


Assuria 



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REPORT ON FIRST HALF YEAR 2024

ASSURIA GROUP 



Executive Summary

Economic and industry environment

The World Bank's outlook for the global economy in 2024 is one of stabilization, albeit at lower growth rates compared to the pre-COVID-19 era. The global economy is projected to grow at a steady rate of 2.6% in 2024, which is below the annual average of 3.1% experienced in the decade before the pandemic. This stabilization comes after years of economic upheaval caused by the pandemic, conflicts, inflation and monetary tightening.

Suriname

The IMF projects a moderate growth rate for Suriname's economy in 2024, with an estimated GDP growth of 3%. This growth is expected to be consistent over the medium term, remaining at 3% annually through 2026. Suriname's fiscal policy, aimed at restoring debt sustainability and improving public spending, is a key factor in this growth projection. Additionally, the inflation rate, which was extremely high at 51.6% in 2023, is expected to decrease significantly to 20.7% in 2024 as the government is forced to tighten its monetary policy and as global inflationary pressures ease. Suriname has made significant strides in implementing the reforms required by the IMF. A primary surplus was achieved by reducing energy subsidies, broadening VAT coverage, and concluding negotiations for debt restructuring with most of the Nation's creditors. These steps have been crucial in improving the country's fiscal position, lowering the debt-to-GDP ratio from 140.2% in 2023 to an estimated 87.9% in 2024. The progress of IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF) continues to be a key element in the country's economic reform efforts. In 2024, the oil and gas sector is expected to witness significant developments crucial for the country's economic future. TotalEnergies and Apache Corporation are leading the exploration and development efforts in Suriname's offshore blocks. These companies are advancing toward the final investment decision (FID) on the commercial viability of the oil finds, particularly in Block 58 which determines the timeline for moving into full-scale production. Recently, Petronas, operating in Block 52 with a participating interest alongside ExxonMobil, made its third hydrocarbon discovery. This discovery may also significantly enhance the resource potential and prospective of Suriname's economy.

Guyana

For 2024 IMF projects that Guyana's economy will grow by 33.9%, making it one of the fastest-growing economies globally. This remarkable growth is due to the impact of the oil sector on the country. Guyana's economic boom is expected to continue as oil production ramps up, positioning the country as a significant player in the global energy market.

Trinidad & Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago's economy is expected to experience growth, continuing its recovery from the economic challenges of the past decade. Following real GDP growth in 2023 of 2.1%, the IMF projects a GDP growth of 2.4% for 2024. This is supported by improvements in both the energy and non-energy sectors, with the government's Vision 2030 plan aiming to enhance production capacity and reduce economic imbalances.

Curaçao

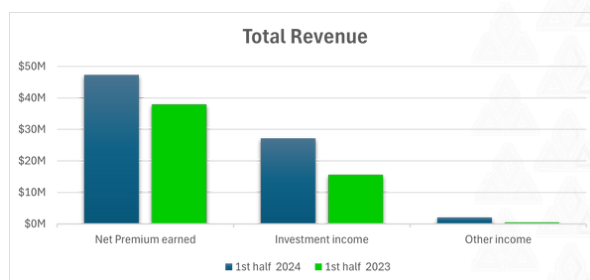
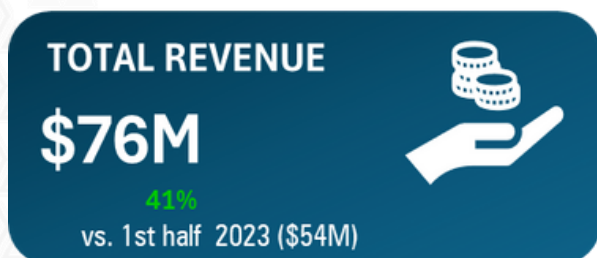
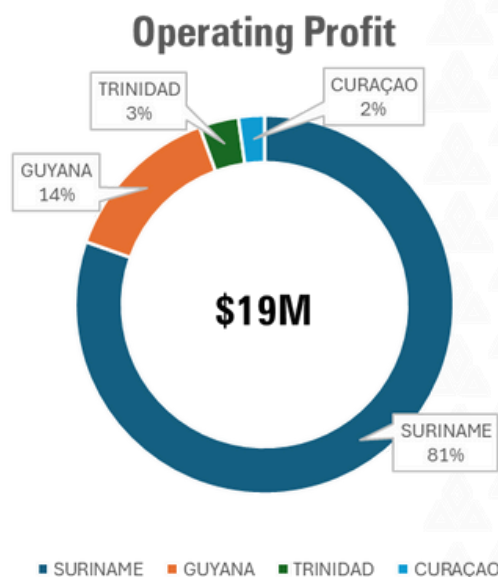
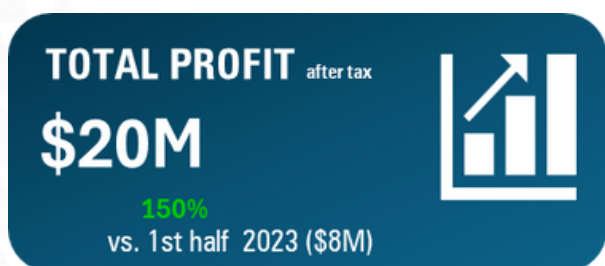
In our new market Curaçao, the economy is also expected to continue its growth trajectory, with the IMF projecting a GDP growth rate in 2024 of around 4.2%. This growth is largely driven by the island's pivot toward a tourism-led economy, with strong increases in stay over tourism and related construction activities being key contributors.

Group Performance

At this time the Assuria Group is finalizing the implementation of the IFRS 17 standard which has come into effect as per January 1, 2023.

The 2023 financial statements are not yet finalized, and therefore these half year 2024 figures do also not include the IFRS 17 adopted figures.

We however did include a provision for the potential impact of IFRS 17.



These consolidated financials include the Assuria Levensverzekering (Cur) N.V. operations, which officially started as per May 1st, 2024 with the acquisition of the Sagicor Curaçao assets and liabilities.

Group wide gross premiums for the first half year amounted to USD 60 million, a 22% increase compared to previous first half year. Except for the contribution by the Curaçao operations, this increase was mostly driven by the insurance companies in Suriname and Guyana. The net premiums earned also increased by 24% to USD 47 million.

Group investment income in the first half of the year increased by 69%, rising from USD 16 million to USD 27 million, primarily driven by a significant rise in share prices of various listed Surinamese companies in which we hold investments as a result of the economic recovery.

Our Group saw expenses rise with 21% compared to the previous first half of 2023, increasing from USD 38 million to USD 46 million, largely driven by higher claims and operating expenses. The rise in claim expenses is attributed to the growth in our portfolio, while the increase in operating expenses reflects the declining USD/SRD exchange rate.

Both operating profit and total profit after tax increased significantly compared to the comparable period last year; operating profit surged by 111% from USD 9 million to USD 19 million, while total profit after tax rose by 150% to USD 20 million. On a normalized basis, excluding one-offs, the total profit after tax increased with 38%.

We will continue to focus on customer service, innovation and execution of our strategy in the remainder of the year.

Furthermore, an additional interim dividend over 2023 of SRD 2.00 per share will be paid.

Paramaribo, August 22, 2024

Mario R. Merhai

Chief Executive Officer