

UNICEF Netherlands

The Hague/Sint Maarten

Statement further to the press release issued by UNICEF Netherlands on 19 May 2020, about the Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents on Sint Maarten

The press release titled “Veel fysiek en seksueel geweld tegen kinderen op Sint Maarten” was issued on 19 May 2020 by UNICEF Netherlands. It presented key findings from the research that was conducted on Sint Maarten by UNICEF Netherlands.

With this statement UNICEF Netherlands would like to provide further context and nuance to the press release about the Situation Analysis report, for which there may have been some misunderstanding.

The data used for the report included responses from interviews conducted with members of the Sint Maarten community. Using data from the report, the press release states that “85 percent of respondents cite child abuse as a common problem on the island”. This however requires further explanation. The report indicates that a total number of 137 persons were interviewed, of which 90 were adults and 47 were adolescents. This group of interviewees, in the context of a research study, is not considered as a representative sample of the Sint Maarten population.

Sint Maarten is still recovering from the impact of the 2017 hurricanes, a time when the government is facing many competing priorities. Despite this, there are important achievements over the recent years in legislation, policies and programmes that address the needs of children and adolescents. The full report lists these achievements in the areas of education, protection, and health.

UNICEF Netherlands applauds the government of Sint Maarten and service providing organisations for these achievements. UNICEF Netherlands continues to collaborate with the government to support with research, technical assistance and public campaigns since the 2017 hurricanes.