



2022 UN Country Annual Results Report

MARCH 2023



UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATION
OFFICE
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UNITED NATIONS
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, ARUBA,
CURACAO AND SINT MAARTEN
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Foreword

From the Minister of Planning and Development



The long-standing relationship between the United Nations System and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago spans over six decades. This partnership for joint development cooperation has produced many successes that permeate the lives of our citizens, our institutions and our economy.

Trinidad and Tobago's relationship with the UN has encompassed working together as entities and as people living on the same planet, understanding that we must form partnerships to achieve peace and prosperity. This is a major part of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago commends the UN for its invaluable contributions to the growth and development of our twin-island State. We are committed to sustainable development cooperation with our UN counterparts toward realising this nation's long-term development strategy, which is incorporated into the National Development Strategy, Vision 2030.

The collective efforts have produced gains in healthcare and prevention, food safety and security, energy efficiency, climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, and key capacity building across different development sectors. This consistent collaboration reflects the tenets of Sustainable Development Goal 17, 'Partnerships for the Goals'. This Report will highlight the outcomes of our longstanding relationship in 2022, and we intend to learn the lessons from these results. We will do what it takes to enhance the areas that require improvement or change, and continue the momentum where our country did well.

We also encourage all stakeholders to use this report to not only hold us accountable, but to find your own niches where possible, to make the positive differences needed in our homes and communities to meet the overarching goal of leaving no one behind and continuing our progress with "many hearts, many voices, one vision".

I thank our UN partners for their continued support and collaboration and for the work that was put into the developing of this report.

The Honourable

Penelope Beckles

Minister of Planning and Development

Message from the UN Resident Coordinator



The United Nations Country Team, in partnership with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and development partners, delivered strong and consistent support towards the realization of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2022. Notably, 2022 signified the first year of implementation of the new Cooperation Framework- the United Nations Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDCF) 2002-26 as the guiding frame of reference for the planning and implementation of actions with the Government and partners on the realization of the National Development Strategy-Vision 2030 and the 2030 Agenda.

The 2022 annual report therefore highlights actions undertaken under the UN MSDCF and Country Implementation Plan (CIP TT) in support of national priorities, and to accelerate national sustainable development. Importantly, the report examines the collective efforts of the UNCT for

inclusion of the needs of the most vulnerable in national policies, strategies and responses in keeping with the principles of “leaving no one behind” and “building back better.” These collective and committed efforts are underscored by the scaling up and accelerated implementation of programs and activities and delivery of actions and services which also resulted in significantly higher levels of expended resources by the UN system in Trinidad and Tobago in 2022 compared to the previous years.

The UNCT provided ongoing support to the national health system as the country emerged out of the Covid-19 pandemic. The UNCT supported local communities, rural health centers and local service providers, including the delivery of equipment and supplies and technical expertise in support of the essential health functions, primary health care strategies, comprehensive essential mental health service packages, and sexual and reproductive health information and services.

The UNCT’s support to Youth and Children focused on strengthening quality education and providing support to the continuity of learning for children across the country, and joint efforts to provide frontline psychosocial support. In collaboration with our partners, the UNCT heightened support for inclusive and effective education programmes and systems including strengthening the education system on digital learning solutions.

New and ground-breaking approaches were also introduced in 2022 as part of the UNCT’s drive towards innovative solutions. This included digital solutions in farming, aquaculture production and harvesting, and innovative financing for gender equality.

The UNCT also scaled up the national dialogue on key areas of climate change and resiliency in 2022. Interventions included measures for early flood warning, environment and natural resource

management, improved pollination and pollinator management and strengthening of national policies and strategies to improve energy efficiency.

Regarding support to migrants and refugees and local host communities, collective actions resulted in more targeted approaches and better service delivery including protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers and promoting local integration. Importantly, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, R4V was successfully launched and aims at enhanced coordination, better delivery, and mobilization of resources for social inclusion and cohesion of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and their host communities.

Partnerships with government institutions, national and international partners, private sector, academia, civil society organizations and local communities also improved capacities to deliver comprehensive and integrated gender-based violence response services. The UNCT delivered campaigns and programmes on access to legal rights, response services, entrepreneurship, violence against women and girls and promoted positive male role models with the overall aim to ensure the economic, political and social protection of women and girls.

With respect to progress on implementing the UN Reform, the UNCT strengthened efforts on coherence, coordination, effectiveness, and efficiency, and delivered collective efforts on key areas such as partnerships, joint advocacy, disability inclusion. In responding to the needs of the country, the UNCT remained adaptive and flexible and purposed funding resources on key activities jointly developed with government partners and local actors.

The UNCT continued to strengthen data partnerships and coordination among stakeholders in 2022. Support to the modernization of the local

data ecosystem also progressed significantly with key actions and deliverables achieved through the Joint SDG Fund Modernizing Trinidad and Tobago’s Statistical Ecosystem through Enhanced SDG Data Development project. Considerable participation and contributions from local stakeholder experts in support of a pioneering Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics will now realize the establishment of the Center in 2023.

Key advancements were also made with coordination of sustainable development approaches in the countries of Aruba, Sint Maarten and Curacao in 2022 as part of the RCO’s multi country setup. The new cooperation framework was signed by the Prime Minister of Aruba in February and by the Governor of Curaçao in September, while outreach and collaboration continued with the governing council in Sint Maarten. These progressive developments will be further expanded through agency missions to each country in 2023, with a view to identifying key interventions and developing country implementation plans for each. In presenting the annual results report for 2022, I would like to extend sincerest thanks to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for our continued close and trusted collaboration, and expressions of gratitude to all our donors and partners for the close support and cooperation over the past year. As we highlight our increased program delivery, progress and achievements, we recognize that more is required to achieve the 2030 Agenda. On behalf of the UNCT, I underscore our collective committed efforts in support of the country’s national priorities and the Government’s efforts to improve the national sustainable development landscape.


Dennis Zulu
Resident Coordinator A.I.

United Nations Country Team And Key Development Partners

UN Resident Agencies



UN Non-Resident Agencies



Ministries and Agencies of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago

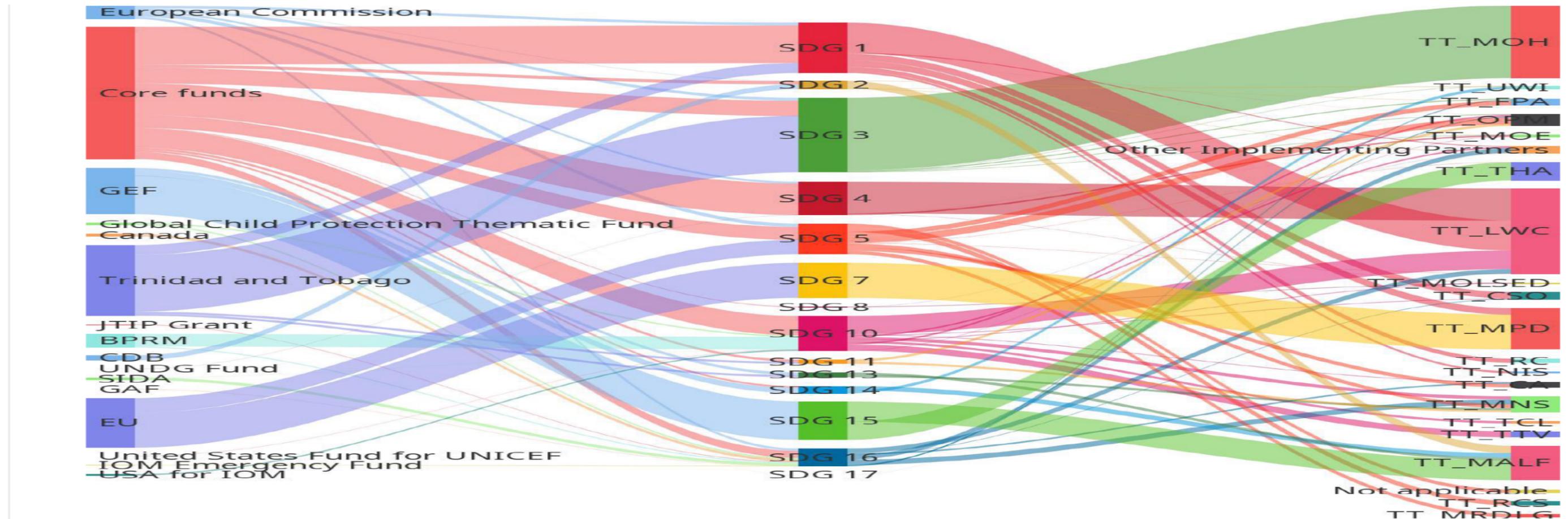


THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Multilateral Partners



Key Development Partners of the UN Development System in the Country



UN agencies and Implementing Partners: Linking Investments, Partners, and the SDGs

Source: UN INFO, March, 2022

The United Nations Country Team provided strong and consistent support to the Government and other partners in 2022 with the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the SDGs. The UNCT led active collaboration and coordination with Government and International funding partners to develop and implement actions under the new Cooperation Framework UN

MSDCF 2022-26. These efforts realized increased funding for development work actions established under the CIP 2022 in support of national priorities and sustainable development measures aimed at furthering the country's development agenda. Partnerships with government institutions, national and international partners, private sector, academia, civil society organizations and local

communities led to increased capacity building, innovative approaches to deliver effective interventions, and increased resource mobilization to address funding gaps. The UNCT received the continued assistance of the UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) MPTF UNPRPD joint

program, the Joint SDG Fund for modernizing Trinidad and Tobago's statistical ecosystem through enhanced SDG data development; and private sector business support for pursuing SDG targets through philanthropy using corporate social responsibility as the joint tool.

CHAPTER 1

2022 Key Development Trends & Emerging Issues





In 2022, inflation accelerated across several advanced economies, reflecting the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war on food and energy prices together with supply and demand imbalances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a small open economy, Trinidad and Tobago experienced mixed effects from global economic shocks. Noting the reliance on an oil and gas industry that accounts for a significant portion of the local economic activity and exports, the global fuel prices continued to weigh in favour of Trinidad and Tobago economy as energy commodity prices remained elevated over the period July to December 2022, mainly on account of geopolitical tensions; and on the other hand, global fuel prices fed into global food production and supply (and transportation) which rendered a higher price for grains and food. Food inflation accelerated in the latter half of the year, reflecting higher food import prices and domestic

supply shocks due to adverse weather.

The Central Bank noted that economic activity improved in the second quarter of 2022, reflecting a resurgence in non-energy sector performance. Data published by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) indicated that real GDP expanded by 6.6 per cent (year-on-year) during the second quarter of 2022. Growth in the non-energy sector was strong at 10.5 per cent, while the energy sector declined by 2.5 per cent.

For the greater part of 2022, inflation expectations remained high and invariably impacted lower income earners and those most vulnerable (such as, people with disabilities, unemployed and elderly people dependent on fixed pension or income). Positively, the higher-than-expected windfalls from energy exports was expected to enhance fiscal



space attributed to higher government revenues. This windfall supported the government's efforts in designing targeted interventions to support the most vulnerable cohort of the population; and strengthening of the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund (HSF) to provide cushion for unanticipated future economic shocks. It also resonated with the government's commitment to build a credible medium term fiscal framework as announced in the 2021-2022 National Budget.

Increased focus on the development of niche non-energy sector (especially agriculture for food security) to sustain the economy in the long term was supported by increased allocation of budgetary resources. However, challenges remained in the form of high labour costs, lack of economies of scale and skewed demand for imported products

over locally grown produce. Government's ongoing digitalisation agenda can potentially increase economic efficiency across relevant economic sectors.

Overall, the unemployment rate measured 5.4 per cent in the third quarter of 2022, and partial leading indicators of economic activity (such as, domestic credit) remained buoyant, together with ample banking sector liquidity (proxied by the excess commercial bank reserves). Government policy addressed the shoring-up of local food supplies to cushion anticipated headline inflation and provided additional support to vulnerable households to mitigate impact (at least partially) of the global transmission of food prices.

The Central Bank also notes that In 2023, the domestic economy is expected to improve, bolstered by activity in the energy sector. Natural gas supplies will be boosted by key upstream energy sector projects, and over the short term, energy prices are anticipated to remain elevated but may experience some softening. Stronger energy revenue will add to the fiscal space available for capital expenditure and targeted support programs.



As a signatory to the Paris Agreement in 2018, Trinidad and Tobago continues to address climate change mitigation. This is evidenced by purposeful policy statements on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the power generation, transportation and industrial sectors. To this end, the country has developed a Carbon Reduction Strategy known as the Nationally Determined

Contribution (NDC) which has two parts: (i) a 15.0 percent reduction in cumulative emissions from the major contributing sectors; and (ii) an unconditional 30.0 per cent reduction in emissions from public transportation.

The first part is estimated to cost US\$2.0 billion, with funding to be sourced from international financing. The second part is anticipated to be funded domestically, primarily through the compressed natural gas (CNG) programme to achieve the target. Several fiscal measures to support decarbonisation strategies have been implemented in Trinidad and Tobago, which address climate change both from a mitigation and an adaptation standpoint¹.

Trinidad and Tobago’s social protection system is challenged by the mismatch between the high and acute demand for social assistance created by the pandemic and the low capacity to review and process the significant upsurge in requests, despite the country’s strong culture of using social protection to support vulnerable groups. To mitigate the negative social impacts of the economic downturn in the Trinidad and Tobago economy and make its social protection systems more effective and efficient, the Government has developed a National Social Mitigation Plan focused on achieving three main objectives, strengthening the social protection system; promoting community and civil society action; and enhancing productivity and innovation.

1. Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Economic Bulletin 2023 January 2023 Volume XXV No.1).



Accordingly, key government initiatives to enhance the social policy implementation and to address the recognized existing gaps in the efficient and effective delivery of social protection support and services include the planned development and implementation of the Integrated Social Enterprise and Management System.

Trinidad and Tobago is a recipient of Venezuelan refugees and migrants, partly because of geographical proximity. Due to the deteriorated

socio-political landscape in Venezuela, projections suggest that the number of Venezuelan migrants and refugees to the country may continue in 2023. Migrants are now resorting to riskier travel routes in search for better living conditions which presents increasing border security challenges. Support to government’s efforts to assist refugees and migrants will continue in 2023 through ongoing initiatives to systematically support refugees and migrants from Venezuela, as well as affected host communities.



CHAPTER 2

Support to National Development Priorities through UN MSDCF

The MSDCF is formulated around four strategic priority areas:

Shared Prosperity & Economic Resilience



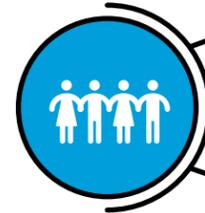
OUTCOME 1

More productive and competitive business ecosystem designed to improve people's standards of living and well-being.

OUTCOME 2

The Caribbean has fully transitioned to a more diversified and sustainable economy that supports inclusive and resilient economic growth.

Equality, Well-Being & Leaving No One Behind



OUTCOME 3

National governments and regional institutions use relevant data and information to design & adopt laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities & ensure the advancement of those at risk of being left furthest behind.

OUTCOME 4

People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive social protection, education, health, and care services.

Resilience To Climate Change/Shocks & Sustainable Natural Resource Management



OUTCOME 5

Caribbean people, communities, and institutions have enhanced adaptive capacity for inclusive, gender responsive Disaster Risk Management and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

OUTCOME 6

Caribbean countries manage natural resources & ecosystems strengthening their resilience & enhancing the resilience & prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them.

Peace, Safety, Justice & Rule Of Law



OUTCOME 7

Regional and national laws, policies, systems, and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion, and security.

OUTCOME 8

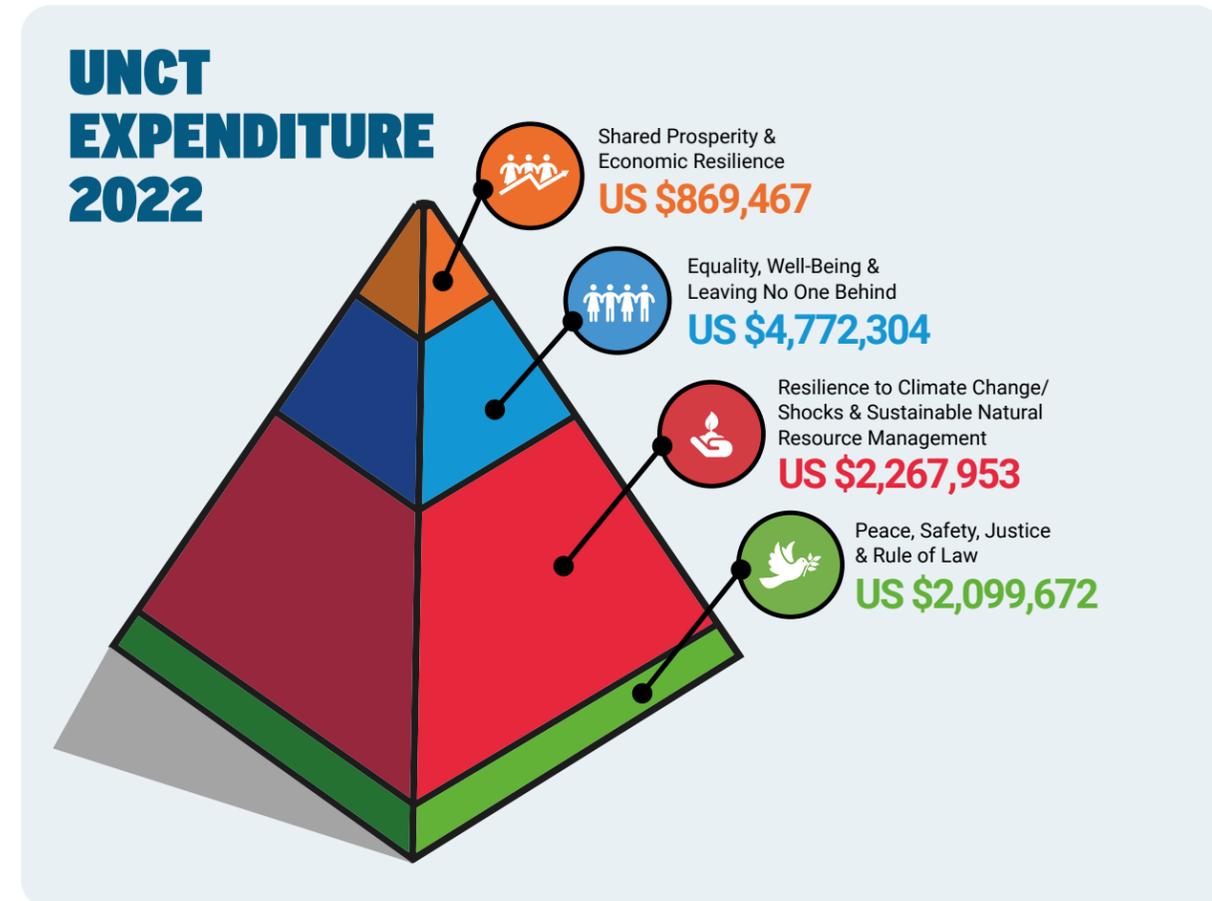
People in the Caribbean and communities actively contribute to and benefit from building and maintaining safer, fairer, more inclusive, and equitable societies.

2.1 Overview

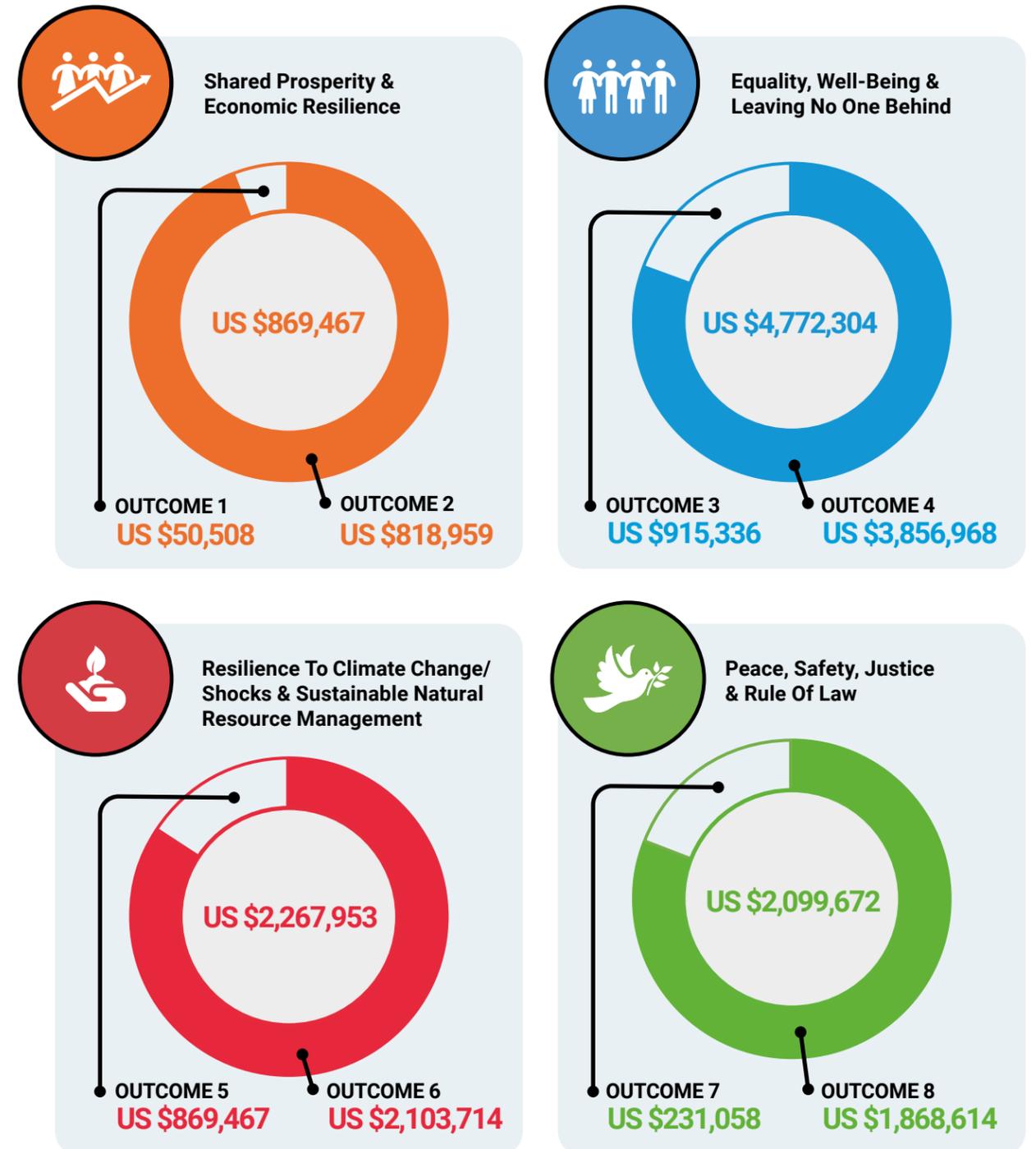
The four priority areas of the UN MSDCF and their related outcomes are closely interlinked, featuring significant synergies. Importantly, they are also aligned to the broad thematic areas of the National Development Strategy (Vision 2030) of Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2022, UNCT support provided to Government focused on implementation across these four areas. The formulation of the CIP TT 2022 included actions and upscaling of resources towards the achievement of the SDG indicators linked to the outcomes of each priority area.

The annual country implementation plan had available resources of US \$16,827,074 with **actual expenditure** on SDG initiatives across Trinidad and Tobago totaling **US \$10,009,395**.

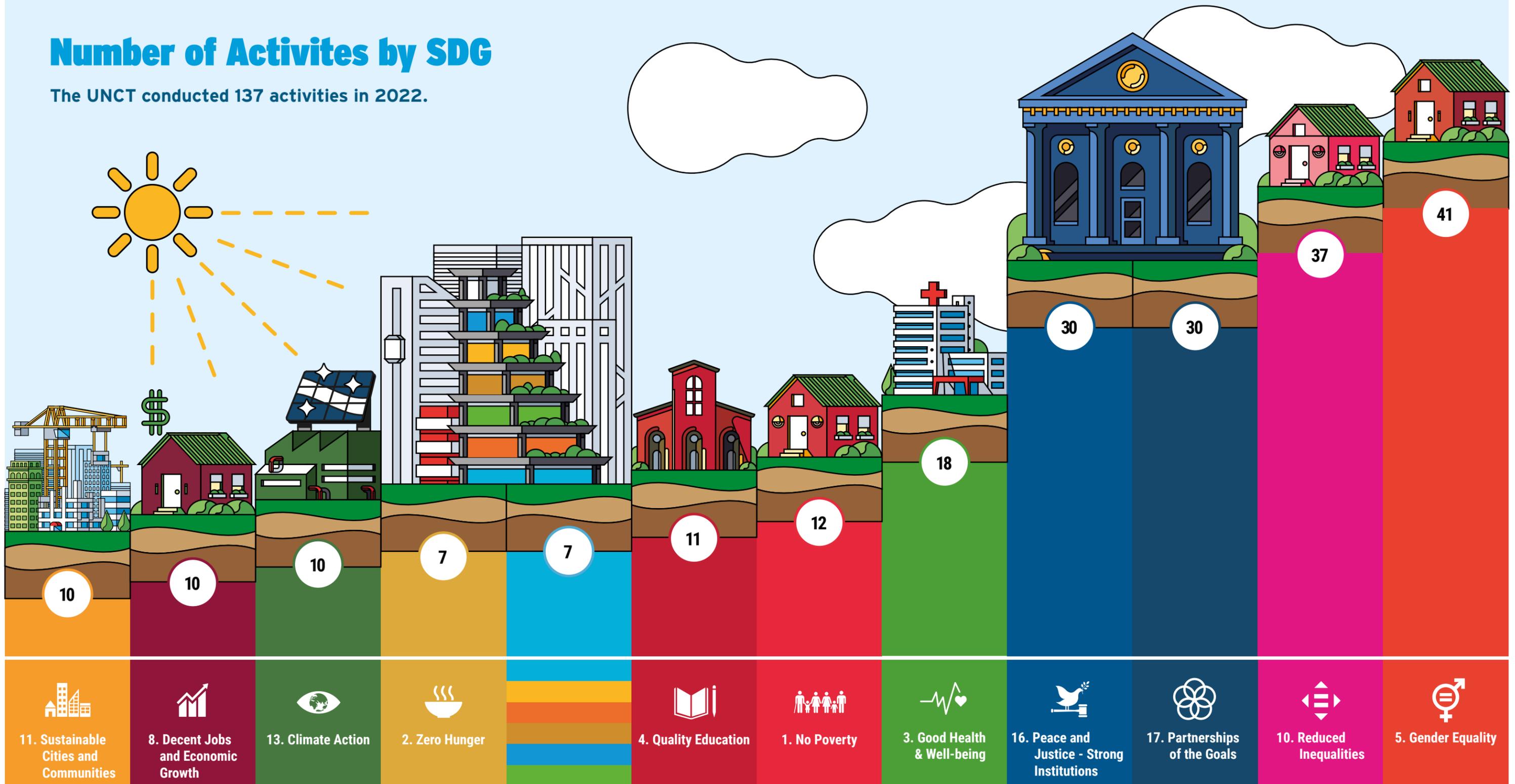


Expenditure by Priority Area and Outcome



Number of Activities by SDG

The UNCT conducted 137 activities in 2022.



6. Clean Water and Sanitation | 7. Affordable and Clean Energy | 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure | 12. Responsible Consumption and Production | 14. Life Below Water | 15. Life on Land

2.2 Priority 1

Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience

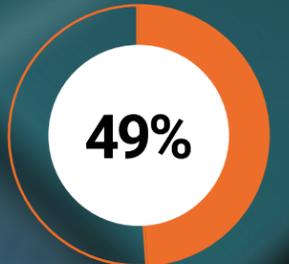
DELIVERY RATE (%)

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

US \$1,773,525

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

US \$869,467

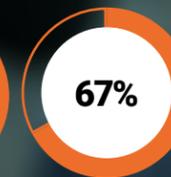


Key Outcome Indicators And Baselines

8.6.1 - Proportion of youth (aged 15 - 24 years) not in education, employment, or training (2017)



Male



Female



Both Sexes

8.6.1 - Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita (2019)



As a proportion of GDP

2,328.1%

Per Capita

CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



Key Results



Joint Programme on Innovative Financing for Gender Equality launched



Innovative practices for establishing Shade Homes developed



12 Sites across Trinidad and Tobago benefitted from photovoltaic (PV) installations



100 Beneficiaries of livelihood and vocational training



Policy framework development & adoption of renewable energy to build a green economy ongoing



Assessment of supply chain digitization and farm certification completed

The UNCT supported the establishment of innovative and sustainable financial solutions in the first year of the new CF. Accordingly, agencies partnered with key Ministries and civil society organizations to conceptualize, develop and implement interventions and policies aimed at enhancing economic resilience and increasing shared prosperity.

The Ministry of Youth Development and National Service and UN Women collaborated on launched a joint programme on innovative financing for gender equality, and mechanism to begin programming in Trinidad and Tobago is in development. This programme will target women SMEs with different offerings from micro loans to larger investments, and will offer business bootcamps, technical

guidance and further capacity development for SMEs, Government and FIs. UN Women also collaborated with various ministries in pursuit of creating an enabling environment for gender equality and women’s empowerment, including but not limited to gender responsive procurement policies. Gender responsive budgeting tools and training were finalized, and sensitization was completed with members of the Gender Bureau, and the Ministry of National Security. In-person workshops are scheduled for Q1 2023.

Regarding digitalization of farming systems, FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production and the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) with assessing the current state of

supply chain digitization and farm certification. Based on the findings of the assessment, a key action item moving forward will be the strengthening and expanding of NAMDEVCO’s existing digital platforms and farm certification program.

FAO also commenced innovative practices for the establishment of shade houses; 2 sites were identified in Tobago for introduction of bamboo shade houses using natural products in Mount St. George and Roxborough. Production technologies

for intercropping of bananas and sweet potatoes were also introduced on a national farm in Tobago- the farm to be used as a demonstration site. A Technical Guide on banana production at the farm was also produced detailing layout crop management and harvesting.

IOM advanced competitiveness and resilience strategies among MSMEs by providing livelihood and vocational training to 100 beneficiaries.



“The system that allowed us to educate our visitors at the turtle nesting site is powered by diesel and gasoline. Being an environmental group, we were always looking for solutions to not be contributors to carbon emissions. This solar power installation from UNDP is a breath of fresh air for us and an answer to Nature Seekers’ plight and we will no longer be using diesel generators. We have over fifteen thousand people coming to Matura every year to see turtles during turtle nesting season. We can now have better and longer interactions with our visitors as it hinges on health, safety and well-being.”

Suzan Lakhon-Baptiste
Managing Director & Founder
of Nature Seekers



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



2.3 Priority 2

Equality, Well-being & Leaving No One Behind

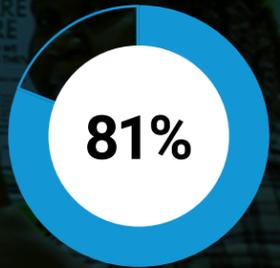
DELIVERY RATE (%)

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

US \$5,855,580

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

US \$4,772,303

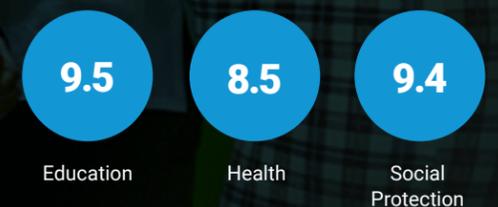


Key Outcome Indicators And Baselines

8.6.1 - Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex (and other protected characteristics, including disability, age, sexuality, race, migrant status) (Units (0-100), 2018)



1.a.2 - Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health, and social protection (2019, %))



1.a.2 - Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease (2016, %)



3.1.1 - Maternal mortality ratio (2018, per 100,000)



3.2.2 - Neonatal Mortality Rate (2018, per 1,000)



Key Results

Quality health care service delivery improved

 National Suicide Prevention campaign implemented	 Timely and equitable access to medicines and other health technologies improved
 Sexual and Reproductive Health services strengthened	 100% Public primary health care facilities implemented with the HEARTS Initiative using a standardized hypertension treatment algorithm
 30 Pharmacies implemented with logistics management information system for contraceptives (SALMI)	 3,000 CoV-SARS-2 Test Kits produced and distributed to health care facilities
 500 Factsheets on Legal Barriers that affect Adolescent Access to SRH Services in T&T produced and distributed	

Capacities, data modernization and access to hardware strengthened

 333 Software licenses procured in support of national census	 1,615 Government officials and partner staff trained on international protection of refugees and asylum-seekers
 3,500 Households supported MICS data collection	 Coordinating mechanism and requisite networks for the Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics in Trinidad and Tobago developed
 954 Cases of children in social services in Tobago entered into National Child Registry database	 85 Tablets and laptops delivered to country's Central Statistical Office in support of updating, digitalizing and field testing two national survey instruments
 100 Families benefitted from cash for education support to refugee and migrant households with children ages 11-17 studying online through Dawere	 Greenhouse in the Women's prison and a grow room at Youth Training and Rehabilitation Centre completed
 1,615 Stakeholders trained to effectively utilize the Notesmaster platform to access high quality teaching and learning	 1,000 Robust Laptop devices distributed to the most impoverished and vulnerable households without access to the Learning Management Systems' (LMS) Online Teaching and education materials

Support to the needs of the most vulnerable enhanced

 3,520 Refugees and migrants supported with food assistance	 1,175 Primary  275 Secondary
 1,235 Refugees and migrants supported with non-food assistance	
 3,400 Core Relief Items (sleeping mats, solar lamps, blankets, kitchen sets) distributed to refugee, migrant and host community families and people in need	
 2,264 vulnerable persons received specialized services, including case management services, sexual and reproductive health services, psychosocial support and specialised GBV support	 135 vulnerable migrants were provided with rent for temporary accommodation

In keeping with the UN MSDCF strategic priority area of Equality, Well-being & Leaving No One Behind, the UNCT prioritized resources and actions that were focused on delivering key support and assistance to key national development exigencies and vulnerable sections of the population. PAHO/WHO focused on support to strengthening health mechanisms, policies and strategies; contributing to capacity building to strengthen the country's ability to respond to health emergencies and health risks; and improving the quality of health care service delivery provided to the population.

PAHO/WHO supported the Ministry of Health with key actions including the procurement of essential medications and supported the Inter-Action review of the operational support and logistics with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic. Printing of breastfeeding and beyond booklets were completed and distributed as one of the key

strategies to tackle malnutrition in all its forms and to achieve the global nutrition targets for 2025 and the nutrition components of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Promotional material in support of the Suicide prevention campaign was also produced as part of the national suicide prevention strategy implementation plan and the national mental health policy implementation plan. PAHO/WHO also led the updating and implementing of the treatment guidelines for the treatment of HIV; development of a National HIV Policy is underway, and training on medication stock and forecasting is currently being conducted. The HEARTS Initiative using a standardized hypertension treatment algorithm was implemented in 100% of public primary care facilities. Training in Motivational Interviewing was conducted for staff of the RHAs to enable them to support patients with NCDs to improve adherence

and self-management.

UNDP continued the UNCT support PAHO/WHO and the Ministry of Health with the Covid-19 response. 3,000 Cepheid SARS-COV-2 test kits were purchased and distributed to assist in combatting the pandemic.



The UNCT continued to advance the integration of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and reproductive rights into national laws, policies and plans. UNFPA collaborated with the MOH Directorate of Women's Health to increase awareness on Minor's Access to SRH services; 50 copies of the study on Legal Barriers that affect Adolescent Access to SRH Services in T&T were produced along with 500 fact sheets/copybooks. UNFPA and the Ministry of Health continued to advance the Roll-out of the logistics management information system for pharmaceuticals, with SALMI is presently being implemented in 30 pharmacies.

UNFPA continued to support the contraceptives method mix in Trinidad and Tobago. In support of the MOH to scale-up the introduction of contraceptive implants, UNFPA procured models and accessories for contraceptive implant training; and 400 hanging banners, displaying services in Spanish for non-nationals.

The UNCT furthered the ongoing support to the modernization of the local data ecosystem in 2022. 333 licenses for survey 123 for the enumerators were procured in support of the national Census; supported the National Child Registry resulting in 62% of Schools and 954 cases of children in social services in Tobago having their data entered on the NCR database; supported the preparation of the MICS survey with 3,800 households providing data; executed the Displacement Tracking Matrix DTM to regularly and systematically capture, process and disseminate information to provide a better understanding of the movements and evolving needs of the Venezuelan population; provided 75 tablets and 10 laptops to the country's Central Statistical Office (CSO) to support the Government in updating, digitalizing and field testing two national survey instruments; and developed the coordinating mechanism and requisite networks for the establishment of a Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics in Trinidad and Tobago.

The UNCT placed greater emphasis on social protection, education and care services. Working jointly with the Office of the Prime Minister, UNICEF implemented a multidimensional child poverty workshop in April 2022 which included

organizations from the social sector ministries and bodies (including the Childrens Authority of Trinidad and Tobago and the Tobago House of Assembly) and academia. A multidimensional child poverty analysis is ongoing and will inform the national child poverty reduction strategy. UNICEF also partnered with the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS) to implement a cash for education support to refugee and migrant households with children ages 11-17 studying online through Dawere. A hundred families were the first cohort of beneficiaries.

Digital Textbooks for Primary Level Mathematics and English, and for Secondary Level Mathematics, English and Spanish, with dedicated Sections for each of the Seven (7) Grades of Primary Education and the Five (5) Grades of Secondary Education were completed.

6,864 stakeholders were trained to effectively utilize the Notesmaster platform in their teaching and learning experience. The initiative targeted students, teachers and parents/guardians with the aim of providing everyone with equal access to high quality teaching and learning. Toolkits for educators to self-train in ICT relevant to the Ministry's Learning Management System was also produced. Training to fifty (50) primary Education Officers and fifty (50) secondary Education Officers to increase the knowledge, skills, and competencies to deliver training in ICT relevant to the LMS and best practices pedagogy for instruction via the internet was also completed. Additionally, 1000 robust Laptop devices were

acquired and distributed to the most impoverished and vulnerable households without access to the Learning Management Systems' (LMS) Online Teaching and education materials.



WFP contributed to strengthening social protection in Trinidad and Tobago by convening a learning event targeting government on shock responsive social protection. Further, Trinidad and Tobago benefitted from a virtual conference on access to digital finance; the virtual event allowed for the sharing of experiences of other Caribbean countries with the aim of influencing policies and programmes across the region. A regional virtual learning event on social protection and the digitalization of assistance payments was organized in June 2022, and a face-to-face shock-responsive social protection training for government counterparts took place in July 2022.



Regarding support to the most vulnerable, the UNCT through the efforts of UN HCR, IOM and UNICEF provided direct support and interventions to address social protection challenges and care services. 3,520 individuals received emergency food assistance to address immediate food needs; 1,235 Victims of Trafficking, Venezuelan migrants and Host Community received non-food items assistance; and 2,264 received specialized services, including case management services, sexual and reproductive health services, psychosocial support and specialized GBV support. 135 vulnerable migrants representing 55 households were provided with rent for temporary accommodation; while 3,400 Core Relief Items (sleeping mats, solar lamps, blankets, kitchen sets) and more than 100 hygiene kits were distributed to refugee, migrant and host community families and people in need.



Trainings for local authorities, service providers and partners on the 4Ps of trafficking in person and smuggling of migrants and standardization of processes for the identification, referral and case management was also delivered with 354 personnel.

Concerning persons of concern and children, 1,175 children were enrolled in the primary education system, while 257 children were enrolled in secondary education. The Education Working Group, in which UNHCR participates, continues to collaborate with UNICEF and other agencies, including the Ministry of Education, to advocate for inclusion of children of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in the public school system.



Luis José Hernández Alemán arrived in Trinidad in 2018, from a small town in Venezuela.

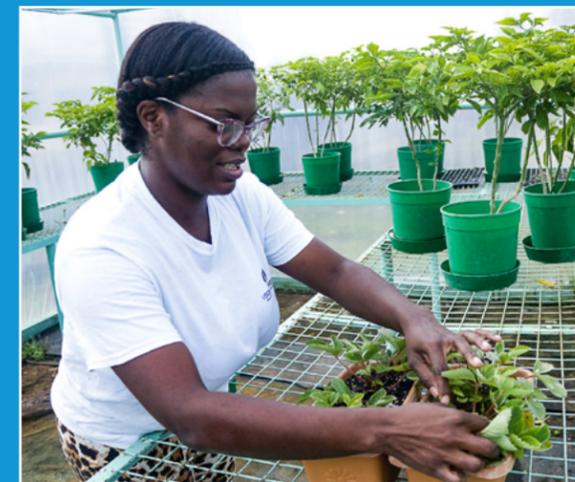
"This new beginning was marked by a series of

cultural, language, and social barriers that were the motivation to improve myself day by day," recalled Luis.

He quickly realised the best way to make himself more desirable to employers in Trinidad was to learn English.

And with an added talent for teaching, Luis became an instructor for Equal Place - a joint UNHCR/ UNICEF programme aimed at helping refugee and migrant children keep up with their education.

"This project has had incredible results, and being part of it has changed the lives and minds of our students," Luis said proudly.



Shenice Allen has diligently tended to the tomatoes and sweet peppers growing in the Women's Prison greenhouse. As an inmate, she has learned small-scale agriculture in a new greenhouse built by

UNDP. Since anecdotal evidence suggests that low levels of income contribute to recidivism, the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service and UNDP wanted to equip inmates with entrepreneurial skills to earn a living after prison.

With growing confidence in her green thumb, Shenice said her work in the greenhouse changed her outlook for the better.

"It's therapeutic," she reflected. "I saw myself as an 'Angry Bird,' and being in nature has helped me control my feelings. In leaving prison, I see it as a possible business venture having been taught agriculture from start to finish."



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



2.4 Priority 3

Resilience to Climate Change/Shocks & Sustainable Natural Resource Management

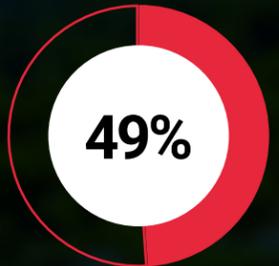
DELIVERY RATE (%)

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

US \$4,606,999

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

US \$2,267,953



Key Outcome Indicators And Baselines

12.4.1 - Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement (2020, %)



1.a.2 - Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (2019, %)



Key Results

Processes and capacities, climate change adaptation and environmental management improved



Community Flood Early Warning System developed



2 plastic upcycling and learning centres developed and commissioned



Refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector supported to improve energy efficiency



100 Refrigerant leak detectors delivered



102 Persons provided with sensitization and capacity building on nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and climate mitigation monitoring reporting and verification (MRV) system

Modernized ecological and sustainable consumption and production practices advanced



Technical support for the development and implementation of eco-based solutions introduced



15 Aquaponic farmers trained in financial education, entrepreneurial literacy, financial management and increasing the production of priority commodities



58 Farmers coached on practical application of food safety requirements in farming practice, and soil test analysis



66 primary school children trained on school garden technologies

The UNCT supported the Government and population of Trinidad and Tobago on climate change adaptation and environmental management with increased actions and interventions in 2022.

UNDP assisted the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Water Resources Agency on community flood early warning. Support included the supply of stream gauges; which will be fully installed in Q1 2023; two omni attenuators installed



at Gran Couva and Cumberland Hill; while a third is proposed for installation in Q1 2023. A high speed computer for flood modelling was also installed at Water Resources Agency, and a gender and age analysis to identify vulnerabilities related to flooding was undertaken with the report scheduled for delivery in Q1 2023. A Floodwarnings.gov.tt website was also launched with partners; a public launch carded for Q2 2023.

The UNCT's interventions also focused on improving environment and natural resource management. Accordingly, two plastic upcycling and learning

centres, one in Trinidad and one in Tobago, were successfully developed and commissioned; and research was completed, and policies supported to improve pollination and pollinator management through enriched data, public awareness and pollinator-appropriate management.

With respect to support to the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector to improve energy efficiency, an assessment of the national procurement policies, the national cooling strategy, the national building code, refrigeration code, and minimum energy performance standards was

conducted. The Minimum Energy Performance Standards were adopted (on a voluntary basis). A market analysis for replacement activities in the RAC sector is currently ongoing; EE/RAC equipment received is also being installed. Hydrocarbon RAC training equipment were distributed to training institutions to support technical capacity backstopping in the sector.

UNDP also supported the Ministry of Planning and Development to improve the capacity of Institutions that regulate the phase out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and the reduction of ozone substances to manage refrigerants. Online webinar training in good refrigerant practices and alternative refrigerants were made available to all vocational schools in Trinidad & Tobago. One hundred refrigerant leak detectors have been procured 60% of which have been distributed to professionally certified technicians. A workshop on identifying ozone depleting substances (ODS) was conducted with the Trinidad & Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS). This resulted in the training of 20 TTBS personnel in identifying Ozone Depleting Substances.

As one of CDEMA's sub-regional focal point countries, Trinidad and Tobago benefitted from Emergency logistics equipment training to strengthen the national team to deploy with equipment (MSUs, prefab offices, generators, etc.) before the hurricane season. Trinidad and Tobago FAO continued to provide technical support for the development and implementation of eco-based

solutions including workshops attended by over eighty persons that comprised participants from government, private entities, CBO's and NGO's as well as farmers and academic representatives. Sustained support for the development of policies to promote sustainable consumption and production was also advanced through Aquaculture Production and Harvesting including engagement and self-awareness sessions on a small aquaponics system, powered by a solar panel; capacity building with Tilapia value chain stakeholders; and the training of 15 aquaponic farmers on financial education, entrepreneurial literacy, financial management and increasing the production of priority commodities.

Regarding sustainability practices in Crop Production and Harvesting, 58 farmers benefited from capacity building on the practical application of food safety requirements in farming practice and soil test analysis.



She's more than a decade away from retiring from her job as a teacher, but Lisa Perez has already started working toward another of her life's goals.

At her home in the farming community of Wallerfield, Arima, the daytime giggling of her students gives way to the gentle gurgling of water, as dedicated pumps aerate her massive 10-foot wide aquaculture tanks filled with hundreds of tilapia.

"Since I was a youth, I tended to mind a lot of fish. As I thought about getting out of traditional farming, I wanted to get involved in smart farming where you're using less land to produce more," she says.

Lisa has enhanced her skills through an AMEXCID/CARICOM/FAO initiative to boost the contribution of aquaculture to T&T's food security.

"There are people within and beyond our community who love farming," she says. "My aim is to make my community productive."



CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES



2.5 Priority 4

Peace, Safety, Justice and Rule of Law

DELIVERY RATE (%)

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

US \$4,590,971

ACTUAL EXPENDITURE

US \$2,099,672

46%

Key Outcome Indicators And Baselines

5.2.1 - Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age (2017, %)

5.1

Montreal Protocol

0.9

Rotterdam Convention

10.2

Basel Convention

16.2.1 - Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month (2018, %)

1.32

16.3.2 - Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (2018, %)

59.7

5.5.1 - Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments, and (b) local governments (2019, %)

33.3

National Parliament

29.3

Lower House

38.7

Basel Convention

36.7

Local Government

16.3.2 - Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (2018, %)

69.6

Male

9.3

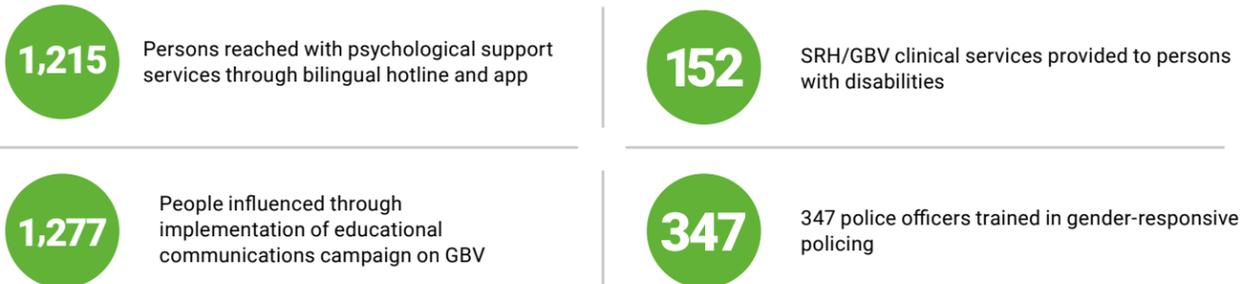
Female

39.5

Both

Key Results

Modernized ecological and sustainable consumption and production practices advanced



Rule of Law institutions, processes, systems and technologies strengthened



Capacities and mechanisms to ensure child protection and care strengthened

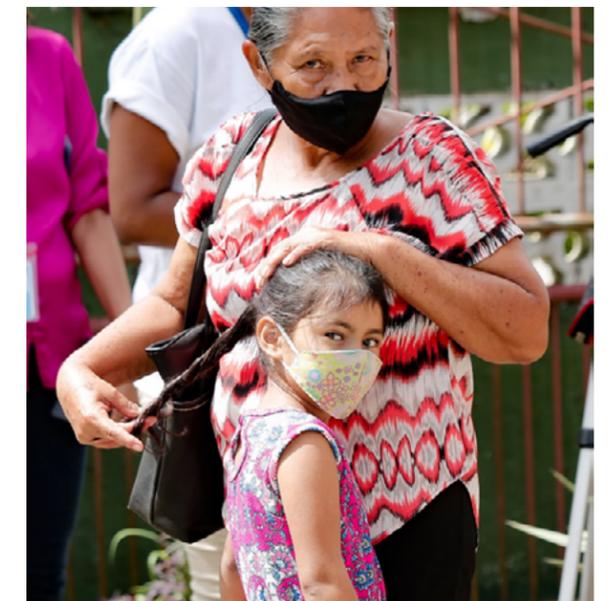


Support to refugees, migrants and persons of concern expanded



Actions and interventions regarding peace, justice, protection, citizen safety and security, and Rule of Law focused on mechanisms, systems, capacities and responses to address persons of concern, including migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. With respect to support of the prevention of and response to gender based violence, UNDP, UN Women and IOM undertook initiatives that resulted in 354 police officers improving their capacity in gender-responsive policing. Training for the remaining 7,000 officers of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service will continue in 2023. 5 Civil Society Organizations were supported through institutional capacity building in order to be able to respond to VAWG more effectively; and regarding improved accessibility and safety of public spaces for women and girls, community assessments were completed in Gonzales (POS) and Scarborough under the Resilient, Inclusive, Safe and SMART (RISS) Programme. The RISS Model has been developed and adapted for the Caribbean region based on the Safe Cities (UN Women) and Her Cities (UN Habitat). Research on public transportation in Trinidad and Tobago was conducted and the draft study report was produced and will be further refined and finalized in Q1 2023.

UNFPA provided key support to the delivery of SRH/GBV services to persons with disabilities; a total of 49 community awareness sessions were conducted and 152 clinical services provided to differently abled persons. Employers and workers were engaged around family violence and addressing GBV in the workplace; a communication campaign utilizing edutainment and key influencers addressed GBV with 1,277 persons influenced by the communications mix of products. 1,215 were also reached with the provision of psychological support through a, bilingual hotline and bilingual app.



The UNCT also provided ongoing support to processes, systems and capacity building to strengthen rule of law and citizen security. With the support of UNP, a new YTRC-Female Learning Centre was opened at the girls' wing of the Youth Transformation and Rehabilitation Centre (YTRC) at Golden Grove, Arouca. The space is designed to be "climate/green smart" and is equipped with solar panels in the roofing system, providing renewable energy which will be used to power some aspects of the Learning Centre. UNODC through technical assistance and capacity building initiatives provided support to emerging threats on maritime security; strengthened Trinidad and Tobago capacities to effectively prevent and counter online child sexual abuse and exploitation and related crimes.

UNODC also supported the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with enhanced identification, investigation and prosecution of cases of human trafficking, from a victim-centered approach. Through the TRACK 4 TiP initiative, specialized training was provided for law enforcement officers to detect, investigate, and prosecute trafficking in persons following a victim-centered approach: The training aimed to provide TTPS officers in Trinidad & Tobago enhanced investigative techniques to strengthen the identification of TIP victims in the country. In addition, the training had a cybercrime portion to also provide new resources and information to officers on social media recruitment and online methods.



UNODC also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the implementation of the Aircop Programme at the Piarco International Airport in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Training and retrofitting and equipping of the Aircop working room were completed in 2022.

Capacities and mechanisms to ensure child protection and care services were also strengthened through interventions supported by UNICEF. Technical support was provided for the implementation of the National Child Policy. A Family Violence Strategy was completed and integrated into local government strategies. A Draft National Child Safeguarding Strategy was also completed, while a new child protection information management system - Primero – was launched to support the Children's Authority in effective case management and referrals of child abuse cases.

2,100 children and caregivers were provided with mental health and psychosocial support; and capacity development of community-based and national child protection systems were also supported. Adopting a hybrid approach, virtual child friendly spaces (CFSs) continued and with the relaxation of COVID-19 protocols, 11 CFSs were reopened and benefited over 1000 children with intersectoral programming; 8 roving CFSs were also implemented to reach underserved populations. Several community outreaches were held as part of GBV risk mitigation efforts and reached 4,282 persons.

UNHCR and IOM led expanded UNCT efforts supporting refugees, migrants and persons of concern. Registration and refugee status determination were conducted for prioritized cases, with 415 individuals supported with refugee status determination procedures. 545 refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with legal assistance through NGO partner Living Water Community; 95 refugees were supported with requests for resettlement to third countries; and 171 refugee, migrant and host community youth were engaged in extracurricular and learning activities.



When Jimlendry Sankarsingh learned about a self-defense class being offered for women in Chaguanas, she was eager to sign up.

The class was open to Venezuelan migrants like her, and Trinidadians living in the area.

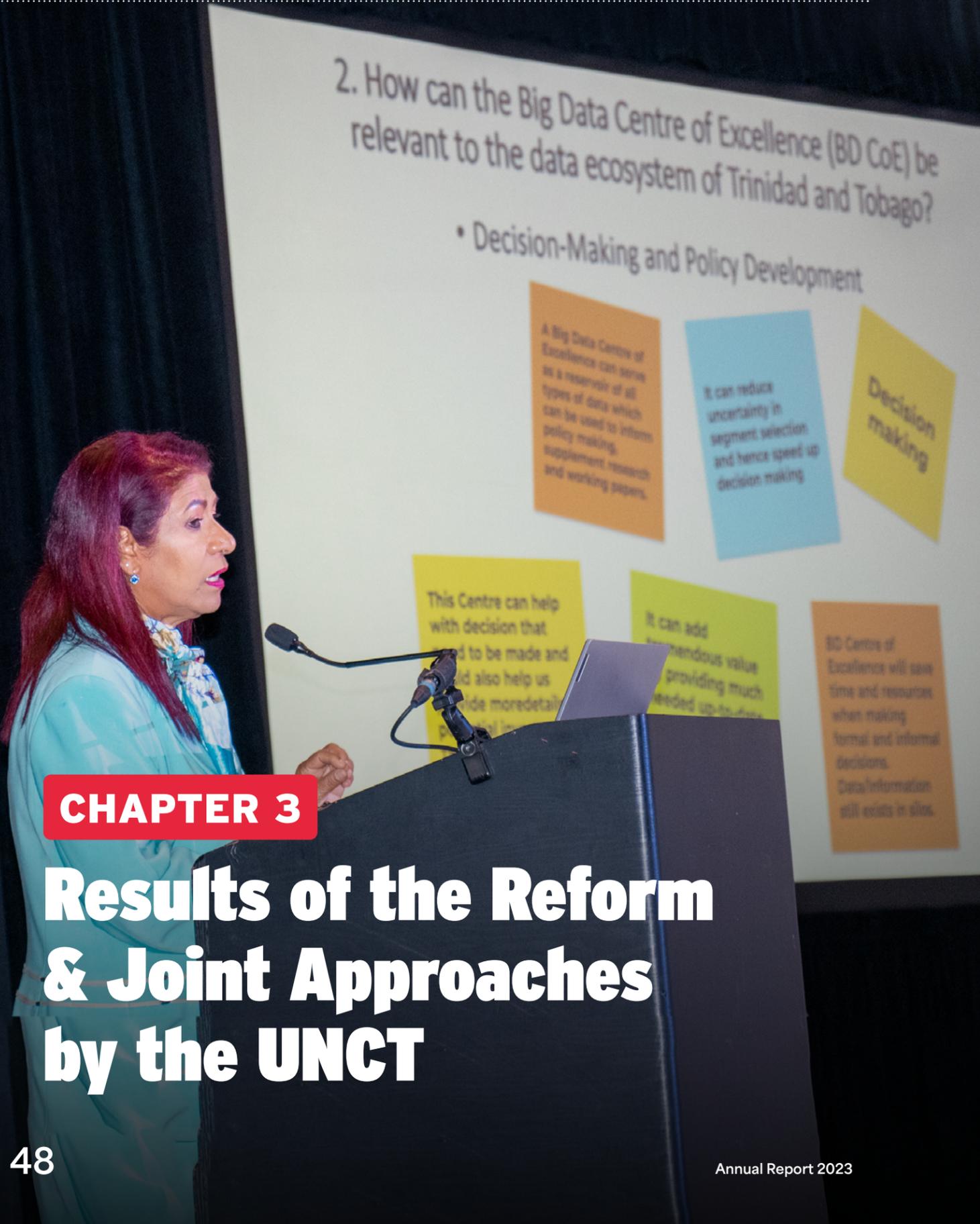
"We are women. Even though we are from different countries and speak different languages, we have to learn to protect ourselves," she said.

During the training at the Amethyst School of Martial Arts, Jimlendry met Elma Ramirez, a Trinidadian woman. The duo bonded over their children.

"It was easy to connect because we are both mothers. She made it easy to get to know her because of her personality," Elma said.

The 40 participants learned to assess and disrupt threats of violence and set boundaries for healthy relationships. The programme, supported by IOM, UNHCR and UN Habitat, was an effort to protect women from gender-based violence.

"During the training, there was always integration between Venezuelan women and the Trini women; everything we did, we did together," Elma said. "It helped us to see the humanity in it, which is really rich and really beautiful."



CHAPTER 3

Results of the Reform & Joint Approaches by the UNCT

3.1 Results Achieved on SDG Data And Knowledge Management

The modernization and strengthening of the local data ecosystem in Trinidad and Tobago continued in 2022 through combined efforts of the RCO and the United Nations Country Team, Government and local and international partners. Key new and ongoing initiatives included the development of a coordinating mechanism and requisite networks for the establishment of a Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics in Trinidad and Tobago; the designing, developing and maintaining of a Web-based Trinidad and Tobago SDG Data Platform; support to the Government in updating, digitalizing and field testing two national survey instruments; and strengthening of strategic data partnerships.

The Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics in Trinidad and Tobago

At successive editions of the Big Data Forum in 2020 and 2021, local, regional and global experts examined the feasibility of establishing a center of excellence for big data analytics locally. Discussions established that a center for big data analytics locally represents an untapped

opportunity to formalize big data analytics and make it more accessible to planners, developers and policy makers. General consensus identified that:

- i. a Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics should be established in Trinidad and Tobago which connects data scientists, academia, private sector and Government;
- ii. that the Center be the primary hub of big data analytics that produces analyses and correlations to support evidence-based interventions for better service delivery, sustainable sectoral development, and building stronger communities;
- iii. that an appropriate, adaptive model be readily defined, including a coordinating mechanism integrating all key partnerships needed to operationalize the Center and ensure its sustainability.

In this regard, research and development of the coordinating mechanism for the establishment of the CoE was completed in 2022 and the final report will be delivered in Q1 2023. Following the submission of the final report, it is intended that the Center will be launched at the 3rd annual Big Data Forum proposed for Q3 2023.

Designing, Developing and Maintaining of a Web-based Trinidad and Tobago SDG Data Platform

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) continues to promote inclusive participation of all stakeholders for the implementation of and reporting on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A key aspect of the UNCT support is the implementation of an SDG Interactive Digital Data Platform for Trinidad and Tobago, as a data repository of the official SDG indicators that the country has the capacity to report. The SDG data platform builds on the existing body of work undertaken by the RCO on behalf of the UNCT that has already identified SDG indicators and data sets, and will bring together data from various datasets, portals and sectors to one common place that will enable GoRTT to track its progress towards achieving the SDGs.

In 2022, the Joint SDG Fund allocated resources for the 'Modernizing Data and Statistics Ecosystem in Trinidad and Tobago' project which is being implemented by four UN organizations. In this regard, the engagement of a suitable consultant is ongoing to assist and support the UNCT in designing, developing, supporting and maintaining the Trinidad and Tobago SDGs Platform. The platform is proposed as a "one-stop shop" for all SDG statistics of the country, very user-friendly and with interactive data visualizations. The platform is scheduled for completion in 2023 also intended to be launched at the 3rd annual Big Data Forum.

Strengthening of Strategic Data Partnerships

As part of the actions arising out of the Big Data Forum discussions, the UNCT engaged a study on Awareness, Attitudes and Value Opportunities in the Trinidad and Tobago Business Community conducted by the Mona School of Business and Management in Q4 2021. The study concluded with the following requirements-Executive awareness and a cultural orientation at all levels of the organization towards the notion of "Data as an Asset;" a systematic approach to data capacity building in order to develop broad-based digital literacy and data skills; and active collaboration between business and academia to exploit shared value opportunities for both public and private sectors.

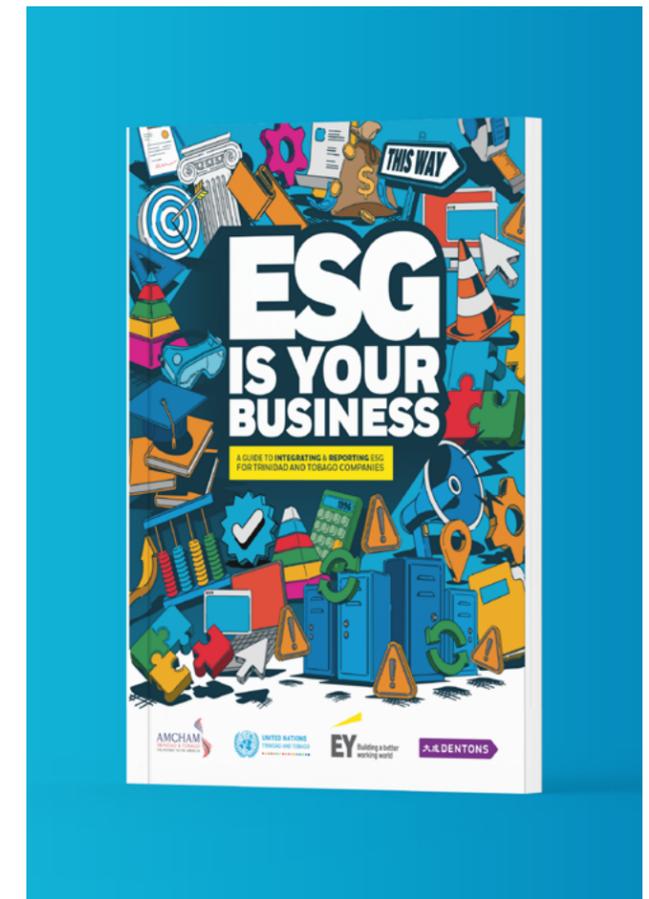
In this regard, the RCO and UNCT led discussions with local and international partners and multinationals on transformational capacity building through the development and implementation of capacity building programmes to advance data literacy, by leveraging the use of hybrid, innovative solutions to share knowledge. These efforts concluded with the proposal for the development of an interactive campaign on data awareness, knowledge and value opportunities for the community of business leaders in Trinidad and Tobago. The campaign will be further developed and implemented in 2023 leading up to the 3rd annual Big Data Forum.

3.2 Results Achieved on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

As Trinidad and Tobago is a high-income country that is ineligible for most official development assistance, the UNCT in 2022 leveraged joint resource mobilization, not just via traditional donors (e.g., Joint SDG Fund and other multi-partner trust funds), but through strategic partnerships with non-traditional funding sources.

Partnerships forged in 2022 emphasized private sector engagement in the 2030 Agenda. In collaboration with the UK-based Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, SDG-related training in Integrated Reporting and Sustainability for Finance was delivered to 31 executives and accountants from 20 large local companies. With the American Chamber of Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago, Ernst & Young and Dentons (the world's largest law firm), guides and toolkits on the integration of environmental, societal and governance (ESG) concerns into business models, investing and reporting were developed and delivered to 276 companies. With the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, 81 executives from 40 companies were also trained

in ESG. With the European Business Chamber in Trinidad and Tobago a framework was developed to evaluate and compare companies' sustainability actions and investments, and to identify exemplary companies to be celebrated at the Chamber and EU's Sustainability Champions Awards in March 2023.



Efforts to leverage financing for the 2030 Agenda focused on the country's private sector and IFIs. With the 13 large companies that comprise the SDG Business Roundtable, established in 2020 to promote integration of the SDGs into business plans, operations, products and services, a guide

and toolkit was developed to help the companies align their more than USD 18 million per annum in philanthropy with the SDGs. SDG-related proposal writing, and project management training was also delivered to 76 organizations that are supported by Roundtable companies' philanthropy, so that resources are more effectively and efficiently directed toward accomplishing the Goals. With the Inter-American Development Bank and Caribbean Development Bank, work commenced on an investment plan for a modernized ecosystem for the collection, analysis and sharing of SDG-related data and statistics. This will provide the information needed to forge new partnerships and direct more resources toward the accomplishment of the SDGs.

3.3 Results of the UNCT Communicating and Advocating Together

The end of the Covid-19-related State of Emergency in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2021 meant the UNCG could shape a 2022 agenda dominated by in-person community engagement. This welcome return to a calendar of events coupled seamlessly with our continued push for multimedia messaging, which the UNCG team kept up throughout the year.

Recognizing that the two-year focus on messaging for Covid-19, health and online education had eclipsed advocacy on attaining the SDGs, the UNCG hosted SDG events in seven communities across Trinidad to raise awareness about the role of individuals and communities in achieving Agenda 2030.

Two of these events formed part of the newly launched SDG Amazing Race, a series of hands-on competitions that offered participants an immersive experience about a particular SDG. As the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, said during his General Assembly address in 2022,



“We know lofty ideals must be made real in people’s lives.” That’s why the SDG Amazing Race was conceptualized, to help make the SDGs a reality for the public by focusing on specific relatable issues and creating memorable experiences of the way those issues arise in everyday life.

In the first of the two events, the UNCG – led by IOM and UNHCR under their joint Inclusive Cities project – focused on SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. At an event in Saith Park, Chaguanas, eight teams of a total of 16 people took part in a two-part competition: a trivia maze where the questions were centered on tolerance, inclusion, and key facts about migrants and refugees in Trinidad and Tobago, and a steelpan learning challenge where participants experienced the cultural fusion of learning how to play a verse

and chorus of the traditional Venezuelan folk song, Alma Llanera, on the Trinbagonian national instrument. The event drew a large contingent of volunteer staff from across the UNCT, with over 30 UN employees showing up to manage the competition.

In the second event, PAHO/WHO hosted a trivia challenge on SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being in the style of the Cash Cab television gameshow. During an event in Aranguez, four teams of a total of 16 people took a 10-minute drive in a maxi-taxi as they tried to answer as many questions as they could on Non-Communicable Diseases, healthy habits, mental health and wellness, the Sustainable Development Goals and the work of PAHO/WHO. The remaining five events were part of the SDG Outreach Caravan, where the UNCG set up

information booths in five communities –

Barataria, San Fernando, Grande Rivere, Trincity and Maracas Beach – to allow the public to interact with trivia-style games on the SDGs and pick up information pamphlets from the UNCT and our partners. These events reached an estimated 600 participants.

The Trincity engagement occurred at Bishop Anstey Trinity College East and was preceded by a UNCG feature address on careers in Sustainable Development. More than 250 boys and girls attended.

UN Day was a key highlight of the UNCG calendar last year, with the first UN Day Staff and Partner Event being hosted in more than two years. Key partners from government, the development

community, the diplomatic corps and civil society attended a UNCT meet and greet event coordinated and jointly funded by the UNCG. To raise public awareness of the SDGs for UN Day, the UNCG nominated partners to hang a banner for each of the 17 SDGs on the exterior of the partner’s premises for a week. Participating partners included the Office of the Prime Minister at Whitehall (SDG 17), the Judiciary at the Hall of Justice (SDG 16), the IDB (SDG 12), the San Fernando City Corporation (SDG 11), the Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville (SDG 14), Republic Bank (SDG 13) and the University of the West Indies St. Augustine (SDG 4).

Our media partnerships also remained robust in 2022. In April 2022, the UNCG engaged eight journalists and producers from seven media outlets for a day-long, in-person sensitisation



session on the SDGS and the work of the UNCT. This dialogue familiarized key newsroom personnel with the experts across the UNCT who could be called upon for interviews on certain topics and raised awareness about the main projects being undertaken by the UNCT.

In November and December, the five implementing agencies under the Spotlight Initiative, together with three other UN agencies, partnered with Guardian Media Limited to create content for the 16 Days of Activism. This initiative allowed UN agencies to raise awareness about gender-based violence while championing their work alongside their multisectoral partners. The partnership produced 15 newspaper articles in the Trinidad Guardian, 9 television news stories in the CNC3 newscast, 3 live morning show interviews on CNC3 television and 10 live radio conversations on Freedom 106.5. Advocacy for the causes we champion across the UNCT also found space in the opinion editorial pages of one of the country’s mainstream newspapers. For a second consecutive year, the UNCG produced op-eds authored under the bylines of Heads of Agency which were published in the Trinidad Express – a total of six op-eds throughout the year.

3.4 Results of the Spotlight Initiative



In 2022, the programme was the first in the Caribbean to receive official approval for Phase II which extends implementation to December 31st 2023. These Phase II plans reflect national priorities as gleaned from extensive consultations, and lessons from Phase I with emphasis on enhancing national ownership, targeting the most vulnerable and achieving sustainability of results post-Spotlight.

COVID-19 restrictions gradually eased throughout the year allowing much needed in-person stakeholder reunions, more impactful community outreach, greater visibility and arguably stronger national ownership of the programme. The country experienced record homicide levels with 601 murders documented including 57 women, 35% of which were due to domestic violence. In May 2022, the ‘Safeguarding Children In Community Residences And Child Support Centres In Trinidad And Tobago’ report was released, revealing decades of institutionalised physical and sexual



abuse and even instances of self-harm within children’s homes. As a result of these challenges in combination with inflationary pressures and the economic downturn, many critical Government partners found their human resources stretched to respond in a timely manner to key deliverables contributing to setbacks which have knock off effects on dependent activities. Notable delays include approval of the revised Health and Family Life Education curriculum, court accompaniment programme, the batterers’ intervention programme, the finalisation of the National Child Abuse Protocol, the National Child Safeguarding Strategy and the upgrading of the Central Registry of GBV. Additionally, the National Strategic Action Plan on Gender-based and Sexual Violence, the comprehensive guiding framework for addressing GBV in the country, has not yet been approved.

Notable achievements included:

- Training 220 police officers in gender-responsive policing with the commitment of the Academy to embed the training into its curriculum ensuring sustainability, more effective management of GBV cases and eventually improving the experience of the survivor while making police reports.
- Launch of the child protection information management system, PRIMERO, an innovative, globally recognised case management system which will help to ensure that fewer children in need of care and protection fall through the cracks of the system.

- Development of a Family Violence Prevention and Response Strategy with the local government.
- Training of 580+ adolescents including from the refugee and migrant population, in gender-sensitivity, leadership, advocacy, communication, technology skills, and project management, in 30+ schools across the country.

These students have now implemented projects to address problems experienced in their schools and communities. including bullying, school violence, child abuse and anger management. To date, 9,000+ persons have been engaged in-person in youth-led education and advocacy projects, to inspire positive behaviour change, safety, and respect for children and youth.

- Delivery of creative/arts-based solutions, communication materials and relevant tools on family violence to 250,000+ persons in the communities and hosting of 3 national events with the support of the Spotlight National Champions including First Lady MRs. Sharon Rowley, involving faith-based leaders, men and boys and young persons.
- Approval of the National Clinical and Policy Guidelines on Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence, the first official national framework for action in the health sector on violence against women. These outline best

practices to provide survivors with high quality health care.

- Enhancing the innovative small grants programme to provide core funding and institutional strengthening to grassroots organisations.
- 200+ health care and social workers from the 5 Regional Health Authorities trained in provision of quality health care for women subjected to Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence based on global best practices.
- 10 CSOs supported to deliver awareness campaigns in the 3 regions including: a mini podcast highlighting abuse; outreach on affordable housing options for underserved communities experiencing GBV; community engagement teaching advocacy tools to mitigate violence; a maxi taxi radio drama campaign that tackled unhealthy masculine behaviors and community walks.
- Delivery of a comprehensive capacity-strengthening project encompassing mentorship and coaching to 9 organizations within the women’s movement improving their effectiveness in tackling GBV.

3.5 Country Results Reports in Multi- Country Office



The Government of Aruba became a signatory to the new United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDCF) 2022 to 2026 in 2022. The new cooperation framework was signed on Friday, February 11 by the Prime Minister of Aruba, Her Excellency Evelyn Wever-Croes, and UN Resident Coordinator, Marina Walter, during a hybrid ceremony between UN House in Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Aruba. UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN Women, IOM, PAHO/WHO, UNDSS, UNIC, FAO and ILO also participated in the signing ceremony, and underscored the commitment of the agencies to support the Government of Aruba in its objectives of achieving the goals of Agenda 2030. Accordingly, a mission

to Aruba led by the Resident Coordinator and Heads of Agencies of the UNCT is proposed for Q1 2023 to discuss national sustainable development interventions aligned to the priority areas of the UN MSDCF, and the possibility of developing a country implementation plan (CIP) 2023 for Aruba.



The Government of Curacao became a signatory to the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDCF) in 2022. The MSDCF was signed by Mrs. Ruthmilda Larmonie – Cecilia, the acting Prime Minister of Curaçao and the Mr. Dennis Zulu, the UN Resident Coordinator for Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten. During the signing mission, key areas of discussion included Climate change, Education, Poverty, Health and the creation of Jobs. A key challenge regarding resource mobilization is the classification of Curaçao as a middle high income country, making it difficult to apply successfully for loans at international institutes. The RC also highlighted the support to Curaçao and key ministries with technical

assistance of the RCO in areas of data analysis, support when applying for funding for projects and economics. For other areas of support, the RCO will liaise with the relevant UN Agencies in order to provide the requested assistance. A follow up mission with to Curacao with Heads of Agencies in proposed for Q2 2023 to discuss national sustainable development interventions aligned to the priority areas of the UN MSDCF, and the possibility of developing a country implementation plan (CIP) 2023 for Curacao.



Discussions are ongoing with the Government of Sint Maarten and the Kingdom of the Netherlands regarding the status of the country as a member state-Sint Maarten being a constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As a result, the UNCT has a limited footprint in Curacao. In 2023, a mission is planned for Q2 to further identify mechanisms and opportunities for support.

CHAPTER 4

UNCT Key Focus for 2023

The UNCT and Government will forge ahead with implementation under the new cooperation framework.

UNCT efforts will build on the increased levels of resources expended in 2022 by upscaling key interventions including outreach to rural and vulnerable communities across Trinidad and Tobago and creating an enabling environment for gender equality and women's empowerment.

The UNCT will also continue efforts towards adoption of renewable energies to build a green economy including the development and finalization of the renewable energy policy. Support to disaster risk reduction, response, and recovery will be furthered through the Community Flood Early Warning System initiative; improved environment and natural resource management through ongoing pollinator interventions; and improving energy efficiency within the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector.

The UNCT will also provide technical support for the development and implementation of eco-based solutions; the development of policies to promote sustainable consumption and production; and actions and interventions regarding peace, justice, protection, citizen safety and security, and Rule of Law.

Regarding data modernization and support to the national statistical system, data capacity building initiatives will be implemented with the

business community, government officials and parliamentarians; the data ecosystem will be supported through technological advancements including the development of a modern SDG data platform and the launch of the Center of Excellence in Big Data Analytics; and the 3rd annual Big Data Forum will be executed as an in-person event inclusive of a two day exposition highlighting AI and robotics innovations.

Actions on refugee and migrant support will be furthered including support through the R4V platform; and actions to prevent, promote and address violence, xenophobia, exploitation and trafficking of persons as well as to encourage the integration and empowerment of migrants.

With respect to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030, the Spotlight Initiative Phase 11 will be implemented in 2023; and agencies will undertake initiatives to improve capacities to deliver comprehensive and integrated gender-based violence response services.

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