

## Country Focus: Suriname

The **ITEN Teacher Leader, Cindy Leeflang**, is transforming education for many students of the interior region of Suriname with the help of the **ITEN Teacher Leadership Fund**.



Cindy observed that even though the school she was supporting was equipped with computers, teachers did not know how to use the available technology to implement their regular and special needs programs.

With the ITEN Teacher Leadership Fund, Cindy developed and implemented the OS Zinkkampoe Project, an initiative that aims to **strengthen teachers' competency in language and mathematics with a special focus on teaching for special needs**. The project makes use of *Ambrasoft*, an offline teacher training software provided by Probitas Foundation to the school.



### Four phases of the project have already been accomplished.

#### Discovery Phase

May - Nov, 2020: **Teachers and parents** answered a **questionnaire** to help establish how to **best implement the project**.

Nov, 2020: Trainers analyzed the questionnaires results and **developed the training content**.

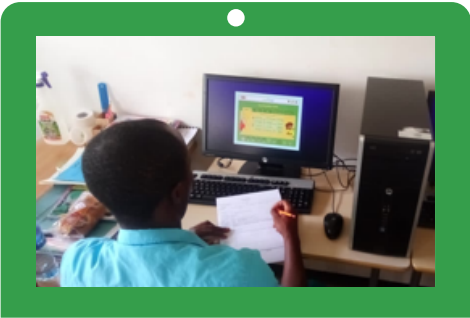
#### Design Phase

#### Reflection Phase

Nov, 2020: **Findings of the assessment, and project's content and schedule** were presented to the different departments of the **Ministry of Education of Suriname via Zoom**.

#### Follow-up Phase

Nov, 2020 - Jan, 2021: **Teachers began their training in the use of the *Ambrasoft* program**. This included learning how to work with *Ambrasoft*, write a lesson plan inspired by the program, and presenting their lesson plan to peers via Zoom. Also, inspired by Children's Day, **teachers organized the STREAM in Action workshop** for children from the school and neighborhood without the use of electricity or internet connectivity.



Cindy says that **teachers are already much more confident in their teaching**. They **realized** that all students have mixed abilities and that **student-oriented classes, with more instructions and less lecturing, are resulting in more positive** than the traditional teaching method.

One teacher who works with special needs pupils said:

*"One of my students wasn't making any progress at all. I worked with her using Ambrasoft on the computer. **The change was remarkable**. On the third day, I noticed all her answers were correct. The computer boosts her confidence."*

Cindy hopes the Project helps to **bridge the gap in education** between the capital and the interior regions of Suriname. She says *"Thanks to ITEN/OAS and TEAMS (our Project Team) I had the courage to send in a proposal that will benefit students from the interior (including students with disabilities). Bringing us closer to our main goal to bridge the gap in education between the interior and the capital. I am inspired by all the help I got this year from ITEN and our project team to continue working to bring positive changes within our interior."*



**200+**

**students** through **15 teachers** from **regular and special needs areas** are **benefiting** directly from this project, and many more might be reached through its replication in cluster areas.

