff: lack of trained staff, aging professionals