

PERSBERICHT: LOBI FOUNDATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

PARAMARIBO - Lobi Foundation is commemorating its 50th anniversary today at a reception for invited guests. The Foundation was founded on 29 February 1968 by persons working in the social and medical sector, who were confronted with people with sexual problems. Special attention was paid to the Surinamese woman with problems pertaining to sexuality as well as social and economic problems. In 1987 the foundation was recognized by the Ministry of Health as the Family Planning authority in Suriname. Over the years the foundation transformed from a Family Planning organization into a Public Health organization which now offers a wide range of services to society.

Early detection and prevention of cancer

The Foundation helps with the early detection and prevention of cervical cancer as well as the early detection of breast and prostate cancer to promote the chances for treatment and / or survival. In the period 1998 - 2001 Lobi carried out the first and only national Papsmear program for cervical cancer screening in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Over the period 2012 - 2016 there have been 71,026 preventive examinations of cervical cancer, of which 2,800 abnormalities have been referred for follow-up by a specialist. In 2017, the Foundation carried out a pilot project in the Saramacca district for cervical cancer screening. The results of this pilot project are included in the National Cancer Plan 2018 - 2028 and provide the basis for a modality for the roll-out of a national cervical cancer screening program per district.

Healthy pregnancy

Lobi helps couples and individuals see what best suits their situation. Lobi gives advice healthy pregnancies, in order to prevent the risk of negative birth outcomes. Lobi offers counseling to people who desire children, but who are having difficulties with conceiving. At the clinic, the underlying causes for not conceiving are being examined by a skilled provider. Lobi also provides contraception and the morning after pill to prevent unwanted pregnancies. In the period 2012 - 2016, 28.000 unwanted pregnancies, which could have led to (unsafe) abortions, were prevented.

Sexual Health

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Foundation worked on the establishment of a revolving fund for anti-retrovirals for people living with HIV, and is currently working on the prevention of STIs including HIV, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea as well as any bacterial infections. In the period 2012-2016, almost 9.300 HIV-tests with counseling were done.

Education for Youth and Parents

The Lobi Foundation provides special information to parents on how to talk about sexuality and encourages young people to think critically in making responsible choices that are aimed, among other things, at knowing their health rights, safe sexual behavior, the prevention of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases as well as other societal excesses associated with this.

Impact in the community and Regional recognition

The Lobi Foundation operates in 9 of the 10 districts. In the past year, Lobi was visited by slightly more than 32,000 people in the clinics in Paramaribo, Nieuw Nickerie and Lelydorp and during the mobile services in the various districts. The mobile services are designed to get as close as possible to people in companies, communities and other groups and to increase access to preventive care. With this, the foundation helps people to stay healthy and live a happy life full of beautiful moments, with their loved ones. In the past 50 years, the Foundation has proven its right to existence and is always ready to serve the Surinamese society. In 2006, the Lobi Foundation acquired the position of accredited member of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). Due to the performance and the sharp reduction in financial risks, the Lobi Foundation was promoted to a Tier-2 level organization by the parent organization IPPF in 2017. The next accreditation is planned for 2018.

Formal Reception

During the formal anniversary reception for relations, policy makers represented by the Minister of Health, parliamentarians, professionals from the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO / WHO) and of course Lobi Foundation and young

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people themselves, will discuss the development of sexual reproductive health and rights in Suriname and the role of Lobi in the health sector in Suriname. What has been achieved in the past fifty years? What has worked and what has not? And what do young people need in a rapidly changing world?

Celebration with the Community

Today February 28, the clinics of Lobi are closed in connection with the celebration. In the coming period, however, Lobi will be even closer to the community in connection with its 50th anniversary. Lobi will continue to improve the quality of its services, by e.g. following technological trends and also by conducting education sessions for young people in schools. The provision of services, through our mobile clinic and outreach teams, in the various communities, among which, Albina, Moengo, Coronie, Paradise, Corantijnpolder and Nieuw Nickerie, will be increased.

The dates, locations and times for these outreach events are:

8 March | Nucleus Center Albina | 08:00h – 14:00h

9 March Lobi Moengo Foundation | 07: 30h - 14: 30h

19 March | House Party Lobi Foundation Paramaribo | 07: 15h - 11: 00h

19 March | Lobi Foundation Poli Lelydorp | 8: 00h - 15: 00h

21 March | Health Center Coronie | 09:00h – 14:00h

22 March | RGD Poli Paradise | 08:00h – 14:00h

22 & 23 March | Lobi Foundation Poli Nickerie | 07: 30h - 14: 30h

23 March | RGD Poli Corantijnpolder | 07: 30h - 14: 30h