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**Sustainable Development Goal (8): Decent work and economic growth**

**Description of SDG targets and goal the assigned indicators are monitoring:**

**Indicators:**

* + 1. Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person
    2. Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex

**Targets:**

* 1. Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.
  2. Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

**Goal:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

In many countries having a job does not automatically mean that you escape poverty. Goal eight targets this issue and states that decent work must be available to all, as well as sustainable and inclusive economic growth. This means that anyone who can work must be able to get work under good working conditions. These jobs should also stimulate economic growth without affecting the environment (<http://sdgaruba.com/sdgs/economic-growth/>).

**How the indicators monitor the SDG targets and goal:**

* + 1. The annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person gives an indication of the productivity of a country's workforce, as it measures the total output of goods and services per each member of the workforce in a given nation (<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/per-capita-gdp.asp>). A higher GDP per employed person equating to a higher productivity of a country's workforce.

A calculation of Aruba’s real GDP per employed person can be done as following:

Aruba’s real GDP (**R**): 3,307 (in 2016, <http://www.cbaruba.org/cba/readBlob.do?id=4172>)

Amount of employed people on Aruba (**E**): 46524 (in 2010, <http://arubademographics.com/chapters/labor/>)

*(‘****E****’ should be of the same year as ‘****R****’, unfortunately that information was not found)*

, thus

This method of calculation is based on the information provided by: <https://www.thebalance.com/real-gdp-per-capita-how-to-calculate-data-since-1946-3306028>

The percentage change of the annual value of the real GDP per employed person from a previous year to the following year, would provide the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person.

*(Information given on how to calculate the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person may not be accurate due to a lack of knowledge regarding the subject and proper research)*

* + 1. The proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex could indicate the state of a country since it is generally small scale with low productivity, consists of mostly unskilled and those with little education, and the operations are not registered. Developing countries usually have a high proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment (<http://www.leapco.co.za/does-the-informal-sector-add-value/>).

Information regarding theproportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment would have to be provided by an institution (that gathers this information).

Thus a high GDP per employed person and a low proportion of informal employment by sex (excluding agriculture) will lead to the achievement of the mentioned targets and therefore also a part of the goal.

**Importance of the SDG targets and goal to Aruba:** The targets promotediversification, technological upgrading, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation etc. Aruba has been developing a new economic pillar - a knowledge based economy - to bring greater diversification, sustainable economic growth and stability (<http://sdgaruba.com/sdgs/economic-growth/>). Achieving the targets will result in a successful economic pillar, which is the desired situation.

The promotion of sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all will lead to the eradication of poverty. “Poverty eradication is only possible through stable and well-paid jobs”. Nearly 2.2 billion people live below the US$2 poverty line (<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/8_Why-it-Matters_Goal-8_EconomicGrowth_2p.pdf>).

Aruba’s tourism industry has continued to thrive in recent years. Increases in the tourism industry have created low unemployment and have contributed to the low poverty rate in Aruba (<https://borgenproject.org/poverty-rate-in-aruba/>). This means that Aruba does not have such extreme poverty but by providing decent work and through economic growth there will be a further improvement of the island’s financial situation and it will be beneficial for the ones considered poor on Aruba.

*(No data originating from a reliable source was found on the percentage of the Aruban population below poverty line)*

**How the SDG targets and goal relate to waste management in Aruba:** As mentioned above if the eighth goal of the SDGs is achieved, it has the potential to eradicate poverty. An end to poverty will have a positive impact on the environment. “The world’s poorest people are both the victims and the agents of environmental degradation. The poorest people are often forced to meet short-term survival needs at the cost of long-term sustainability” (W. Cunningham & M. Cunningham, 2013, p.8).

Even though the amount of people that are considered poor on Aruba might not have such a big impact on the environment, the same principles apply. No poverty means less pollution (this includes waste).

**Targets:**

* 1. Achieving higher levels of economic productivity will consequently lead to a wealthier Aruba. Making sustainable decisions are mostly costly, in the sense that you have to invest in sustainable products that are likely to have above average prices (given its long term benefits). When people become (/are) wealthy they can afford to make more sustainable decisions. This will eventually decrease waste in Aruba.
  2. Promoting development-oriented policies strengthens target **8.2** (higher levels of economic productivity) and its consequences (making sustainable decisions).

If increased economic productivity does not encourage increased activity towards sustainability, the effects of this increased productivity will be mostly negative regarding the environment (increases waste and pollution).

“…some economists have argued that economic growth will eventually lead to an improvement in the environment. This may be so, but the more rapid our growth, consumption and the use of our Natural Capital Resources, the more waste we produce, the more prone we are to environmental degradation and exhaustion” (<https://sustainabilityx.co/economic-growth-to-sustainable-development-5d441e9a595e>).

**Monitoring of the described indicators in Aruba:** To obtain this information the following sources have been contacted or visited:

* Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), Aruba has been contacted via telephone (297 583 7433) and e-mail (e-mail: [cbs@setarnet.aw](mailto:cbs@setarnet.aw)).
* SDG Aruba, via e-mail ([sdgaruba@kabinet.aw](mailto:sdgaruba@kabinet.aw))
* <http://www.cbaruba.org/cba/readBlob.do?id=4172>
* <http://www.indexmundi.com/aruba/economy_profile.html>
* <https://tradingeconomics.com/aruba/gdp>
* <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/?area=ABW>
* <http://data.un.org/CountryProfile.aspx?crName=Aruba#Economic>
* <http://daoaruba.com/>
* <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/print_aa.html>
* (+ other websites that might provide economic data of Aruba)

Unfortunately SDG Aruba has not responded.

An answer to “Are the indicators (**8.2.1** and **8.3.1**) being monitored on Aruba?” has been provided by Herry Koolman, representative of CBS:

“With reference to your request, please be informed that CBS is in the process of upgrading the National Accounts system and as such does not have recent information on the GDP. However, please be informed that at present the Central Bank of Aruba (CBA) is the only entity that compile GDP estimates and projections on an annual basis. Please refer to the following link which contains the statistical digest of the CBA for several years. In the Statistical Digest you can find information on the GDP and on employment in general. The specific statistic you are requesting in your email is (as far as I know) not compiled by any institution, but it can be deduced from the separately available data on the size of the GDP and the number of persons employed.

<http://www.cbaruba.org/cba/do/getPage/page/annual-statistical-digest.html>

 With regard to your second question, please be informed that CBS does not compile information on informal employment.”

After Herry Koolman’s response the CBA was contacted via telephone (297 525 2100) and their website (<http://www.cbaruba.org>) has been visited. No information was seen/found regarding the assigned indicators.

Due to a lack of information on the assigned indicators it is uncertain if they are being monitored in Aruba, although a lack of data regarding the indicators may also imply that it is very likely that they are not being monitored.