

SDG Assignment (Goal 16, Targets 16.2 and 16.3)

The Goal whose effects on the waste management in Aruba are discussed below is **Goal no. 16**: “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”¹⁾.

Out of the twelve targets and their respective indicators, discussed below are the following:

- **Target 16.2**: “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”¹⁾.
 - 1) “Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month.”¹⁾
 - 2) “Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation.”¹⁾
 - 3) “Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18.”¹⁾
- **Target 16.3**: “Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all”¹⁾.
 - 1) “Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms”.¹⁾
 - 2) “Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population”.¹⁾

1. Description of the goal, targets and indicators. Indicators methodology

The Sustainable Development Goal monitored by the indicators described in this paper is **Goal no. 16**. The three main pillars of the goal are Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The two targets studied aim at ending the children and youth abuse, exploitation and violence (**target 16.2**). They also seek the reduction of human trafficking (**target 16.2**), the promotion of laws and the equal access to justice of all citizens (**target 16.3**).

In order to measure the improvements made in the goal and targets implementation, a number of indicators are assessed. Thus for target 16.2, the victims of human trafficking, the number of youth who experienced physical punishments and/or aggression and the cases of sexual violence of youth up to the age of 18 are monitored. The **indicators also provide requirements in their calculations** as age or division by a particular number of people (e.g. per 100,000 population). For target 16.3, the number of victims of violence that reported their victimization to competent authorities and the proportion of the unsentenced detainees are being monitored. Time periods as, for instance 12 months for the victims that reported their cases, are used in the target assessment.

2. Importance of the goal and targets for Aruba

“Corruption, theft and tax evasion costs developing countries \$ 1.26 billion a year.”²⁾ Among others, **goal no. 16** mitigates for the reduction of these issues. By reducing the corruption and the bribery that still exist in the political system of many countries, the whole society could benefit. The budget money lost as a result of the corruption-related activities could be redirected to improving the education, healthcare and the public infrastructure and thus the quality of life.

Regarding this goal, Aruba is committed to create transparent institutions and improve the access to information ²⁾.

Target 16.2 is important in regard to the Sustainable Development concept. In order for the future generations to be healthy both mentally and physically, their childhoods need to be spent in a peaceful and supportive environment. Monitoring the cases of physical and emotional neglect and abuse among children is a critical point in reaching this desired scenario.

According to the International Organization for Migration report on Human Trafficking published in 2013, between 2009 and 2012 there was only one case of trafficking for sexual exploitation officially documented on the island ³⁾. **Target 16.3** is concerned with the cases of victimization reported to the competent authorities. Thus studying the human trafficking phenomenon and the crime rate following the UN methodology is important for the economy of Aruba. Because of the same methodology as in other territories, the results can be better understood and integrated in laws and policies related to the topic. The importance of collecting and interpreting data for this target also lies in the fact that Aruba is marketing itself as a peaceful and safe place for tourists to come ⁴⁾.

3. Relation between goal and targets and the waste management in Aruba

In a less corrupt and more inclusive society as the **goal 16** fights for, the focus can be transferred from fighting against corruption, violence and building strong institutions to redirecting money to the well-being of the population. In a wealthy society, a good waste management translated into recycle policies or plastic bags bans is easier to be implemented.

The sustainable development means among others to be able to keep clean the environment for the future generations. Reducing the water, air and soil pollution created by a weak waste management could be achieved only in a society with strong institutions and less corruption. Aruba is making progress on this direction ²⁾.

Target 16.2 is concerned with the well-being of children. The waste management can have an important impact on the children's health because of the air and soil pollution resulted from a weak management of the waste disposal. In fact, "epidemiologists estimate that 1 million children die each year from diseases caused or exacerbated by air pollution" ⁵⁾.

Due to the illegal dump sites on the island ⁶⁾ and the unsustainable disposal of waste at Parkietenbos Dump, the waste management in Aruba poses health problems to children, even at a young age. This already happens in countries like China where, for instance, in 2009 there were "1.1 million children born every year with birth defects attributed to environmental factors", as reported by China Daily ⁵⁾.

4. Indicators monitoring in Aruba

Target 16.2

Central Bureau of Statistics – Aruba (CBS) issues every fourth year starting with 2013 the *Health Monitor Aruba*. Among the topics that the survey took data for, we encounter Child/Youth Abuse. Thus, regarding the target 16.2, CBS publishes every fourth year data on the number of child below 17 years old that experienced **physical abuse**. The data though is further from being measured every month and do not specify if the abuse was caused by the caregivers.

In the same report, there is data collected for the children and youth below 17 years old that experienced **sexual abuse**. However, the SDG indicator calls for the measurement of the proportion of persons aged 18 to 29 that experienced childhood sexual abuse and not the current number of sexual abuses among children.⁷⁾

Another report that includes statistics on **sexual violence** among youth is *Youlth Health Survey – In country report (Aruba 2012)* issued in 2013 by the Department of Public Health Aruba, Epidemiology and Research Unit.

Regarding the **human trafficking** cases, there are no data collected annually, but a research conducted by Aruba Anti-Human Trafficking and Smuggling Taskforce and published in 2012 comprises a number of alleged or confirmed cases for the time period 2009-2012. There are also details offered regarding the sex and the form of exploitation.³⁾ It seems though that another organization exists, but it is unclear if this one replaced the previous one. It is named Counter Trafficking Taskforce Aruba and should provide data on topic. They only have a Facebook page, and not a website or any report issued.⁸⁾

Target 16.3

Statistics on the pre-trial prison population rate (measuring the **unsentenced detainees**) were found on the www.prisonstudies.org for 2005 and 2007 and seem to be issued by the Korrektie Instituut Aruba⁹⁾. However, there were no data found that could back the proportion of **victims of violence who reported their victimization** during the last year. The inquired source was CBS that presents crime statistics, but not the number of victimizations reported to authorities.

Overall, the level of statistical coverage of the two targets is low. Most of the time the statistics provided are not fully related to the Sustainable Development Goals targets or indicators and the statistics are not upgraded.

List of references

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