



**UNITED  
NATIONS  
TRINIDAD  
& TOBAGO**



**2019  
RESULTS  
REPORT**

# CONTENTS

Foreword .....	4
List of Abbreviations .....	8
Key Development Trends .....	10
Results Achieved on MSDF Outcomes and SDGs .....	14
An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Trinidad and Tobago .....	20
A Healthy Trinidad and Tobago .....	24
A Safe, Cohesive, and Just Trinidad and Tobago .....	28
A Sustainable and Resilient Trinidad and Tobago .....	34
Results Achieved on SDG Data and Knowledge Management .....	38
Results Achieved on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization .....	40
Responses to the Reform Environment .....	42
Results Achieved on Joint Approaches by the UNCT .....	44
Lessons Learned and the Way Forward .....	46

# FOREWORD

The One UN Trinidad and Tobago Annual Results Report 2019 indicates the results achieved by the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Trinidad and Tobago, together with our national partners in government, our international donors and institutions, the private sector, civil society and the general population. These results directly address Trinidad and Tobago's national development priorities as outlined in the country's own "National Development Strategy: Vision 2030", which is intimately linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Trinidad and Tobago, a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) rich in energy resources, demonstrates outstanding ownership and commitment to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). That commitment is evidenced by the country's endorsement of the Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF) 2017-21 and the Trinidad and Tobago Country Implementation Plan (CIP TT) as the mechanisms for joint UNCT and Government collaboration on sustainable development work and assistance. It will also be at the centre of the country's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) which will be presented to the 2020 High-Level Political Forum and underscore Trinidad and Tobago's achievements, progress, challenges and lessons learned on sustainable development at a global level.

The CIP TT 2019 is aligned to the four pillars of the UN MSDF as well as the strategic themes of the National Development Strategy. It was developed through close and extensive consultations between UNCT agencies and government ministries, state agencies in an all of government approach as well as other stakeholders. The close collaboration between all partners on implementation offered a platform to further advance progress and deliver results, but also created an environment where initiatives could easily be adjusted and repurposed in response to the evolving sustainable development conditions in Trinidad and Tobago.

This third year of implementation and reporting on the UN MSDF and CIP TT provides an opportunity for both analysis and reflection on achievements made, and to recognize challenges and opportunities with a view to formulating innovative ways for future implementation and programming. This is important since moving forward we will need to focus on accelerating the pace of sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago in a post-COVID19 world that threatens to derail many of the development gains

made over the past few years. Important to the success of the close collaborative partnership with government will be the ability to reach vulnerable communities, including the refugee and migrant population in the country.

The report in front of you showcases achievements in meeting SDG targets, UN support to improve the local data ecosystem, and efforts to secure new funding sources. This will serve as the basis for further dialogue between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the UN on how to create greater alignment and synergy to meet national development priorities while also creating a point of reference for the Government's independent assessment of progress.

Marina Walter

UN Resident Coordinator

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>2030 Agenda</b>	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>CIP</b>	Country Implementation Plan	<b>UN HCR</b>	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
<b>CMCA</b>	Common Multi-Country Assessment	<b>UN ODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>CMW</b>	Committee on Migrant Workers	<b>UN MSDF</b>	United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child	<b>UNRC</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations	<b>UN RCO</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
<b>DTM</b>	Displacement Tracking Matrix	<b>UNS</b>	United Nations System
<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	<b>UN WOMEN</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
<b>EMA</b>	Environmental Management Authority	<b>UWI</b>	University of the West Indies
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<b>VPN</b>	Virtual Policy Network
<b>FPATT</b>	Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Program
<b>HFLE</b>	Health and Family Life Education	<b>WP</b>	Work Plan
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights		
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization		
<b>JNSC</b>	Joint National Steering Committee		
<b>LWC</b>	Living Water Community		
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation		
<b>MALF</b>	Ministry of Agriculture Lands and Fisheries		
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals		
<b>MNS</b>	Ministry of National Security		
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health		
<b>MOLSMED</b>	Ministry of Labour Small and Micro Enterprise Development		
<b>NACC</b>	National AIDS Coordinating Committee		
<b>NCDs</b>	Non-Communicable Diseases		
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations		
<b>OPM</b>	Office of the Prime Minister		
<b>OMT</b>	Operations Management Team		
<b>PAHO/WHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization		
<b>PMT</b>	Programme Management Team		
<b>PSS</b>	Psychosocial Support		
<b>RBM</b>	Results-Based Management		
<b>RCS</b>	Rape Crisis Society		
<b>SAMOA</b>	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action		
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals		
<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States		
<b>SOPs</b>	Standard Operating Procedures		
<b>THA</b>	Tobago House of Assembly		
<b>ToR</b>	Terms of Reference		
<b>UN</b>	United Nations		
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team		
<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework		
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme		
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme		
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization		

# KEY DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

In 2019, the socio-economic policies adopted by the country contributed to improving living standards of the population, restructuring the national economy by adjustments in the energy sector, managing foreign investments and earnings, promoting national exports and improving social protection measures. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago continued the development agenda towards national transformation as outlined in the National Development Strategy; and maintained its commitment to incorporate the SDGs into its budgetary, financial and investment processes by ensuring institutional alignment.

Revised estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) indicated a decline of 0.2 percent in real economic activity in Trinidad and Tobago in 2018, confirming the stabilization of the economy during 2018 and into 2019. The economy rebounded during the first quarter of calendar 2019, with real GDP at basic prices expanding by 1.7 percent when compared to the fourth quarter of calendar 2018. Both the Energy and Non-Energy Sectors recovered in the first quarter of 2019 to expand by 3.9 percent and 0.8 percent respectively. Headline Inflation (year-on-year) fell from 1.4 percent in January to 1.2 percent in August, and during the January to March 2019 period, productivity expanded by 7.0 percent. The Net Asset Value of the Heritage and Stabilization Fund (HSF) increased to US\$6,249.2 million at the end of September 2019, a 4.8 percent increase from the US\$5,965.7 million recorded at the end of September 2018.

The restructuring of the petroleum sector resulted in economic benefits in 2019. Petrotrin, the country's main producer of crude oil underwent a major restructuring during the first quarter of fiscal 2019, and the establishment of a new holding company (Trinidad Petroleum Holdings

Limited) with four subsidiaries resulted in economic gains for the country. These included increased average monthly output of crude oil and condensate and increased export market share for locally produced heavy crude at higher than anticipated prices. The country realized improved revenues through tax and statutory obligations including Royalty, Petroleum Production Levy (PPL) and Supplemental Petroleum Tax (SPT) payments.

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector registered growth of 19.2 percent during the first quarter of 2019. Key programmes and projects addressing agricultural land management, protection of the agriculture stock, provision of improved facilities and upgraded agricultural infrastructure, were implemented in keeping with plans to contribute to increased levels of food security. Initiatives included making state lands available to citizens in rural communities to increase hectare availability for the cultivation and production of food; upgrading/construction of Fishing Facilities in Trinidad; and boosting agricultural production through rehabilitation of the local cocoa Industry and providing agricultural access roads to targeted commodities and strategic crops.

Key advances were also made with respect to human care and development for non-nationals. The Ministry of Health developed a policy for treating migrants that outlined the health-care services afforded to all non-nationals. These included emergency medical services including initial treatment, stabilisation and discharge for acute medical conditions; and all population and public health services, including immunisation and treatment of communicable diseases (such as COVID-19), sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and other high-

risk infectious diseases. The Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development advanced the development of the Labour Migration Policy of Trinidad and Tobago to ensure the better management of labour migration as a sustainable development strategy. Trinidad and Tobago held a 'Venezuelan Migration Registration Process' for legal and illegal Venezuelan migrants living in Trinidad and Tobago during May and June 2019. The Government allowed qualifying Venezuelan migrants to register and be authorized to work legally in Trinidad and Tobago for one year, providing a measure of comfort and security, and an opportunity to be integrated within local businesses and communities. It is estimated that more than 16,500 persons registered during this period.

Investment in the health sector further expanded access to quality health care and health care services in 2019. The Government's 2019 development programme addressed the deliv-

ery of modernized healthcare infrastructure, building capacity and capabilities in healthcare professionals, improving patient care and service delivery, and empowering citizens to live healthy lifestyles. Key programs included the construction of new hospital facilities; upgrade of existing hospitals and health care facilities; the Linear Accelerator facility, the first facility of its kind in the public health sector, that will enable the delivery of quality radiation services to cancer patients; and the procurement of advanced medical equipment including incubators, Computed Tomography (CT) scanners and Endoscopy equipment. Mental Health care and prevention was also further strengthened through the completion of the National Mental Health Policy, the development of guidelines and a checklist for Approved Mental Health Homes to improve the standard and quality of care for persons with mental illness in communities, and training in Psychological First Aid to equip volunteers and first responders with skills for providing basic psychosocial

support in the aftermath of a disaster or crisis. Key advancements were also made in reducing and mitigating the effects of HIV/AIDS. The National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) was re-established to coordinate all implementation of activities to achieve the national, regional and international goals for HIV and AIDS epidemic control. A draft National HIV and AIDS Policy was prepared with technical support from USAID, and in 2019 the NACC coordinated a review of the policy and transitioned the draft Policy into a Green Paper for Cabinet consideration. The Committee engaged in capacity building workshops, hosted community sensitization and outreach programmes and campaigns.

Preventative health care development improved with the ongoing implementation of the Non-Communicable Diseases' (NCDs) Strategic Plan (2017-2021) on the prevention and control of NCDs to achieve the overall target of a 20% reduction in preventable mortality for NCDs by 2025. The Ministry of Health also collaborated with other Ministries and Agen-

cies to undertake several public awareness campaigns on engaging and educating the public on healthy lifestyles. Human development including family empowerment, protection and support also progressed through efforts to finalize key policies, and through key programs and mechanisms.

The National Family Policy for Trinidad and Tobago and the National Parenting Policy are at different stages of finalization. Government participated in the development of the Spotlight Initiative, in keeping with the United Nations Development System (UNDS) reforms for more effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Proposed areas and intervention pillars include effective implementation of comprehensive laws addressing VAWG and gender-based inequality and discrimination; effective prevention strategies at national level; and interventions to strengthen and support civil society, women's movement and other organizations, which play a vital role in advancing shared strategic objectives to promote gender equality, advocate

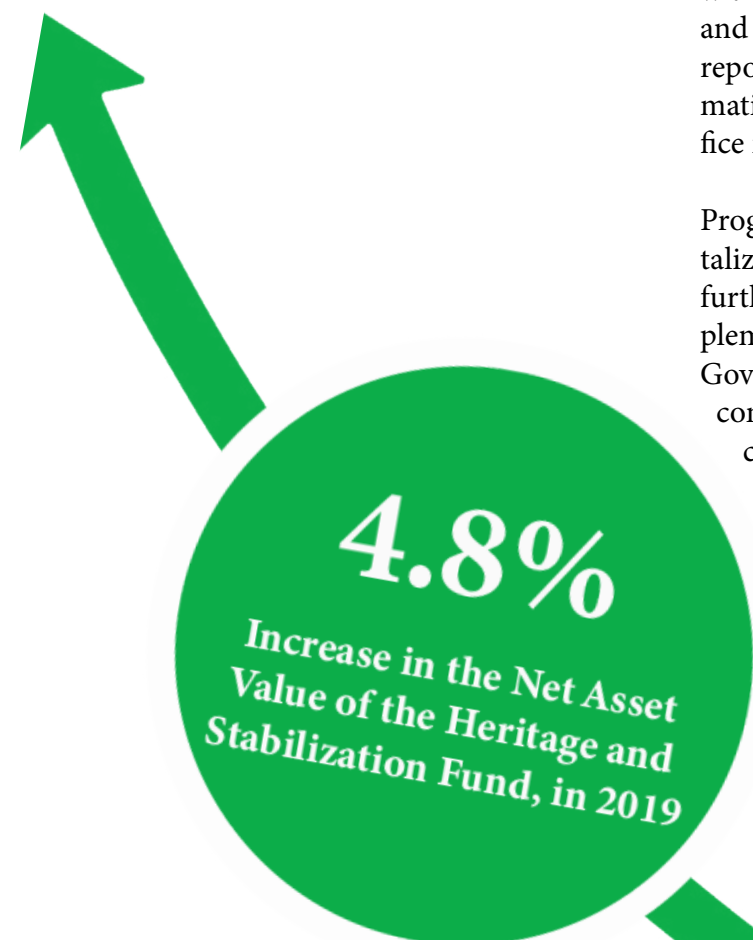
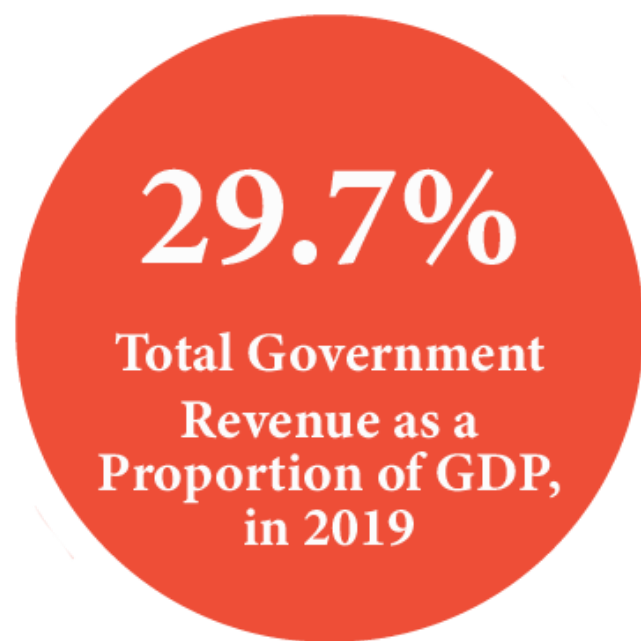
against violence and develop innovative interventions on prevention and response. Support for addressing domestic violence/gender-based violence also included the updating of the Central Registry on Gender-based Domestic Violence (CRDV) with 13 national agencies providing data into the system.

At the policy level, the development of key guidelines to support citizen protection and advancement was expanded. The National Policy on Persons with Disabilities was approved by the Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago as a white paper. Progress was made towards establishing the Oversight Interagency Committee for implementation of the Policy and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The Draft National Child Policy was approved by Cabinet for wider public consultations and citizen feedback was also received on the Draft National Child

Protection Strategy. In addressing the issue of children's vulnerability in disaster situations, the Office of the Prime Minister, in collaboration with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), implemented the Emergency Protocol for Natural Disasters – UNICEF Return to Happiness (RTH). Among the objectives, is the reduction in the number and/or intensity of symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as well as the increase the participants' measured sense of security/hope for the future.

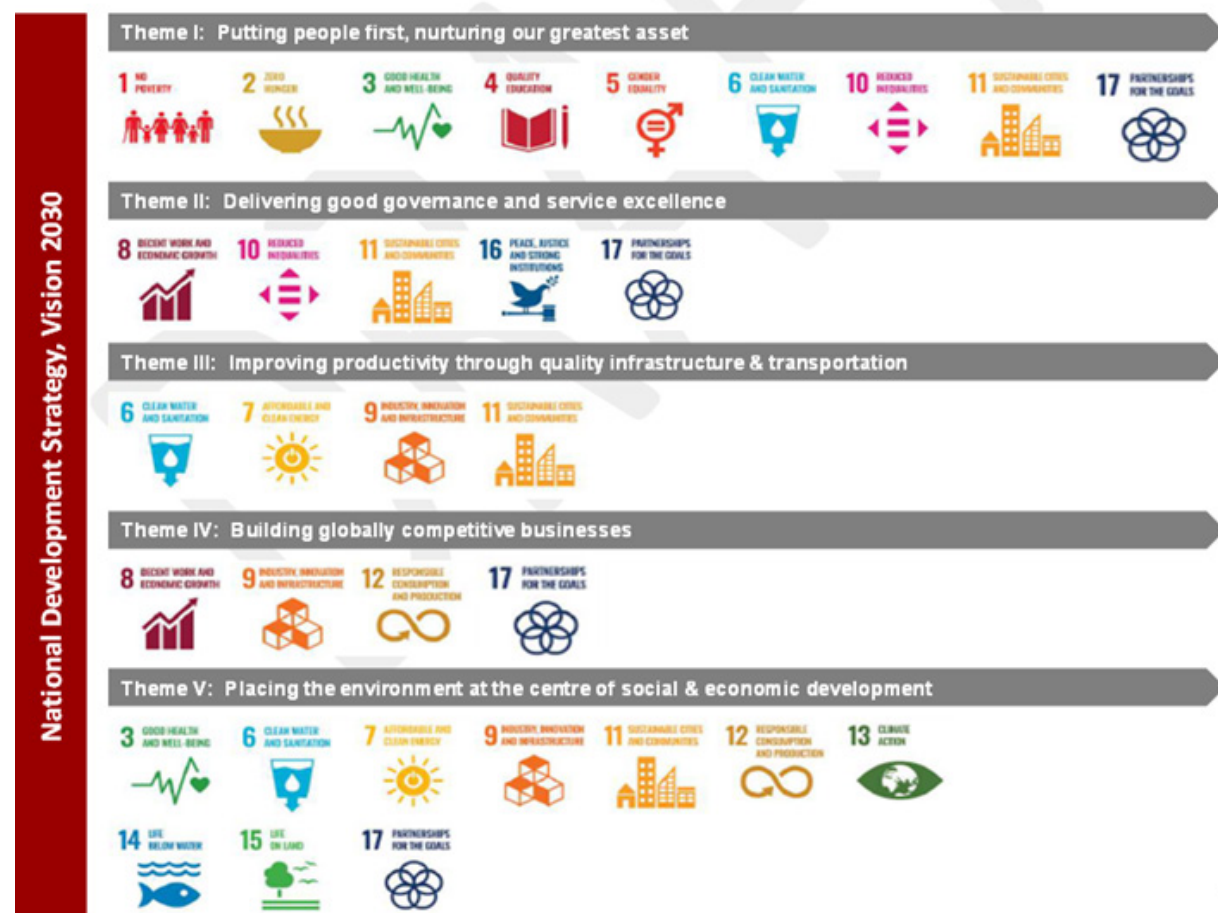
The Government, through the Ministry of Planning and Development continued to advance on establishing a robust National Statistical System (NSS). The modernization of statistical systems is directly aligned to the National Development Strategy, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Transformative Agenda for Official Statistics. Initiatives in 2019 included workshops on international standard industrial classification with representatives of academia, government and the private sector to standardize statistical reporting mechanisms to ensure that the information presented to the Central Statistical Office met international standards.

Progress in information technology and digitalization to improve service to the citizens was further evidenced by the development and implementation of key mechanisms including the GovPay solution, designed to allow ease and convenience for government services to accept payments; Community based ICT-enabled Access Centres, providing citizens free and quick access to training, information and e-government services in rural and developing communities; and the Direct Deposit Initiative, allowing citizens in receipt of government social programme grants to receive their funds in their own personal bank accounts.

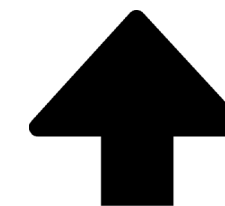


# RESULTS ACHIEVED ON MSDF OUTCOMES AND SDGS

The National Development Strategy focuses on five key themes which are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals:



These broad thematic areas are also aligned to the four priority areas of the UN MSDF and the eight outcomes that define the intended results of the MSDF. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago approved the rolling 5-year Country Implementation Program (CIP) for operationalizing the UN Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) 2017-2021, thereby fully endorsing the MSDF/CIP process and the work of the UNCT. Additionally, the Minister of Planning and Development has been vested with the authority for reviewing and signing-off on the UNCT/Government joint CIP plan for each year on behalf of government and presenting a yearly report on CIP progress and achievement of results to the Cabinet. This significant decision underscores the government's commitment to measuring the value of work done by the UNCT in conjunction with government ministries and agencies; and formally adopting it as part of the national development plans and reporting mechanisms. Accordingly, through the mechanism of the Country Implementation Plan (CIP), the UNCT and the government are working together towards the achievement of these eight defined outcomes. In pursuit of these outcomes, key results achieved across the SDGs thus far include the following:

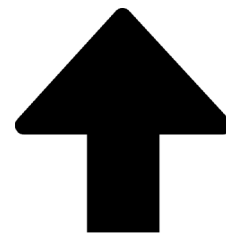


- The maternal mortality ratio, measuring the number of maternal deaths during a given period per 100,000 live births during the same period declined from a high of 49.2 in 2015 to 12.3 in 2018;

- Under-five mortality, the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of 5 years and expressed per 1,000 live births, declined from 13.9 in 2016 to 11.3 in 2018;
- The adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women has registered a continuous downward trend moving from 6.8 births in 2015 to 4.8 births in 2018.

- Proportion of Children achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in Reading and Mathematics - end of lower Secondary School improved from 49.0 percent in 2016 and 51.3 percent in 2019;
- In 2019 the enrollment rate for children three to four years in ECCE education was 60.2 percent. The enrollment rate for infant girls (61.1%) was slightly higher than the rate for boys (59.4%);

- Proportion of teachers who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in 2018/2019- pre-primary 75.7%, primary school 81.6% and secondary school 86.7%.
- Proportion of seats held by women in Parliament and Local Government- in 2019 females account for 33.3% of all members; this is slightly above the benchmark of 30 percent supported by the Inter Parliamentary Union, UN Women and the Commonwealth Secretariat mark for women's representation in national parliaments.



- Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP Per Capita improved from -6.7% in 2016 to -0.2% in 2018.
- Proportion of Children Under 5 Years of Age whose births have been registered with a Civil Authority-in 2018 the proportion of registered births was 94.7 %



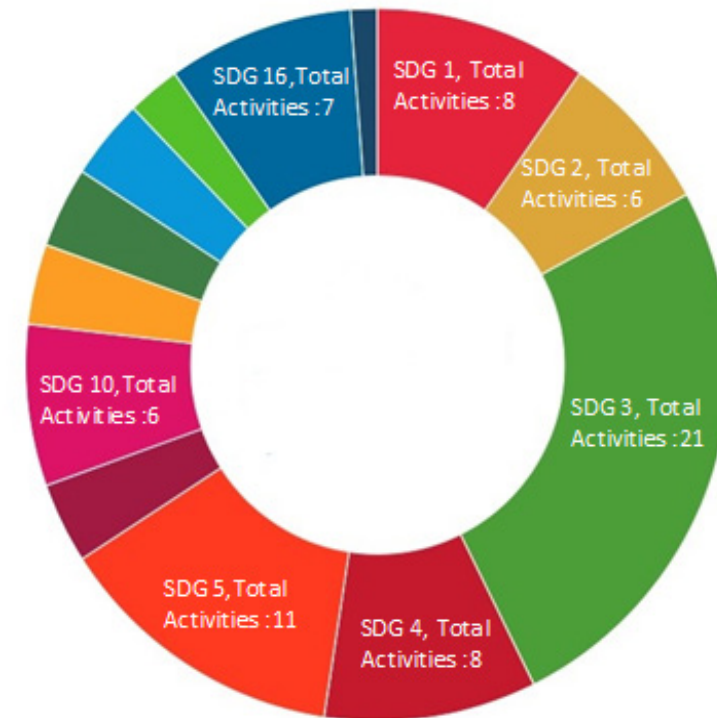
- Government revenue as a proportion of GDP was 26.3% in financial year 2015/16, increasing to 27.6% in 2017/18;
- Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions increased from 19.4 per 100 population in 2015 to 23.4 per 100 population in 2018- the number of subscribers to 2MB, 10MB and 10MB plus connections continue to grow;



- Proportion of individuals using the internet increased from 65.1% in 2015 to 77.3% in 2018; data from ITU on internet usage indicates usage in North America in 2017 at 77.0 percent, Europe 78.4 and Latin America and The Caribbean at 62.1 percent.



In 2019, the reform environment further provided an opportunity for the UNCT to extend the support provided to Government with respect to the MSDF/CIP TT implementation, and to identify areas where joint expertise could be strengthened. Key technical resources were added in the areas of resource mobilization, public private partnerships, data management, results monitoring and reporting and peace and security. The formulation of the CIP TT 2019 included collaboration between UNCT agency representatives and senior officials of government Ministries. Importantly, the UNCT contributed to a program of actions aimed at accelerating the achievement of the 17 SDGs; the annual country implementation plan was budgeted at USD \$14,553,455 with key initiatives across the four pillars of the UN MSDF (see Figure 1). Actual expenditure on SDG initiatives totaled USD \$6,577,143.84 with 72 activities implemented across Trinidad and Tobago. The majority of the activities were centered around five SDGs; twenty one activities focused on SDG 3, eleven on SDG 5, eight activities focused on SDGs 4 and 1 each, and seven on SDG 16.



UN Activities in Trinidad and Tobago by SDG, 2019

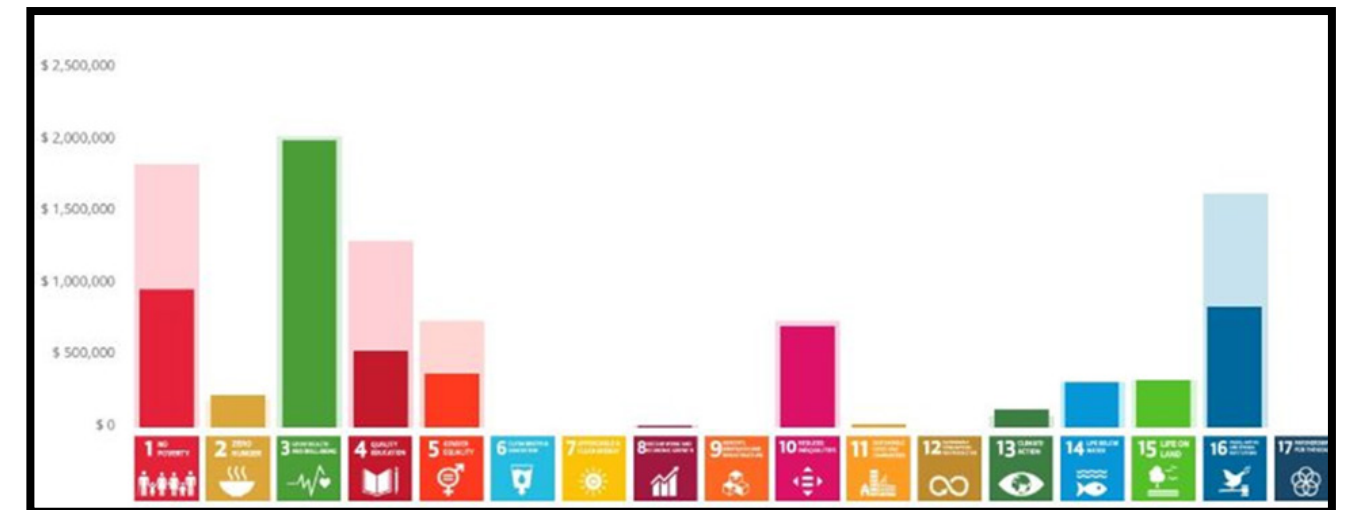




Figure 1: Distribution of financial resources across the Sustainable Development Goals, 2019

Regarding the financing gap in the UNCT contribution for each of the SDGs addressed in 2019, it is understood as the difference between available resources and resources required at the time of planning and budgeting the Country Implementation Plan (CIP) 2019. Only four SDGs had less than 60% of required resources available and the overall resource gap was 31%.

Financial gap in UNCT contribution identified by SDG, according to required resources and resources available for 2019



The lightest colour in each bar represents required resources

The darkest colour in each bar represents available resources

The colour difference in each bar represents the financial resources gap

## AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE AND PROSPEROUS TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The UNCT continued to provide support to mainstream the SDGs associated with strategic priority 1 of the UN MSDF (An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean) within national programs and plans. Implementation of the Trinidad and Tobago Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and Central Statistical Office in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as part of the global MICS4 programme commenced in 2019. In line with SDG 1, MICS will provide up-to-date information for assessing the situation of children and women in Trinidad and Tobago; collect disaggregated data for the identification of inequities and disparities, that allow for evidence based policy-making aimed at social inclusion of the most vulnerable; contribute to the improvement of data and monitoring systems in Trinidad and Tobago; and capture quality data needed for monitoring progress towards goals established in the National Development Strategy (NDS) and the SDGs.

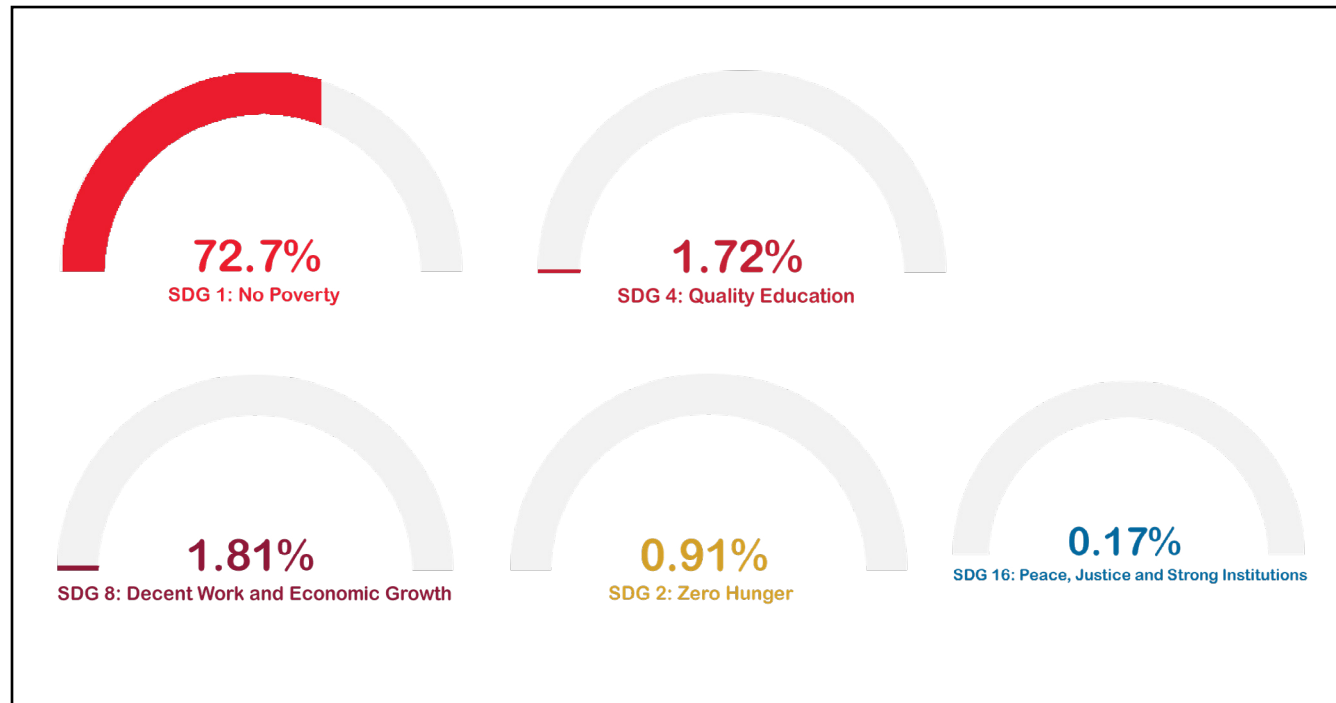
UNICEF supported the Government in the development of the National Child Policy of Trinidad and Tobago; an initiative that contribute to the achievement SDGs 1, 4 and 16. It is a cross sectoral policy intended to guide the development of and the protection and advancement of the rights of children in Trinidad and Tobago. The Policy was completed and submitted to the Cabinet for approval, before it is officially launched and adopted.

In support of those most in need and in accordance with SDG 1, UNICEF and UNDP partnered with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, and the University of the West Indies to initiate a multi-dimensional poverty study. The study seeks to establish national measurements of multi-dimensional poverty in Trinidad and Tobago in order achieve inclusive

and equitable social protection programmes that seek to develop and implement the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS); to articulate national multi-dimensional poverty measurements methodology including child poverty; and to strengthen evidence-based, integrated delivery of social protection programmes to impact the most vulnerable families, women and children. Sixteen (16) focus groups were conducted with stakeholders (14 in Trinidad and 2 in Tobago) to determine perceptions on poverty. A detailed map on social protection programs was developed, and a qualitative report on Perception of Poverty in Trinidad was completed and launched in collaboration with UNICEF and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. A study entitled Voices of Children on Poverty in Trinidad: Consultation report on Multi-Dimensional Poverty was also launched.

Under strategic priority 1 and in contribution to SDG 4, the UNCT and the Government worked together on labour safety and inclusive employment, building competitive businesses and retraining of the workforce. Within the framework of the UN System's initiative on Innovation for Development, the ILO collaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development (MOLSMED) on a pilot project aimed at harnessing youth voices in Trinidad and Tobago to impact and improve youth employment and education policies and programmes. The pilot, scheduled for completion by December 2020 utilizes a combination of modern technological tools and re-engineered, dynamic social dialogue. The MOLSMED and ILO worked with the UNICEF Trinidad and Tobago U-Report team, to launch a youth targeted, nation-wide poll on the OJT, and a data collection exercise, utilizing the low cost, mobile based platform- U Report. Five hackathons and multiple focus group discussions, were hosted nationwide with over 150 persons comprising current and past OJT trainees, training providers (from public and private sectors and NGOs), and non-OJT persons participating. Each hackathon





Agencies: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNICEF  
 Planned: USD 126,013  
 Spent: USD 129,291

facilitated interviews and group discussions that looked at the main findings of the poll and concluding plenary sessions where main points of the various discussions and participants' recommendations were shared. A final report summarizing the findings of the evaluation and the key recommendations to improve the design or implementation of the OJT Programme, will be produced and submitted for the consideration of the Ministry.

ILO supported the National Training Agency of Trinidad and Tobago (NTA) to conduct research on the status of employability skills in Trinidad and Tobago. The purpose of the study is to gain a better understanding of skills that enhance employability, and those which are lacking within enterprises in Trinidad and Tobago. The study is guided by the Conclusions on Skills for Improved Productivity, Employment growth and Development, International Labour Conference, 2008, and ILO Recommendation 195 on Human Resources Development, Education, Training and Lifelong learning. The ultimate objective is to close the skills gap in the education curricu-

lum and the Standards for Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ).

ILO also provided technical support to the government towards improving the workplace and business environment. During 2019 ILO supported MOLSMED to develop and implement a national workplace policy on sexual harassment. The policy responds to the latest comments of the Committee of Experts on the application of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) in which the Committee requested the Government to take concrete measures to prevent and prohibit both quid pro quo and hostile environment sexual harassment in employment and occupation. In March 2019 a National Workplace Policy on Sexual Harassment was adopted by Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago. The policy was adopted before the International Labour Conference 2019, but incorporates many points contained in the Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190). As part of a longer term objective within the NDS national theme "Building Globally Competitive Businesses", the ILO's technical support was re-

quested to promote and support the development of new and existing small enterprises – the core business of the State-owned National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO). In 2019, collaboration between the ILO and NEDCO was formally confirmed through a signed Memorandum of Understanding for the use of ILO's Start and Improve Your Business modules in NEDCO's training offering. Progress was made in building a pool of trainers with NEDCO in the initial modules of Generate Your Business Idea (GYB) and Start Youth Business (SYB). The process, however, is ongoing and ILO in 2020/2021 will continue to support NEDCO in consolidating a pool of certified trainers in GYB and SYB and Improve Your Business. These offerings will strengthen NEDCO's offering in terms of content as well as participatory and activity-based learning methodologies.

The UNCT also worked with government to improve access to equitable social protection systems, quality services, and sustainable economic opportunities.

Accordingly, ILO collaborated with the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) in Trinidad and Tobago to conduct an actuarial review to determine long-term financial sustainability of NIS. The review is mandated by statutes and are public documents which serve to inform stakeholders of the current and projected financial status of the fund. It covers actuarial valuation services for old-age, invalidity, death, sickness and maternity benefits, and will build the capacity of NIS staff mainly on actuarial, statistical and legal principles. In August 2019, the "10th Actuarial Valuation of the National Insurance System as of 30 June 2016" was finalized and presented to the Board of the National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago (NIB), and workers' and employers' representatives. The actuarial review included recommendations to make the social security scheme financially sustainable in the long-term. The Actuarial Report was submitted to the Minister of Finance for consideration and has been presented and discussed in the Parliament.



Photo Credit: UN Women

## A HEALTHY TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The UNCT and Government continued joint work towards strengthening the control of main risk factors of cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic pulmonary diseases; and improving the quality of health care services. The initiatives undertaken and achievements gained contribute to the overall achievement of Goal 2-End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, Goal 3- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, Goal 4- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all and Goal 14-Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The UNCT supported the Government to expand and implement evidence based interventions at community levels to improve maternal neonatal, child & adolescent health. PAHO/WHO worked with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to commence the implementation of the perinatal information system and provision of perinatal clinical records; with a view to strengthening information systems to monitor and evaluate quality of care and the use of cost-effective interventions, with special emphasis on the measurement of inequities. PAHO/WHO also provided technical support to the MOH to strengthen capacities on pharmaceutical supply chain management and pharmacovigilance. The UNCT and Government similarly partnered to strengthen Trinidad and Tobago's capacity for health emergencies and disaster risk management, and to develop a more disaster-resilient health sector. PAHO/WHO and the MOH worked together to complete a communicable disease surveillance system evaluation and plan of action, and strengthened capacity including for surveillance of communicable diseases. PAHO/WHO and MOH also worked together to improve mass casualty management; capacity building sessions and simulation exercises on mass casualty management were completed with 60 participants with support from the Emergency Department of the PAHO.

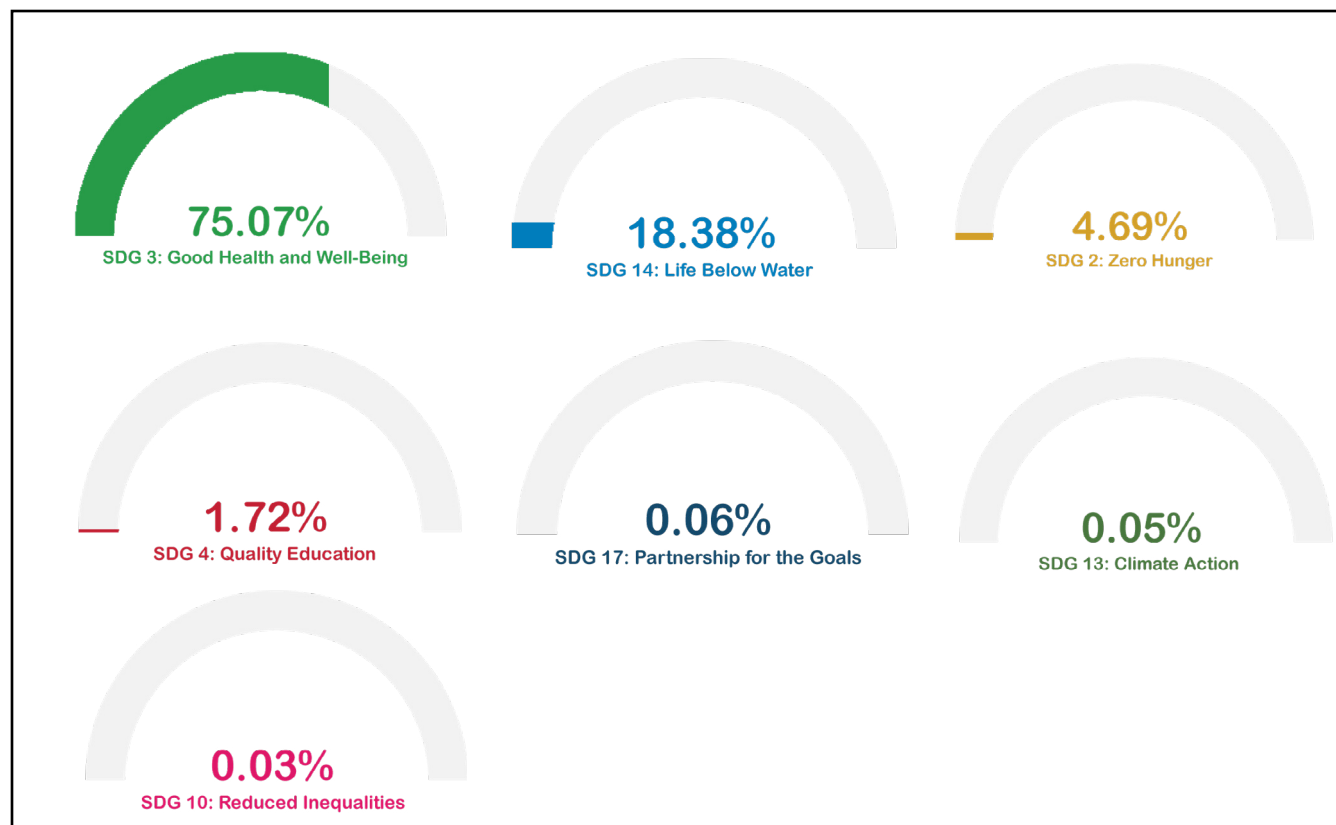
Government and the UNCT also implemented comprehensive actions in the areas of policy advice, strategies and action plans to achieve universal health. Mental health and diabetes awareness campaigns were developed and implemented to create awareness for NCDs and mental health; a rapid assessment of clinical governance and management in South Western Regional Health Authority was completed; and a National Health Research Ethics Policy was drafted in support of the development of ethical frameworks and mechanisms for research ethics and public health practice. The UNCT supported the Government to strengthen institutional capacity by providing technical assistance and capacity building to enhance the delivery of health care services in primary health care facilities. Psychometric testing of Regional Health Authority Chief Executive Officers was completed, and seven (7) Emergency Departments were assessed to determine barriers to improve health care delivery. At the end of 2019, specialized equipment for emergency departments for the various RHAs in Trinidad were identified; the equipment is proposed for purchase and delivery in 2020.

Strategies and mechanisms to address the social and environmental determinants of health were also strengthened; PAHO/WHO and MOH completed a health and climate change profile for Trinidad and Tobago in pursuit of a strategy and plan of action on climate change implementation; and a National Breastfeeding Policy was drafted, breastfeeding counselors trained, and the extent of breast milk banking explored in support of breastfeeding in communities and health facilities.

With respect to Health, Nutrition and Food Safety, FAO partnered with Government to improve systems for food nutrition and food safety. FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture Lands and Fisheries (MALF) with strengthening national strategic, policy, and legislative frameworks for food and food safety. A review of the Draft Fisheries Management Bill (2019) and other fisheries-related national legislation, in line with the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), complementary instruments and regional mechanisms to combat



Photo Credit: SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES



Agencies: PAHO/WHO, FAO, UNDP, UNFPA  
 Planned: USD 3,089,399  
 Spent: USD 928,573

IUU fishing was completed. National stakeholder consultations to present the monitoring, control and surveillance regulations was concluded with 41 representatives from different national institutional bodies in attendance. The Draft Fisheries Management (Administrative Procedures) Regulation, 2019 and Draft Fisheries Management (Monitoring, Control and Surveillance) Regulations, 2019 were also produced. It is envisioned that national authorities will adopt and follow the recommendations provided by FAO, and that the fisheries national regulatory framework will contribute to a more sustainable management of the sector (fisheries, fish processing and fish trade) and further contribute to the application of effective measures to address IUU fishing.

FAO also worked with MALF and the University of the West Indies (UWI) on the sustainable management of bycatch in trawl fisheries. The updated Draft Fisheries Management Bill 2019 addresses, inter alia, licensing/registration/recording of vessels/fishers, development of fishery management

plans, implementation of Observer/Logbook Programmes, and monitoring, control and surveillance. The viability of new technologies was also tested through gear trials and sampling of catch for comparative analysis of a Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD). The testing resulted in a 46.5% reduction in discards by weight. An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Workshop was also conducted in collaboration with the CLME+ Project and CERMES with participants from the fishing industry and government officials. The emphasis of the workshop focused on co-management strategies and the development of a regional management plan for the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the Guianas-Brazil Continental Shelf. A Fisherfolk Diagnostic study, with the aim of strengthening fisherfolk associations and cooperatives, was also implemented by developing a tool for understanding the existing governance mechanism within the local context of selected fisherfolk organizations (small-scale and industrial), led by Duke University and UWI, CERMES in collaboration with CANARI.

MALF and FAO worked together to contribute to food security and food safety in Trinidad and Tobago: initiatives included the promotion of food safety and meat hygiene in the Poultry Cottage Industry to build resilience and support the livelihoods of cottage processors and the greater participation of this sector in the poultry value chain and food system; and the Cassava Industry Development initiative, to exploit the potential of cassava as a food and commodity crop.

In the area of sexual and reproductive health, UNFPA and PAHO/WHO supported the MOH with the development of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy. Agencies provided technical support to the development of the Policy and a draft has been completed and submitted for review. UNFPA in collaboration with PAHO, also supported the expansion of the contraceptive method mix in Trinidad and Tobago. The study protocol entitled “Expanding the Contraceptive Method Choice in Trinidad and Tobago: Introduction of Contraceptive Implants” was approved; and 55 Health providers were trained, and 267 implants were inserted as at December 2019. The acceptance and early success of this initiative is underscored by the intention of government to plan a scaled up intervention. UNFPA also joined with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Family

Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago to support a qualitative analysis of the legal barriers that inhibit minors access to sexual and reproductive health services in Trinidad and Tobago; a draft study inclusive of recommendations was completed and is currently being reviewed.

UNFPA also provided support to the MOH with the implementation of a supply and logistics management system (SALMI Logistic Management Information System) for reproductive health commodities and all pharmaceuticals and related supplies for all public health systems. During 2019, the health facility SALMI modules were developed and implemented in four pilot health facilities; the development of the Warehouse module commenced but full development and implementation is expected during the first semester of 2020. The 2020 implementation plan has already been developed and agreed. SALMI will be the first comprehensive LMIS in place across all public health facilities in Trinidad and Tobago and it is intended that it will bring critical improvements in the supply chain management of commodities.



Photo Credit: UNFPA

## A SAFE, COHESIVE, AND JUST TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The UNCT and Government collaborated to strengthen public policy, improve the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and support equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety. The joint work and results realized contribute to the overall achievement of Goal 16- Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, Goal 10- Reduce inequality within and among countries, Goal 1- End poverty in all its forms everywhere, Goal 5- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, Goal 4- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, and Goal 2- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

The UNCT partnered with the Government and CSOs to strengthen the national social protection system. Accordingly, UN agencies strengthened the capacity of representatives of local civil society organizations and ministries in social service provision. UNHCR continued its partnership with local CSOs Rape Crisis Society (RCS) and Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT) to offer support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and to sensitize host communities to issues of SGBV affecting both local and refugee populations. The Rape Crisis Society provided psychosocial support relating to SGBV trauma to over 100 persons, conducted a helpline training with 16 volunteers, conducted 3 workshops targeting with community groups (66 persons) and held focus group discussions in 4 communities. FPATT delivered 1,665 services to 1,243 unique persons and distributed 69 dignity kits. Test, treatments and exams offered to clients included doctor visits,

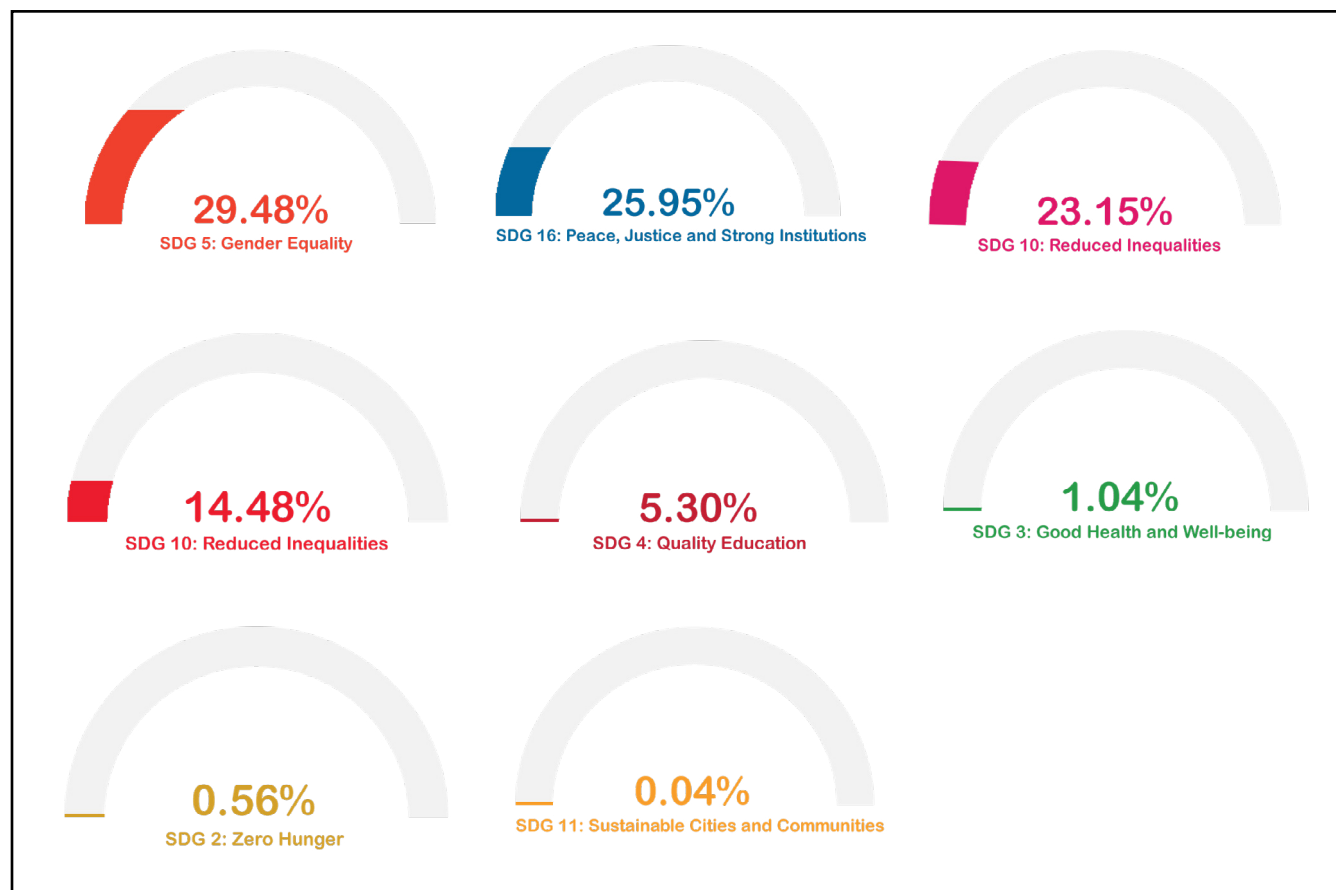
breast examinations, pap smears, STD screens and HIV tests. A variety of communication tools were used to reach the population and Spanish speaking personnel were included to improve delivery of services to refugees and migrants. FPATT continued to use established referral pathways to ensure that all clients were treated along a continuum of care for a prompt and comprehensive response.

The delivery of services by both CSOs highlighted the importance of stronger social service delivery in both Spanish and English so that ‘no one is left behind’ and so that all clients feel a sense of safety and comfort while accessing SRH and mental health services. The training of community focal points played a key role in encouraging others to access healthcare services, while feedback and complaint mechanisms were critical to improving the service design and delivery to meet the needs of clients. UNFPA and ILO also collaborated with the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago to increase awareness among parliamentarians about sexual harassment and related issues.

Mechanisms and institutions were also strengthened to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The Government of Trinidad & Tobago established a Central Registry on Domestic Violence (CRDV) in 2016. UNFPA partnered with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in 2019 to identify limitations in the CRDV; this resulted in the development of a training plan and a user manual for the Registry. UNFPA also provided technical support to the OPM through an assessment of policies, legislation, as well as the response of the police, justice, health and social services sectors to gender based violence. The assessment report of the various sectors, policies and legislation was completed



Photo: Venezuelan migrants wait in line at Trinidad and Tobago's immigration point.  
Credit: Christian Science Monitor



**Agencies:** UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA

**Planned:** USD 10,198,999

**Spent:** USD 4,537,010

and submitted to the OPM to be reviewed and approved; the gaps identified in the report will be addressed in 2020.

UN Agencies supported the Government and Civil Society with gender based violence mitigation, preparedness and response in emergency settings, including the clinical management of rape. The agencies led by UNFPA supported a number of initiatives in response to the Venezuelan migrant and refugee situation in Trinidad and Tobago including four (4) safe identification and referral workshops, including two (2) specific workshops for the police in South and North Trinidad for first responders geared at strengthening response systems. Case management training to support the referral pathway for GBV survivors was also provided; IEC materials on maternal health and human rights were produced in Spanish for the affected population and 500 dignity kits were procured

and handed over to the implementing partner. Self-empowerment and security awareness capacity building sessions were done through a local implementing partner, along with support for the implementation of a peer health navigators to support access to life saving services.

With respect to justice, protection, citizen security and safety, the Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with other key national stakeholders and with support of UNICEF, developed a joint costed national Child Protection Implementation Plan as part of the National Child Policy. UNICEF's input into the process includes coordinating with key stakeholders, from various sectors, at the planning stages, deciding on common goals and priorities and realistic implementation strategies in the holistic child protection approach. UNDP joined with the Ministry of National Security to strengthen community resilience through the promotion

of inclusive approaches to peacebuilding for the most vulnerable. Twelve (12) Youth Peace Ambassadors commenced training to be youth peer mentors and certified mediators; and capacity building was undertaken among 20 youth from the youth prison to enhance resilience and psychosocial well-being with an aim to reduce recidivism rates. Moreover, four officers of the Children Court were sent on a study tour to a Drug Treatment Court in Atlanta in order to learn from their processes and best practice. The learnings are being used to pilot a Drug Treatment Juvenile Court in Trinidad and Tobago.

Thirty Child Probation Officers, Prison Officers and Children Court Officers were also trained in best practices in case management, interventions and child justice administration when dealing with children's cases. The training was conducted by four facilitators from the Supreme Court, District of Colombia, USA. Laptops and chess sets were procured to engage young persons in 25 Police Youth Clubs across Trinidad and Tobago -the laptops will be used to engage the youth in various activities including empowerment activities; development of IT skills; assisting with homework; and enhancing research and communication skills. The Police Youth Clubs recently trained a number of youth to play chess and many of these young people have excelled in the sport, and have been successful in placing in top positions in national competitions. The UNDP will continue to assist with rolling out the sport to all the Police Club Houses in an aim to build a cadre of national chess champions.

In the area of protection of migrants and refugees, IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF provide key support to Government and CSOs to strengthen protection mechanisms. Trinidad and Tobago saw an increase in Venezuelan migrants in 2019. IOM supported the MNS and its agencies with capacity building and assistance for migrant registration including training and technical support to the immigration division, protective services, supervisors and clerks involved in migrant registration. IOM also provided supporting staff for data entry after the closure of the registration process. As a result of this intervention, 16,523 migrants were

regularized. IOM also joined with FPATT to provide direct assistance to vulnerable migrants and refugees; assistance included provision of temporary accommodation to vulnerable migrants, emergency medical services and routine check-ups along with food assistance. Accommodation, food and non-food items were sustained over a period of months for high risk cases. Additionally, refugee resettlement to a third country was also facilitated. Accordingly, 333 migrants were provided with non-food items; 74 vulnerable migrants received a combination of medical assistance (medical screenings, provision prescription medications and psycho-social counselling), accommodation and food assistance during 2019. 65 refugees were resettled to USA, Canada and Australia along with case management for 9 refugees awaiting departure.

IOM and ILO also supported the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development with a comprehensive legal and technical review of existing labour laws and the development of a labour migration policy. A review of existing laws was submitted, and a capacity building workshop on labour migration policy development was concluded with 32 technocrats from Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development and members of the cabinet appointed Labour Migration Committee.

A series of focus groups on the development of a labour migration policy were also conducted with 55 persons representing high level government officials, UN agencies and other NGOs (churches, civil society), Trade Union officials, corporate businesses and cabinet appointed committee members. In order to maintain periodic monitoring of migrants, as it relates to their profiles, characteristics and socio-economic status, IOM and UNICEF collaborated to undertake migrant tracking, assessment and monitoring using the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). A sample population of 166 Venezuelan migrants were interviewed mainly in the western areas of both Trinidad and Tobago. Migrant profile findings were consistent with information gathered through the baseline interviews, and were comparable to the results of DTM 2018, which high-

lighted similar trends. The DTM provided key data on migrant profiles, education, work status, accommodation, health and needs which is vital for continued review and analysis of the migrant situation in Trinidad and Tobago to ensure that programmatic efforts and policy initiatives are well aligned with existing needs and circumstances.

UNHCR initiated a cash assistance programme to provide humanitarian and life-saving assistance in the form of multipurpose cash grants to the most vulnerable refugees and migrants to reduce protection risks, meet emergency needs, and facilitate self-reliance. In partnership with Living Water Community (LWC), UNHCR provided cash assistance to approximately 2,000 households to meet basic needs, such as rent, food, health and hygiene, and to respond to protection concerns including instances of violence (SGBV, torture, trafficking), and child protection risks. It is proposed that the continued advocacy with Government and key stakeholders for economic and financial inclusion of refugees and migrants will allow for the development of a sustainable protection response that promotes the dignity of each person and long term self-reliance. UNHCR and LWC continued to support and implement community-based activities to empower and support refugee, migrant and host communities. Activities included case management services, a women's empowerment workshop, a self-defense workshop, youth groups and community clubs. UNHCR also conducted 80 advocacy, sensitization and outreach activities, including the production and screening of an award winning film 'Lifted', which screened at 14 film festivals worldwide, including the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival.

UNHCR further supported the Model UNs in Trinidad and Tobago, reaching over 100 secondary school students in discussions on issues facing refugees. UNHCR collaborated with La Casita Hispanic Cultural Center to host a Christmas bazaar in Arima, bringing together performances, food and artisanal items from host and refugee communities. The delivery of services by both CSOs highlighted the importance of stronger so-

cial service delivery in both Spanish and English so that 'no one is left behind' and that all clients feel a sense of safety and comfort while accessing SRH and mental health services. The training of community focal points played a key role in encouraging others to access healthcare services, while feedback and complaint mechanisms were critical to improving the service design and delivery to meet the needs of clients.

With respect to mechanisms and institutions on international principles of refugee protection, UNHCR and LWC also partnered to provide capacity building trainings to more than 700 persons, including law enforcement officials, judges, lawyers, civil society, journalists and magistrates on international protection and refugee law to strengthen the protection space for persons of concern. UNHCR established a formal partnership with the Children's Authority and the Counter Trafficking Unit, and there was renewed interest from the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs in the Quality Assurance Initiative. UNHCR established the Protection Coordination Working Group which brings together UN agencies, partners, and CSOs to guide on case management services and referral pathways. Support was also afforded to the Ministry of Health in providing medical assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities. UNHCR completed donations to the Ministry inclusive of GIS Licenses, vehicles, IT Equipment and other materials to support the Insect Vector Control Division and the expanded programme on immunization. UNHCR also assisted the National AIDS Coordinating Committee with translating HIV and GBV sensitization brochures in Spanish and to subtitle an awareness-raising film on HIV with Spanish subtitles. These brochures included issues such as "HIV Basics", "List of Registered HIV Testing Sites", "Directory of NGO Service Providers" and "Types of Domestic Violence".

To support children of migrants and refugees, UNICEF initiated development of an accredited educational programme for refugee and asylum-seeking children who do not have access to public schools. UNICEF joined with UNHCR, Living Waters Community and TTVSOLNET

to implement the programme called Equal Place which allows refugee and asylum-seeking children access to online platforms providing accredited educational support in English and Spanish. UNICEF in partnership with LWC, Freely Give Foundation and Child Line also supported the migrant response through setting up of child friendly spaces and provision of psychosocial support. Psychosocial support (PSS) was provided to 2,355 children; the capacity of 78 community actors in providing PSS was developed; case management of 37 unaccompanied and separated children was supported; 1,036 children were assisted through programmes to prevent and address violence, abuse and exploitation (including GBV); and 10 child friendly spaces were established, which support children's access to intersectoral programming including education, early childhood development, child protection, life-saving messages, and social integration.

Children attending child friendly spaces benefited from enhanced knowledge on how to protect themselves from bullying and child abuse; how to protect themselves in case of natural disasters and how to implement good health and hygiene practices. UNICEF also implemented the Cre-

ate Future initiative where Trinidadian primary school age students were exposed to sensitization sessions aimed at reducing stereotypes about Venezuelan migrants and aimed at promoting social cohesion. This resulted in children from the host communities having changed attitudes towards migrant children and their families.

UNICEF, through partnership with the LWC and FPATT, ensured that more than 160 Caregivers received counseling to support appropriate feeding and healthy nutrition for young migrant children. The information shared around infant and young child feeding included advocacy for breast feeding as a known best practice. Children under 5 years received health and nutritional screening. Whilst parents expressed concerns about consistent access to healthy foods there were no significant nutritional deficiencies or malnutrition identified.



Photo: UNDP conducts a capacity building session with their Youth Peace Ambassadors.  
Credit: UNDP



## A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The UNCT and Government collaborated to In 2019, the UNCT placed significant efforts on supporting the Government in implementing policies and programmes to address climate change adaptation, resilience and risk reduction in keeping with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. UN agencies including UNDP, UNEP and FAO provided significant technical contributions to assist ministries and agencies in undertaking key activities to support the integration of climate change adaptation in national programs.

UNEP engaged with the Ministry of Planning and Development to conduct a Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) to identify and prioritize technologies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Key sectors of electric power, industry and transport were identified, and work is underway to determine which technologies to prioritize. Trinidad and Tobago's TNA is focusing primarily on mitigation and is expected to contribute to deepening the analysis of the target sectors and technologies in the Carbon Reduction Strategy and to take these further towards implementation. UNDP also provided support to the Ministry of National Security with capacity development for disaster risk management.

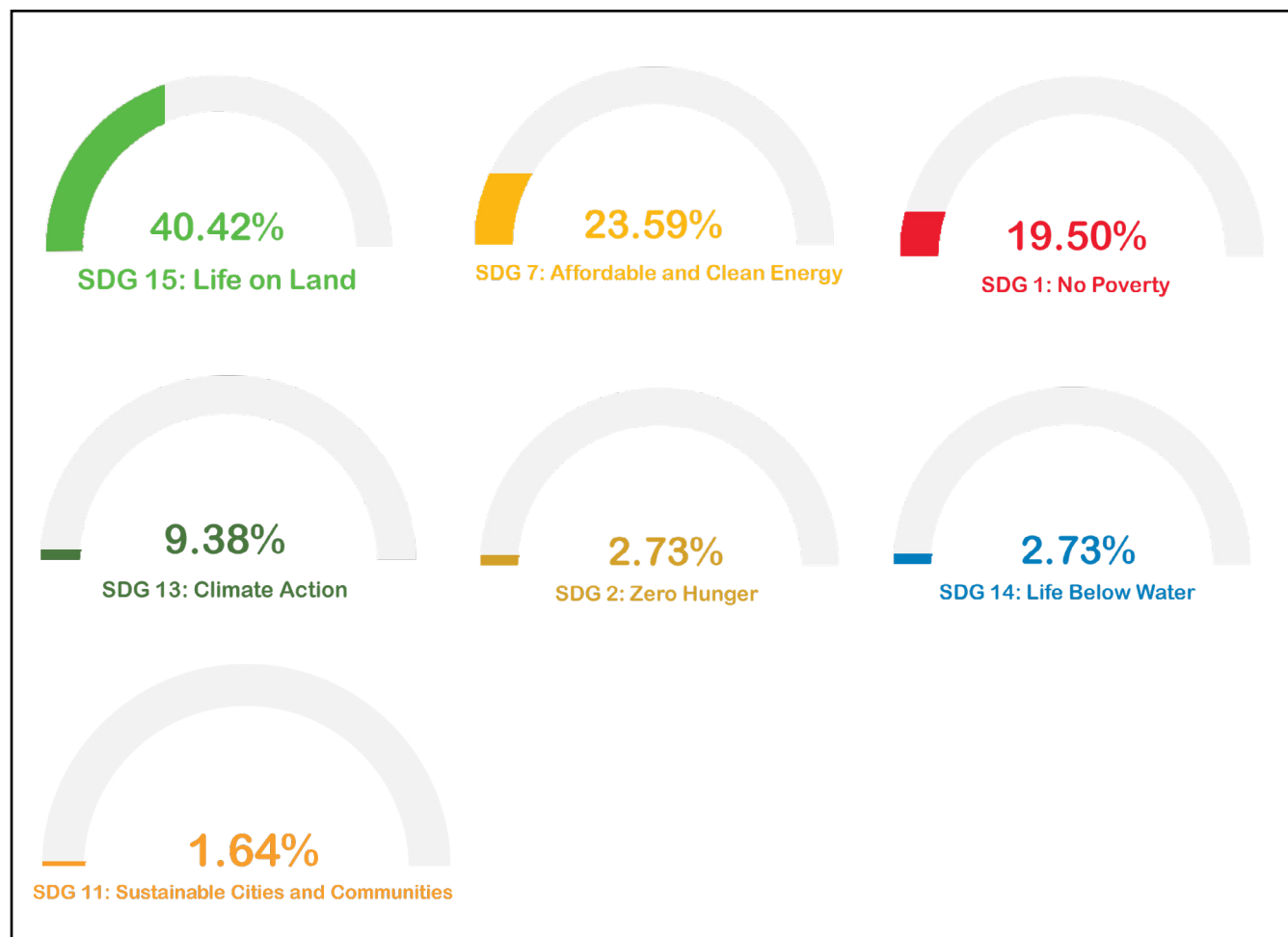
FAO also supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries (MALF) to strengthen resiliency for fisherfolk, aqua culturists and coastal communities to climate change. In addition to the threats of climate change, the fisheries sector is already suffering from other pressures such as: overfishing, loss of habitat, pollution, disturbance of coral reefs, and invasive species, with climate change further exacerbating these problems. The intervention by FAO addressed the barriers to

adaptation in order to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts. The barriers included insufficient understanding and awareness of climate change vulnerability of the fisheries sector at the regional, national and local level; limited fisherfolk, aqua culturists and coastal community resilience to climate change and variability; and ineffective mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in fisheries at multi-level fisheries governance.

FAO and MALF engaged the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI) to work with 6 target communities (4 in Trinidad and 2 in Tobago) to carry out vulnerability and capacity analyses (VCAs). FAO also supported sargassum management by donating 41 pairs of boots to the Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment (DIQE), Tobago, and provided emergency communications support training for 17 small-scale fishers. UWI conducted a Practicum Training Exercise for Fishers in Survival at Sea, and together with the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI) and the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, evaluated an ICT Safety Triangle for its suitability to supplement the CFTDI's existing safety at sea curriculum. FAO also provided technical support to the draft Fisheries Bill to review the institutional structure of the Fisheries Division (Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries) and the Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries (Tobago House of Assembly) as the agencies with the responsibility for fisheries conservation and management in Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, 150 persons across Trinidad and Tobago benefitted from ICT capacity building on the adoption of climate livelihood options.

The UNCT continued its collaboration with Government in 2019 to achieve the sustainable manage-





**Agencies:** UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA  
**Planned:** USD 1,139,044  
**Spent:** USD 982,269

ment of natural resources. Legal and regulatory frameworks, policies and institutions were enabled to ensure conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, in line with international conventions and national legislation. FAO collaborated with MALF to engage stakeholders to discuss and review how to strengthen national governance frameworks, and improve the effective implementation of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) and complementary international instruments and regional mechanisms to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing.

The UNCT also contributed to the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources through

FAO's support for the improved management of forests and protected areas. In partnership with MALF and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), management plans were produced for six pilot protected areas. Five of the plans, which are intended to guide management over the next ten years were finalized and will be handed over to Government in January 2020. The remaining plan is pending feedback from a key state agency in the energy sector before being finalized. Enforcement Officer Guidelines, a Standard Operating Manual and Quick Reference Cards were developed to assist enforcement officers and were officially handed over to Enforcement Agencies in 2019. These agencies include Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard, Environmental Management Authority

enforcement officers, Game Wardens, Forestry Division Officers, Municipal Police and Customs and Excise Division.

A socioeconomic assessment around six pilot protected areas was also undertaken with the support of the CSO; and a roadmap document was updated based on the process adopted in development of management plans. The document will be presented in a workshop with agencies in January 2020. Communication activities continued to build public awareness of wise use of Privately Protected Areas (PPAs) and mitigation measures to improve management of threats. Public outreach activities including outreach to schools to share information on biodiversity conservation was also undertaken and new information brochures were designed for five sites, and posters were developed on the benefits of wildlife sanctuaries and marine protected areas. The production of video features for five of the six sites was also completed. Knowledge, attitudes and practices surveys were repeated in communities surrounding all six PPAs and following exploratory work on improving freshwater inflow to the Caroni Swamp, a hydrology modelling study was undertaken to explore feasible solutions. The report of the study is being finalized and will be available in January 2020 to support the Drainage Division of the Ministry of Works and Transport in flood mitigation at the site.

With FAO's support, biodiversity conservation to restore degraded lands and improve livelihoods of rural communities in targeted productive landscapes was also introduced in 2019. One hundred and eighteen stakeholders participated in workshops to produce a zero draft document for approval. The components of this intervention include biodiversity-supportive land use planning, forest and agricultural landscape restoration and biodiversity protection through agroecology, and creating an enabling environment for green, biodiversity-friendly value chain development.

With respect to sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals and waste; UNEP collaborated with the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) to reduce the acute degradation that is occurring over some 100 hectares of abandoned degraded quarry areas within the Valencia area through the implementation of innovative land rehabilitation methods. The impact on communities will also be reduced through the application and adherence to international best practice for quarry operators, and improved adherence to local legal parameters. Twenty seven persons (Quarry Rehabilitation Champions) were trained in the application of practical quarry rehabilitation, land restoration techniques and associated livelihood opportunities. Guidelines for the Preparation and Rehabilitation Plans aimed at increasing voluntary compliance by quarry operators and monitoring of quarries by regulatory agencies was drafted and approved in 2019. Additionally, Carib Glassworks Limited launched a project to rehabilitate one hectare of their Matura Sand Plant through a mix of interventions including site preparation, the planting of different types of trees for species enrichment, the planting of vetiver grass for soil and slope rehabilitation, and, the installation of live check dams to reduce soil erosion.

UNEP's intervention provided a better understanding of the need to plan environmental monitoring programmes, and of the contribution that citizen scientists can make.



of the MSDF. Importantly, the operationalization has already resulted in further discussions among the UN agencies to develop an innovative financial tracking mechanism to be used within agency systems that will mirror the UN INFO financial requirements component. Such a mechanism will allow for more informative, real time financial analyses and monitoring.

The Central Statistical Office (CSO) was engaged to assess the existing data gaps and challenges, and short and medium term interventions to modernize the local data ecosystem. Interventions proposed in 2020 include the development of a SDG data repository which incorporates alternative data sets outside of official statistics; and the development of a Big Data Forum Initiative that brings together branches of government, academia, civil society, business groups, youth and the private sector to examine new methods, tools

and ideas, and better understand the issues to make effective use of big data as part of the local data ecosystem. Moreover, the UNCT provided technical input and support to the reform of regulatory frameworks and statistical laws that govern the national statistical system. Consequently, the draft National Statistical Institute of Trinidad And Tobago Bill was introduced with the intention of reforming the national statistical system to meet the demands and opportunities of modern data ecosystems. The objectives of the proposed legislative reform include to repeal and replace the Statistics Act, Chap. 19:02, and to replace the existing national statistical entity, the Central Statistical Office, and establish a National Statistical Institute (NSITT). The NSITT is envisioned as an independent statistical body that can develop a mechanism for the use of data from alternative and innovative sources within official statistics.

In keeping with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which encourages member States to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven”, the Government commenced preparation of the Voluntary National Review (VNR), to be presented at the 2020 High Level Political Forum on sustainable development. ECLAC, RCO and the UNCT provided focused support to the Ministry of Planning and Development with the preparation of the VNR through the provision of technical expertise, reviewing of metadata knowledge management, consultations and data collection. Additionally, these agencies initiated a detailed review of indicators, data sources and frequencies focusing on the selected individual goals of the VNR.



## RESULTS ACHIEVED ON SDG DATA AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

As part of the mechanism for measuring the achievement of the SDGs, the government incorporated the work agenda of the UNCT into its national development programs and work agenda through the mechanisms of a Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC) and a Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Working Group (TWG). Both mechanisms are comprised of high-level representatives from government and requisite representation from the UNCT. The functioning of these two mechanisms strengthen development planning, coordination, implementation, data management and reporting; and has provided the platform for the joint work agenda initiatives as represented in the CIP to be linked to the country’s Public Sector Investment Program (PSIP), the financing vehicle for government’s support to CIP implementation.

Additionally, the ownership of the CIP TT process by the Government through the authority of a Cabinet decision, including the additional requirement for the reporting on the progress of implementation annually by Ministries to the Cabinet as part of the national monitoring and evaluation country system, provided the impetus for accelerated implementation and accountability of the joint CIP TT as part of government’s overall work agenda, and allowed the UNCT to support the Government through strengthened agency data collection and reporting. UN INFO, the online platform for monitoring and reporting on the contributions of the United Nations development system to progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals was also successfully operationalized within the UNCT in 2019. This platform provides an innovative approach to monitoring the implementation of the CIP TT and achievement of the overall outcomes

## RESULTS ACHIEVED ON PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The UN reform allowed for a strengthening of capacity and expertise within the UNCT to address gaps in financing, seek new partnerships with the private sector and other funding sources. The establishment of a strengthened Resident Coordinator Office (RCO) enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of the coordination between UNCT agencies; and the new position of Partnerships and Development Finance Officer in the RCO provided a focal point, and technical support, for local agencies to collaborate jointly on mobilizing funds. While the UNCT agencies rely on the generous support of its traditional partners, often via separate initiatives, they will also sought to broaden the base of resource mobilization partners, to rely more on collaborative resource-mobilization pursuits, with a focus on regional donors, emerging donors, International Financing Institutions (IFIs) and private and digital giving.

- Expanding and deepening relations with the host Government, to further strengthen its strategic partnership, focusing on sustaining (and where possible increasing) the previous levels of contributions received, while strengthening predictability and early disbursement. The approval of the MSDF CIP TT five year rolling plan 2017-21 by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in 2019 will now link activities of the CIP TT to the Government's Public Sector Investment Program, the financing vehicle for the government's support to CIP-TT implementation;

- Mobilizing strategic advocates via the UN system engaging existing partners and forging new partnerships to advocate for political and financial support. Once more, initiatives that involve one agency are more-narrowly focused, and therefore less likely to attract support from political and financial advocates, who typically have broader and more-generic concerns; and

Such endeavors included the Spotlight initiative, funded by the European Union, and which involves several UN agencies (including UN Women, UNFPA, the ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNHCR and the IOM). Ultimately, there will be a shift from short-term funding opportunities to more-self-sustaining financing mechanisms (e.g., by working with the private sector to integrate the agencies' development concerns into businesses' models and strategies, and by filling development gaps through the creation of profitable business ventures). In 2019, the RCO engaged influential private sector enterprises with the view to building a coalition of private sector resources to help advance the 2030 agenda and the achievement of the SDGs. To achieve its fundraising objective, the RCO-coordinated, more-collaborative UNCT is:

- Strategic communication and donor visibility, with strengthened communications towards public and private donors (and with adequate visibility for the generosity of its donors).

Additionally, the UNCT agencies are pursuing collective approaches to funding agencies for resources to fund initiatives related to developing technical collaborations to strengthen data collection and data partnerships to increase the availability and use of timely data for decision-making.



Photo: Nikita Mohammed, Spotlight Programme Coordinator, in consultation with CSOs, representatives from the public and other interested individuals. Credit: The Spotlight Initiative

## RESPONSES TO THE REFORM ENVIRONMENT

The reform environment provided an opportunity for the UNCT to extend the support provided to Government with respect to the MSDF/CIP TT implementation, and to identify areas where joint expertise can be strengthened. Government embraced the intent of the reform and welcomed the additional resources included in the UNCT with respect to data management, results monitoring and reporting, and resource mobilization, public private partnerships and peace and security. The reform resulted in a joint Government/UNCT commitment to improve areas of monitoring, evaluation, and to explore opportunities for strengthening collection, access and effective use of data. The reform also provided a platform for strengthening stakeholder partnerships and the potential to further involve civil society through the UNCT work agenda. Additionally, the reform created the opportunity to strengthen the UNCT and provided the platform for greater coordination of development initiatives within Trinidad and Tobago. In the area of migration and refugee policy, the UNCT developed a more coherent and unified position; the appreciation for this more coherent and streamlined response to the humanitarian situation in TT was expressed on several occasions by various partners and donors as well as the Government.

With respect to international development partners and donors, the European Commission, through the reformed UNCT system, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) jointly leveraged on existing partnerships with the government, civil society (including women's organizations and organizations engaging men and boys, progressive faith based organizations, youth organizations, trade unions, etc.), the media, research and academic institutions to inform program interventions with the latest evidence and relevant research in the prevention of and response to VAWG/harmful practices.

The overall work programme of the UNCT was also altered in response to the new reform environment. The Emergency Technical Team (UNETT) coordinates and mobilizes the UNCT's support to any given crisis and is a key element of the functioning of a UNCT in any country. In Trinidad and Tobago, the UNETT was largely dormant with infrequent meetings and irregular membership on the side of the UN agencies at the end of 2018. The reporting year saw the re-vamping of the United Nations Emergency Technical Team in Trinidad and Tobago as a more technical and operational tool of the UNCT to prepare for emergencies and to provide a coordinated response at the time of the disaster. The UNETT now consists of 15 Resident and Non-Resident Agencies. Based on the new reform environment, lessons learned from past environmental challenges and the need to scale-up on preparedness, UNETT is focused on improving its capacity and operation to be able to work closer with Government, NGOs, INGOs, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and regional counterparts in the management of crises. In non-crisis periods the UNETT supports the Government in any activities that aim at strengthening the country's resilience and preparedness for natural and man-made disasters.

2019 also saw the activation and first UNCT meeting for Aruba, Curacao, St Maarten. In line with the MCO reform efforts and the first set of recommendations by the UNSG on ensuring a better coverage of ALL countries and territories that fall under a MCO, a separate UNCT on the three territories that are part of the Dutch kingdom was established to bring together a more coordinated and coherent programming approach for the formerly Dutch territories. This resulted in a more coordinated coverage for the islands by UN agencies funds and programmes.

The UN Country Team, through the Resident Coordinator, provided advisory support to the Ministry of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago, as well



Photo: The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, The Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley, meets with the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres. Credit: Office of the Prime Minister

as the Immigration Service on the safeguarding of the rights of migrants, refugees and other persons of interests, from Venezuela. The advisory service ensured that an inclusive approach was adopted in the registration of Venezuelan migrants in 2019. Through the Office of the Resident Coordinator, government was convinced to accept technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) which mainstreamed international best practices in the design of the registration forms (including integration of data of children), conducted training for Immigration Officers, supported sensitization/ mobilization of the Venezuelan communities, and provided a software for the exercise. Moreover, the UNCT, through the support of specific agencies, pro-

vided advisory support, training and services to the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU). This mainly affected hundreds of young Venezuelan women who were victims of trafficking and abuses. The United Nations advocacy ensured that this issue continued to be prioritized by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), through the conduct of some of the highest number of raids to free the victims. Also, post-rescue rehabilitation and reform of the victims through medicare, counselling and psychosocial rehabilitation have been actively supported by UN Agencies. In addition, UN Agencies have engaged in strategic discussion with the CTU on 'Do No Harm' principles, to forestall the re-victimization of some of the rescued women.



Photo: The International Organization for Migration assisted the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with training and technical support to the Immigration Division, protective services, supervisors/clerks involved in migrant registration and the documentation of Venezuelans. Credit: The International Organization for Migration

## RESULTS ACHIEVED ON JOINT APPROACHES

### BY THE UNCT

The joint approaches by the UNCT resulted in key achievements across key areas in Trinidad and Tobago. The approach to the migration challenge resulted in migrants being provided with emergency assistance and basic services. This included food and non-food items, emergency shelter, health and nutrition, education, and legal assistance. IOM assisted the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with training and technical support to the Immigration Division, protective services, supervisors/clerks involved in migrant registration and the documentation of Venezuelans. Furthermore, fifteen Government Officers, and ten Central Statistical Office representatives received training. Additionally, the IOM provided support to the TT Government specifically the Ministry of National Security in a Government effort on registering Venezuelan migrants providing staff, software, technical and hardware support to this important undertaking. This registration and documentation exercise resulted in work permissions for up to one year being granted to over 16,500 Venezuelans who registered. Vulnerable migrants and refugees received direct assistance through the UNCT, and IOM, with the provision of temporary accommodation to four hundred (400) vulnerable migrants, emergency medical services and routine check-ups along with food assistance. Accommodation, food and non-food items have been sustained over a period of months for high risk cases.

The UNCT through ILO supported the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development to develop and implement a national workplace policy on sexual harassment. The policy responds to the latest comments of the Committee of Experts on the application of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) in which the Committee requested the Government to take concrete measures to prevent and prohibit both quid pro quo and hostile environment sexual harassment in employment and occupation. This achievement pursues the objectives of the SDGs, namely Goal 8-Pro-

mote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; and Goal 11-Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The UNCT partnered with Government in adopting innovative approaches to create messages to reach the targeted audience. PAHO/WHO supported the Ministry of Health in the implementation of numerous interventions to reduce NCDs risk factors, improve management and care and promote healthy lifestyles. These interventions focused on reaching people at the community level. Equity, ethnicity, gender and human rights are crosscutting and mainstreamed throughout all these interventions. Key efforts are made to reach those most vulnerable including the young people. Utilizing the PAHO/WHO Healthy Communities and Municipal (HMC) approach, health promotion strategies within targeted settings using community mechanisms and resources to address local determinants of health were implemented to empower individuals and communities to take actions to promote population health and well-being.

PAHO/WHO and FAO jointly supported the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the implementation of the national food safety policy and plan. FAO and PAHO/WHO supported the government with capacity strengthening, in particular, the Communication for Behavioural Impact (CMBI) with a special focus on Food Safety. These initiatives supported the strengthening of capacity and skill-set for integrating marketing communication among health professionals, as they strategically promoted the adoption and maintenance of behaviors that impact food safety in Trinidad & Tobago. These capacity strengthening initiatives provided a platform for health and agricultural development professionals from the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, NAMDEVCO (Farmers' Group), the University of the West Indies, and PAHO/WHO and the FAO to exchange views, discuss and identify their priorities and also, develop preliminary COMBI plans.

## LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY FORWARD

2019 provided an opportunity for the reformed UNCT to strengthen the internal delivery architecture, and to have a more harmonized and efficient UNCT at the country level to deliver on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. It also allowed for reform tools like UNINFO and a reconfigured UNCT website to be operationalized and adapted vis-a-vis the development context of Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2020 new mechanisms like resource mobilization guidelines and UNCT data strategies will support the implementation of the Country Implementation Plan and reporting on the SDGs. The absence of counterpart resource financing from the private sector and other government financing mechanisms towards the MSDF/CIP process has curtailed the extent to which the joint efforts could be scaled up. Many joint UNCT/Government initiatives face financial risk as a result of declining government revenues. Initiatives like the SDG Business Round Table to unlock private capital and capitalizing on funding opportunities through grants and calls are modalities that will be pursued in 2020 to address these challenges. Importantly, closer collaboration with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) is expected to yield co-financing opportunities in education and other sectors identified by government.

Likewise, the ability to produce and collect quality data for analysis and reporting remains a cross cutting issue to be addressed jointly by the UNCT and government counterparts in 2020. The inadequacy of innovative processes required for capturing, analyzing and submitting high quality data sets in a meaningful and useable format severely hampers key analyses on the progress of achievement of the SDGs. The RCO and ECLAC will support the government with developing a Data Repository, a comprehensive and relevant system to measure progress on the SDGs; and technical expertise for strengthening national capacity in producing and using disaggregated data for SDGs and evidence-informed policy-making.

FAO will also support the Central Statistical Office (CSO) in planning and implementing the national census in 2020; and with a management information system for forest protection and management, and a biodiversity information system. Significantly, the RCO and ECLAC, in collaboration with government, mobile and technology companies experts across the data value chain, and international partners like Amazon and Google, have already commenced the development of a Big Data Forum Initiative that brings together branches of government, academia, civil society, business groups, youth and the private sector to examine new methods, tools and ideas, and better understand the issues to make effective use of big data as part of the local data ecosystem. The Forum will be implemented in 2020 and will create an enabling environment that brings together all stakeholders in the data value chain to exchange ideas and experiences, innovative data practices, and present case studies and research on the harnessing and effective use of big data to create public value.

The ongoing Venezuelan migration challenge has the potential to increase in number and intensity in the future. Such a challenge will require a coordinated UNCT approach to support government with appropriate interventions to address the influx, the development of standard operating procedures to treat with the migrants and development programs to adequately address the needs of the migrants. In 2020, the UNCT will work towards the integration of registered migrants in host communities; and creating initiatives in collaboration with government and civil society to improve vocational education and training to provide them with skills needed for gainful employment.

Regarding youth development, the UNCT highlighted the importance of the youth contribution to sustainable development. The RCO commenced an SDG Youth Ambassadors initiative in 2019 to strengthen youth participation in socio-economic spheres; enhance the engagement of youth with the SDGs and build awareness among young audiences.

This included a presentation to the national Parliament by the Ambassadors (aged 15 to 24), and Ambassador developed and led initiatives in their schools and communities. In 2020, the RCO will continue to engage the Ambassadors in policies and projects around the youth agenda and participation in UN-led efforts like UN 75 celebrations. Closer joint coordination efforts between the UNCT and government to strategic planning and execution of the CIP TT work agenda in 2020 will improve implementation rates and prioritize scarce financial resources. Key areas of development and joint programming include strengthening of health services to address the burden of non-communicable diseases through the development of guidelines, social media marketing training, and addressing risk factors; the implementation of the manpower plan for the health sector; capacity building of Faith Based Organizations to address family violence; improving human rights and legal literacy (including information on complaints procedures, information on available services; access to protection orders, etc.) of underserved communities such as persons living with disabilities, HIV and the LGBTIQI population and migrant populations; and the execution of the Child Protection Implementation Plan.

Key UNCT joint initiatives to be implemented in 2020 include developing strong public-private partnerships for the design, launch and implementation of the Generation Unlimited Project in Trinidad and Tobago; the review, support and strengthening of the human rights actors and ar-

chitecture locally; and the development and enhancement of conflict prevention and analysis capacities.

In 2019 the UNCT recognized that there were gaps in public awareness and general knowledge about the SDGs and Agenda 2030. To address this moving forward, the UNCT will place emphasis on more focused advocacy and communications strategies in 2020. These include the development of a UNCT communications strategy; strengthening SDG advocacy through innovative partnerships including local artists, influencers and celebrities; regular engagement of the local media to increase awareness of the UNCT presence in Trinidad and Tobago; and empowering the SDG Youth Ambassadors to engage their peers through social media messaging.

The emergence of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in late 2019, although not creating any impact on the 2019 results, remains a great challenge and critical issue for the health sector, and will require a reprioritization of the UNCT joint work in 2020, with a focus on evaluating and responding to the pandemic's impact. The pandemic is predicted to create delays in CIP implementation, as well as possible changes to the UNCT support in the coming years. In an immediate response to the foreseen challenges, the UNCT is committed to producing a socio-economic assessment and resultant recovery plan to address likely fallout and complement government recovery efforts.