

## **Information Technology In Suriname (ITIS)**

### Suriname

<b>Implementing Agency/organization</b>	<b>Probitas Foundation</b>
<b>Implementation Period</b>	Start: 2014 - present
<b>Location (City and Country)</b>	Paramaribo, Suriname
<b>Total Cost to implement the Project</b>	The budget depends on the scale
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### **The Challenge**

Starting out as a hardware provider, Probitas Foundation noticed that there are a few key components missing to create a sustainable digital ecosystem for the education sector in Suriname. Although Surinamese schools are increasingly getting equipped with computers (sponsored by various parties), they need maintenance and support as well. At the same time, IT students of the Surinamese Institute of Natural Resources and Engineering Studies (NATIN) don't have enough options to gain the mandatory practical experience they need to complete their studies.

### **The Innovation**

Probitas started Information Technology In Suriname (ITIS), to initiate and coordinate an arrangement that solves both above mentioned problems at once, creating a true win-win situation.

Schools now have a go to address when they are dealing with computer problems and we bring the NATIN students to solve them. We visit the schools, so they don't have to go through all the trouble to bring hardware to the city. And while we are there, we provide maintenance for all other devices as well and (when applicable) build a network.

Additionally, we install educational software and explain the basics on how to use it. Therefore the computers can be used for the purpose for which they were given, to enhance education and offer broader opportunities and perspective for students.

### **The Impact**

- Schools are equipped with proper functioning hardware for very low or no costs.
- Students can use computers to enhance their studies and improve their results.
- Surinamese youth will be equipped with much needed 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.
- NATIN students are able to meet all requirements to finish their competence-based IT studies.
- NATIN students are role models for the Surinamese youth, especially the females. They show them a different perspective and hopefully spark their interest in computer science too.