



UNITED NATIONS

Country Annual Results Report 2020



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COVID-19
RESPONSE
VACCINES

MARCH 2021

2020 COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

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i. FOREWORD

Trinidad and Tobago continued its thrust towards key national development goals in 2020 despite the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. While many planned actions and resources of Government and the UNCT were eventually reprioritized to address the effects of the pandemic, the UNCT's support to the Government was accelerated in key areas of development that improved service delivery. The successful management of the pandemic by the Government allowed for development work to continue, and for advancing new and innovative responses to confront emerging challenges.

As part of the overall management strategy, the Government took early and proactive actions to limit the spread of COVID-19 infections and minimize the economic fallout. Such actions included closing the borders, enhanced social protections, and the establishment of a parallel health care system to treat COVID-19 which ensured the flattening of the COVID-19 curve and prevented the health system, as well as the social fabrics of communities, from collapsing. The UNCT, under PAHO/WHO's technical lead, reinforced these health measures, including the procurement and delivery of a wider range of PPEs and other health related infrastructure, capacity strengthening of health care workers, and the improvement of health and laboratory facilities; strengthened key partnerships with civil society to provide direct support through the provision of equipment, training and monetary grants; and scaled up joint programming initiatives and support systems that complemented the efforts of Government, and provided significant service delivery as part of the socio-economic recovery response.

The strategies adopted by the government resulted in the successful management of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Beyond the health crisis, government measures to provide an increased social safety net, to limit the loss of jobs and to support the educational needs of the children also delivered a degree of comfort despite the unprecedented strain on national resources and reserves. These government interventions were ably supported through the United Nations Country Team COVID-19 response and assistance to Trinidad and Tobago. UNCT's initiatives within the early months of the pandemic (March-June 2020) at an estimated cost of USD \$3.4 Mn supplemented government efforts to build back better and deliver social, economic, and public health service to all of society, especially the most vulnerable communities.

Moreover, the UNCT developed and implemented actions under a socio economic plan, developed in consultation with government counterparts across ministries and state agencies. The plan was developed following a rapid socio economic assessment that offered insight into COVID-19 management responses by the government and the UNCT, so that proposed interventions could match the short and medium term development needs of the country and complement government's Road to Recovery Plan.

2020 was also an important year for Trinidad and Tobago in determining SDG progress and achievements. Accordingly, the country presented its first Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the United Nations in July 2020. The UNCT coordinated support to the Government's preparation of the country's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) and provided technical input, facilitated national stakeholder consultations, and quality assurance review of the VNR report.

The UNCT also strengthened the coordination and collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Development in 2020. In March, Heads of Agencies of the UNCT and the Ministry engaged in SDG re-prioritization sessions to identify strategic areas and actions for the country's SDG achievement and development in the short and medium term.

Given Trinidad and Tobago's high-income status, the UNCT focused extensively on developing new resource mobilization partnerships given the lack of traditional donors in the country. The UNCT engaged with CAF for the first time, with two projects funded in 2020 related to agriculture and education. FAO will use USD 250,000 from CAF to promote innovation and technology that increase farmers' access to training and knowledge, advance value chain approaches that shift focus from primary production to more lucrative consumer products and encourage cooperatives that afford economies of scale. With USD 262,500 from CAF, UNICEF will enhance the Ministry of Education's capacity to deliver teaching via the internet by training educators in online pedagogy, increase student access to online education by providing devices to 1,000 impoverished households, and develop freely-accessible digital texts for subjects that form the core curriculum.

In 2020, the UNCT through select agencies (UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women, PAHO and UNICEF) secured funding from the Spotlight Initiative, a global, multi-year partnership between the UN and EU to address violence against women and girls.

The investment of USD\$3.7M for Phase 1 of the programme represents the largest targeted effort at combatting gender-based violence for the country, and the UNCT served as a critical platform to developing linkages and synergies across agencies as well as exploring and strengthening partnerships with the EU Delegation, government, civil society and the private sector.

The UNCT also led on innovative programs and actions in support of country results and development. Trinidad and Tobago was selected as the first Caribbean country to implement Generation Unlimited (GenU), a global initiative that aims to transform education so young people become empowered with the skills that future employers, entrepreneurial ventures and economies demand. With endorsement and support from the Government, civil society, IFIs, youth groups, and the private sector, GenU is appraising the education sector's capacity to deliver the skills the economy needs, formulating action and investment plans to address key gaps, and building an online ecosystem where young entrepreneurs can access support and high-value marketplaces.

Addressing challenges with data availability, production and quality was also prioritized in 2020. The UNCT, led by the RCO and ECLAC, developed and implemented the innovative Big Data Forum in December 2020, a virtual two day event that attracted over 1,200 unique participants. The Forum featured keynotes from leading global powerhouses Google and Amazon, insights and contributions from the Executive Director of UN's Global Pulse, international Big Data experts and the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago. The Forum sparked widespread discussion on the potential of big data as an alternative source of data to complement official statistics and resulted in key recommendations for further action.

Concurrently, the UNCT also conducted an assessment of available SDG data and commenced the development of an SDG Data Repository to

identify indicators for which the country currently produces data, and those that the country has the potential to produce data. The repository will be digital in 2021 and further data sets will be developed as the UNCT works with the National Statistical System and data stakeholders to revise national surveys to be more SDG aligned.

While 2020 provided unusual circumstances, the UNCT provided unparalleled support and developed innovative interventions to ensure service delivery at a critical time. As we look forward to 2021, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to the UNCT for rising to the extraordinary challenges of 2020, and for the unwavering support to build back stronger in 2021.

Marina Walter
Resident Coordinator

ii. UNITED NATIONS Country Team



United Nations Agencies Operating in Trinidad and Tobago

(under the Multi Country
Sustainable Development
Framework 2017-21)



Eighteen (18) agencies constitute the United Nations Country Team (UNCT TT) in Trinidad and Tobago. These agencies contribute to the sustainable development of the country through the mechanism of a yearly **Country Implementation Plan (CIP)**, developed in collaboration with Government ministries and agencies. The CIP is the operational programming tool of the **United Nations Multi country Sustainable Development Framework (UN MSDF)**, the business plan for the UN agencies, funds and programmes in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean for the period January 2017 to December 2021.

Twelve (12) agencies have a physical presence in Trinidad and Tobago namely FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, UN LIREC, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, WHO, UNIC, ECLAC and ILO. Six agencies contribute to the development agenda although not physically present in the country; these agencies are WFP,

UNODC, UNOPS, UNESCO, UNEP and ITU.

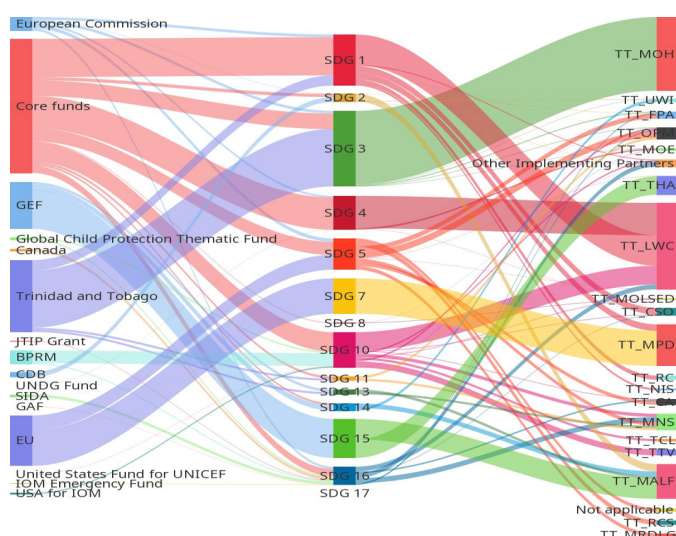
In 2020, the UNCT provided available funding resources of USD 10.5Mn for development work under the four priority areas of the UN MSDF, and the emerging priorities outlined in the socio economic response plan.

Actual expenditure for development work in 2020 by agencies in Trinidad and Tobago totaled USD 7.3Mn. The agencies accounted for work undertaken through the UN INFO information platform; the expenditure and related data shared in this report are based on development cooperation data entered by all the UN country team members into the joint work plan established on the platform. Limitations in the extent of data quality, accuracy and completeness may be possible due to human error, incomplete reporting by agencies and ongoing technical issues with the existing digital platform.

Almost 50% of the UNCT's total expenditure for development work in 2020 was executed for CIP actions under Strategic Priority 3 of the UN MSDF A Safe, Cohesive, and Just Caribbean, while actions under Strategic Priority 2 A Healthy Caribbean accounted for 29% of total expenditure in 2020.

Agencies of the UNCT were also involved in the Spotlight Initiative in 2020 (UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women, PAHO and UNICEF). The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the UN and EU to address violence against women and girls. The investment of USD\$3.7M for Phase 1 of the programme represents the largest targeted effort at combatting gender-based violence for the country. The total UNCT expenditure identified above does not reflect expenditure for actions undertaken under the Spotlight Initiative; this is reflected separately in the report.

**Key development Partners of the
UN development system in the country**



The United Nations Country Team continued to provide coordinated and joint support to the Government and other partners with the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the SDGs.

International funding partners supported the development work agenda established under the CIP and provided valuable resources to ensure implementation and delivery. While resources became more finite in 2020 with the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, development partners and donors guaranteed that the pool of funding available to the UNCT and Government reflected a mix of core agency funding and donor supported funds to ensure programming reached the most vulnerable. As shown in the table above, available resources for the 2019 and 2020 reporting period supported fourteen of the seventeen SDGs, with SDG 3 and SDG 1 accounting for the largest share of funding.

The strong partnership between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Nations Country Team in Trinidad and Tobago represents a key mechanism for support to national efforts to achieve the National Development Strategy, and the SDGs. This is further evidenced by the commitment of, Government through the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), to provide critical investment support for joint UN agency and ministry programmes and projects as part of the CIP TT

The close collaboration and coordination between the UNCT and Government also provides increased opportunities for joint resource mobilization. In 2020, the UNCT secured the assistance of the South South Cooperation secretariat for support to Trinidad and Tobago in education and healthcare. The UNCT presented multiple joint proposals during funding calls and was successful in December 2020 in its application for a UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) MPTF UNPRPD joint program.

The UNCT engaged with CAF for the first time, with two projects funded in 2020 related to agriculture and education totaling USD 512,500. Trinidad and Tobago in 2020 was also selected for the Spotlight Initiative, an investment and global partnership between the EU and UN to eliminate gender-based violence by 2030. The Spotlight team composition reflects various focal points from the UNCT working closely with the government, civil society, the EU Delegation and the private sector to address family violence in the country and to "leave no one behind" by targeting the most vulnerable and marginalized women and girls.

CHAPTER 1

Key Developments In The Country And The Regional Context

Trinidad and Tobago adopted an overarching development framework for the period 2016-2030 known as the National Development Strategy (NDS) or Vision 2030. The Strategy fully incorporates the principles and objectives of the SDGs and establishes the vision and broad framework for Trinidad and Tobago's sustainable development to 2030.

Trinidad and Tobago has the largest economy regionally and has been a strong advocate for regional integration. The country continues to build political and trading relationships across the Caribbean basin with Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, and the rest of Central America. It has also been steadily forging partnerships with the rest of South America and further afield in Africa and Asia. Trinidad and Tobago hosts the Secretariat of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) which has a membership of 35 countries in the Greater Caribbean.

Given its geographic location and proximity to the South American mainland, the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Venezuela resulted in a large influx of migrants and refugees to Trinidad and Tobago. There were 16,532 Venezuelan nationals registered by the Government in 2019; however, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 the number of migrants without registered status increased significantly. The increasing number of Venezuelan nationals coming to Trinidad and Tobago illegally can impact key national SDG priorities; including additional strain on an already resource-constrained social protection system which is now stressed by COVID-19. However, there are areas such as agriculture where the migrant population can make an important contribution to food security and production.

The NDS recognizes the indivisibility of the intersectoral linkages. In recognition that the Strategy cannot be implemented by Government alone, the NDS embraces key stakeholders including the Private and Public Sectors and Civil Society, labour, citizens, international development partners and the diaspora as integral to achieving the NDS and the SDGs.

In 2020, the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a re-engineering of UNCT actions and re-purposing of funding and resource

mobilization. Government interventions were ably supported through the United Nations Country Team COVID-19 response and assistance to Trinidad and Tobago; this included the development and implementation of actions under a socio economic plan, developed in consultation with government counterparts across ministries and state agencies and aligned to the UN's pillars on health, protecting people, macroeconomic recovery and social cohesion and community resilience.

The UNCT also strengthened the coordination and collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Development in 2020. In March, Heads of Agencies of the UNCT and the Ministry engaged in SDG re-prioritization sessions to identify strategic areas and actions for the country's SDG achievement and development in the short and medium term.

2020 was also an important year for Trinidad and Tobago in determining SDG progress and achievements. Accordingly, the country presented its first Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the United Nations in July 2020. The UNCT coordinated support to the Government's preparation of the country's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) and provided technical input, facilitated national stakeholder consultations, and quality assurance review of the VNR report.

Data remains a challenge in Trinidad and Tobago including for the tracking and assessment of SDG performance. The lack of up-to-date, real-time data, and weak systems of data collection are an impediment to national planning and SDG achievement. Trinidad and Tobago ranks below the average for the LAC region in statistical capacity. In 2016, the World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator overall score for Trinidad and Tobago, was 61.1 out of 100, and this continuously dropped to 47.7 in 2019. Data-driven planning and decision making are key to ensuring that the most vulnerable are targeted and programmes have the maximum possible impact.

Accordingly, the UNCT, in support of Government commenced the development of an SDG Data Repository. The Repository will provide source material for more frequent analytic products, one of which is the

annual CCA Report; country-relevant SDG statistics, data, and analytic outputs, featuring linkages to dynamic UN and external data platforms; and capitalizing on the abundance of new data sources and approaches across the UN system. The development of the SDG data repository identifies key issues that impact the availability of SDG related data and, if not addressed, will continue to affect the country's ability to consistently produce SDG indicators based on international metadata requirements.

Trinidad and Tobago's economy, after expanding at an annual average rate of 7.8 per cent between 1995 and 2007, has been on the decline mainly because of the developments in the global energy sector. Real GDP contracted on average by 2.2 per cent between 2016 and 2019 and the economy is expected to decline in real terms by 6.8 per cent in 2020 largely because of COVID-19.

There are several challenges confronting agriculture and food and nutrition security in Trinidad and Tobago amongst them are: climate change impacts including frequent flooding; drought; and increasing temperature are negatively affecting agriculture. The limited use of technology and innovation and constraints accessing finance are also major constraints as well as the absence of the enabling environment for the corporate private sector to engage fully in agriculture.

Trinidad and Tobago also has challenges in terms of malnutrition with 18.6 per cent of the adult population suffering from obesity, with women being 10 percentage points more obese than men. There is a need to prioritize the challenge of food and nutrition security for the country to achieve the SDG 2 and SDG 3 by 2030, a milestone that is already negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The country is also endowed with a diverse marine environment occupied by a range of communities including sea-grass beds, fringing coral reefs, and diverse marine substrates, within three global marine ecosystem types. Many of these ecosystems remain areas of active biological exploration, while simultaneously being important areas of economic development. Key ecosystems have become substantially degraded over time posing a serious threat to the achievement of SDGs

11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

The Survey of Living Conditions done in 2014 recorded the poverty rate at 14.7 per cent with indigence at 3.7 per cent and a Gini coefficient of 0.39. The Government indicated that 200,000 persons benefitted from the enhanced social protection system in 2020, which translates into 14 per cent of the population. The COVID-19 Roadmap to Recovery Report, prepared by a Government-appointed committee, stated that the current safety net consumes 6 per cent of the country's income or TT \$9 billion. It further advanced that as the full impact of COVID-19 is felt, expenditure is projected to increase to between 7 per cent and 10 per cent of GDP in the short-term.

Concurrently, UNDP and UNICEF have been working with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and UWI to develop the multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI) which will be used as a measure to determine poverty levels in Trinidad and Tobago.

CHAPTER 2

United Nations Country Team

Support To National Development

Priorities Through UN MSDF

UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework for the Caribbean 2017 - 2021



AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE & PROSPEROUS CARIBBEAN



A HEALTHY CARIBBEAN



A SAFE & JUST CARIBBEAN



A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN

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 underscores the government's commitment to measuring the value of work done by the UNCT in conjunction with 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 national results that contribute to these eight defined outcomes.

In 2020, UNCT support provided to Government with the MSDF/CIP TT implementation was strengthened to include interventions for socio economic recovery as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The formulation of the CIP TT 2020 included a re-engineering of intended actions and repurposing of resources to address the health challenges and fallout of the pandemic, as well as collaboration between UNCT agency representatives and senior officials of Ministries to deliver a program of actions aimed at preserving SDG gains, and building back stronger to accelerate the achievement of the 17 SDGs.

The annual country implementation plan had available resources of USD \$10,498,716 with key initiatives across the four pillars of the UN MSDF (see Figure 1). Actual expenditure on SDG initiatives totaled USD \$7,356,767 with 74 activities implemented across Trinidad and Tobago. Many activities were centered around five SDGs; SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 4, SDG 16 and SDG 2.

2.1 Overview

Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Strategy (NDS) focusses on five key themes which are aligned to the seventeen SDGs. The broad thematic areas of the NDS 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,

UN Activities in Trinidad and Tobago
by SDG, 2020

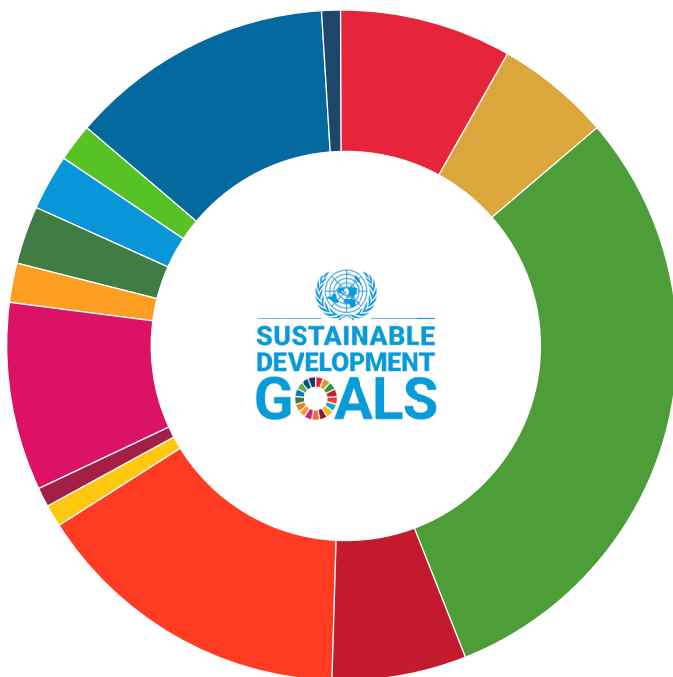


Figure 1: Distribution of financial resources
across the Sustainable Development Goals, 2020

3	GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	1	NO POVERTY	5	GENDER EQUALITY	10	REDUCED INEQUALITIES	15	LIFE ON LAND	16	PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
4	QUALITY EDUCATION	7	AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	2	ZERO HUNGER	6	CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	11	SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	13	CLIMATE ACTION
3	26.71%	Sustainable Development Goal SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages						Available Resources (Annual) \$2,430,827			
1	15.76%	Sustainable Development Goal SDG 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere						Available Resources (Annual) \$1,434,178			
5	14.51%	Sustainable Development Goal SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls						Available Resources (Annual) \$1,320,783			
10	13.88%	Sustainable Development Goal SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries						Available Resources (Annual) \$1,263,482			
15	7.22%	Sustainable Development Goal SDG 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss						Available Resources (Annual) \$657,221			
16	6.00%	Sustainable Development Goal SDG 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels						Available Resources (Annual) \$546,129			
4	5.07%	Sustainable Development Goal SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all						Available Resources (Annual) \$461,132			
7	4.27%	Sustainable Development Goal SDG 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all						Available Resources (Annual) \$388,276			

2.2 An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Trinidad and Tobago

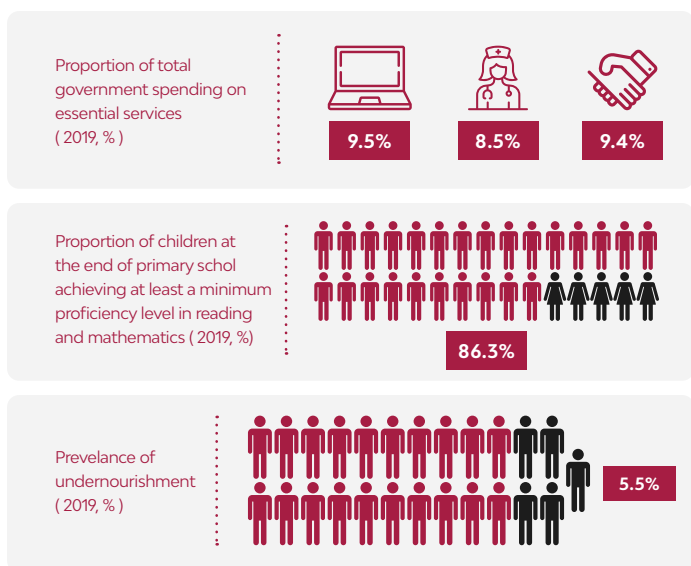


Agencies: FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNICEF

Available: USD 1,212,903

Spent: USD 154,460

Key SDG Indicators



While many ongoing programs and actions from 2019 were affected by the pandemic, the UNCT developed emergency interventions and re-engineered actions in support of government's efforts to respond to the pandemic; and the mainstreaming of the SDGs associated with strategic priority 1 of the UN MSDF (An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean).

UNICEF's technical support to the Government with the finalization of the National Child Policy of Trinidad and Tobago continued in 2020; the Policy is an initiative that contributes 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 National Child Policy was laid in Parliament in December 2020 and is now approved for implementation commencing in 2021 with the reinstatement of an Inter-Ministerial Child Policy Committee to monitor and report on policy implementation.

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 UNICEF, was significantly constrained by the COVID-19 outbreak. Trainings could not be finalized and as a result data collection in the field could not commence.

Accordingly, UNICEF in partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) repurposed financial resources towards the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure safe resumption of implementation in 2021 should a vaccine not be available on time. Additionally, UNICEF advanced strategic engagement in evidence generation through leveraging and expanding on partnerships to generate robust child-related data, mainstream child poverty into national reports and data mining and analysis related to key population groups.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, UNDP and UNICEF also consulted on further support to improve the social information system. The improved system will improve the information management system that support the core business processes of social protection delivery; the parameters of that support are being finalized and will be implemented in 2021.

UNICEF also provided 50 devices to most vulnerable children in Trinidad and Tobago to ensure their access to online education during COVID-19 school closure. Additionally, capacity support was provided to the Ministry of Education for delivery of online education, and 2,000 teachers were trained for delivery of online education.

In 2019, ILO and the State-owned National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO) signed a memorandum of understanding for the use of Start and Improve your Business modules in NEDCO's offering. A pool of trainers linked to NEDCO were trained in the initial modules of Generate your Business Idea (GYB) and Start Your Business (SYB).

Given the social distancing measures and other restrictions as a result of the pandemic, ILO in 2020 revamped its online offering of SYB in order to offer NEDCO trainers tools to carry out GYB/SYB on line as well as follow a training of trainers in Improve your Business online.

Among the economic stimulus measures announced by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in 2020 were advantageous and soft loans for entrepreneurs to be managed by NEDCO. ILO's support with SYB capacity building within NEDCO and support to final beneficiaries is expected to help citizens granted the loans to better succeed.

Apart from the supporting actions with NEDCO, ILO took part in a process to review the mandate of the Enterprise Development Division of the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development. A proposal was

submitted to the Minister and Cabinet for review in 2020. In 2020/2021 ILO will seek to continue supporting the EDD in developing and monitoring Policies for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

ILO also commenced the development of a catalogue of social and economic services offered by Government entities, NGOs, training centres, financial institutions, employers' organizations supporting women's economic empowerment in the Country.

2.3 A Healthy Trinidad and Tobago

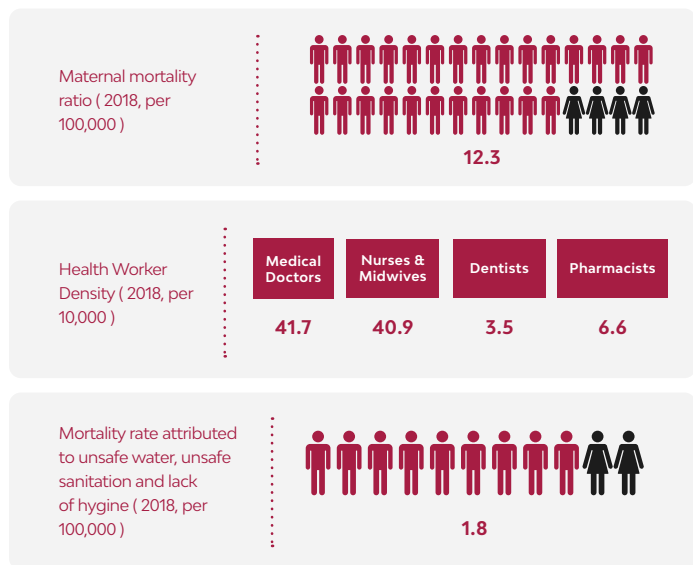


Agencies: WHO, FAO, UNDP, UNFPA

Available: USD 2,637,677

Spent: USD 2,227,798

Key SDG Indicators



Actions and resources of the UNCT were re-engineered and reprioritized early in 2020 to support government's efforts to address the health challenges of COVID-19, and the effects of the pandemic. Appropriately, responses to confront these emerging challenges contributed to largely to

Goal 3- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and Goal 4- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning all opportunities for all.

The UNCT, under PAHO/WHO's technical lead, reinforced the health measures and protocols adopted by government through a number of actions and measures, including the procurement and delivery of a wider range of PPEs and other health related infrastructure, capacity strengthening of health care workers, and the improvement of health and laboratory facilities; strengthened key partnerships with civil society to provide direct support through the provision of equipment, training and monetary grants; and scaled up joint programming initiatives and support systems that complemented the efforts of Government. Concurrently, the UNCT also collaborated with government counterparts to develop a Socio Economic

Response Plan aligned to the UN's socio economic framework pillars on health, protecting people, macroeconomic recovery and social cohesion and community resilience.

PAHO/WHO's key actions to support to the national health operations and response to address the COVID-19 pandemic included the Health Sector: COVID-19 Economic Impact Assessment Report; procurement of PPE according to approved WHO standards; and procurement of lab supplies to be used for Covid19 and other related COVID19 Supplies. PPE and Supplies procured included Fast Precision Plate Holders, Swabs, AgPath-ID One Step RT-PCR Reagents, Rapid Test Kits, Masks, Gloves and Oxygen Concentrators.

Support was also provided to the pandemic management through the strengthening and expansion of the COVID19 Diagnostic Laboratory Capacity. This facilitated the implementation of Antigen-based Detection Tests in Trinidad and Tobago.

The interpretation of the antigen test results allowed for accurate clinical management of patients with suspected COVID-19, and for identification of potentially infected persons when screened.

UNDP and PAHO/WHO also re-engineered the Primary Health Care Initiative in 2020 to assist the Ministry of Health in its Covid-19 response. This was done through the procurement of PPE and medical equipment necessary to assist the country in combatting the pandemic. This included the purchase of 7,250 cepheid SARS-COV-2 test kits; 28,000 N95 masks; 200,000 IIR surgical masks; and 15 Oxygen Humidifiers. Other medical equipment acquired included cardiac monitors, ultra sound machines and video laryngoscopes. UNDP also assisted in the recruitment of 57 nurses for the period of 3 months (April to June 2020) who were assigned to Covid-19 treatment facilities in Arima, Caura and Couva. UNDP made further arrangements with the Ministry of Health to purchase on their behalf additional test kits and PPE in 2021.

Further support was provided by PAHO/WHO to the Ministry of Health with the development and implementation of the Immunization Record Registry in Trinidad and Tobago; the development of a National Immunization Policy for Health Care Workers in accordance with WHO Guidelines; the

strengthening of the Ministry of Health Surveillance System through the development of a Database pertinent to COVID19 patients; and an education and awareness campaign to increase knowledge and personal management of the pandemic, awareness of health risks resulting from indifferent personal behavior, and general information related to COVID-19.

Strategies and mechanisms were also implemented to address the social impacts of COVID-19; PAHO/WHO implemented a Domestic Violence Campaign to mitigate intimate partner and domestic violence that were further escalated as a result of lockdowns and other restrictions. Additionally, the development of the Implementation Plan for the National Mental Health Policy was concluded in 2020.

Beyond the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening of cardiovascular disease risk management, including hypertension, diabetes, and dyslipidemia in primary health care was advanced through the implementation of the HEARTS Initiative. The Initiative seeks to integrate seamlessly and progressively into already existing health delivery services to promote the adoption of global best practices in the prevention and control of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and improve the performance of the services through better control of high blood pressure and the promotion of secondary prevention with emphasis on the primary health care.

UNFPA supported the delivery of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health Services (SRH) as part of the response to COVID-19 and the Venezuelan migrant and refugee situation. The interventions saw Venezuelan migrants and refugees, as well as members of the host communities, benefitting from the delivery of SRH services through local IPPF Affiliates, namely the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT). Through collaboration with the national agencies, SRH and GBV services were mapped and referral pathways developed. Further technical support was also provided to assess the current emergency plans in an effort to integrate the MISP.

In 2020, UNFPA continued to play a leading role in expanding the contraceptives method mix in Trinidad and Tobago. In early 2019, the study protocol entitled "Expanding the Contraceptive Method Choice in Trinidad and Tobago: Introduction of contraceptive implants" was approved and initiated. The first component of the study related to the acceptability of the implants compared with current contraceptive methods available was finalized in 2020 with a total of 390 implants inserted. The second objective of the study is to evaluate the performance of the implant in a cohort of women that have initiated the use of the implant during a 12 months' period and this will be completed in the second semester of 2021. Preliminary data shows a high acceptability and UNFPA has already started to provide support to the Ministry of Health to design the scale up of the implant across the country.

UNFPA also continued to support the introduction of a logistics management information system (SALMI) for the Ministry of Health in Trinidad and Tobago. Important milestones were achieved: development of the SALMI-NH (National Warehouse) and its different modules (Warehouse, administrator) and development of the SALMI-RW (Regional Warehouse with two modules, sub-administrator and warehouse) to address warehouse management at the

national and regional level within SALMI. Development of the SALMI Ministry of Health (SALMI-MOH), which is a central module that enables the MOH to monitor nationwide the availability of commodities and take necessary actions, was also completed.

The proof of concept was also verified whereby the MOH is able to view the stocks and balances at each health facility where SALMI is installed. The SALMI was also an opportunity to trigger changes in the management of the Family Planning Programme as this was a parallel system with substantive inefficiencies. As a result, Family Planning commodities management has been integrated and administrative processes of distribution and dispensing contraceptives in health facilities have been streamlined. To this end, the SALMI HF module was updated to integrate the management needs of the Family Planning programme.

The SALMI Health facility module (SALMI-HF) is now operating in seven (7) facilities of the Ministry of Health which allows monitoring balances, consumption, inventory and other logistical data. Given COVID-19 restrictions, virtual installation of SALMI-HF in the Couva Health Center took place. Several updates during 2020 resulted in improved and streamlined administrative processes in the registration of the information in the pharmacies and warehouses where SALMI has been implemented. This included the development of additional modules (sub-store). The user guidelines for the SALMI -HF administrator module, back store and pharmacy module were also updated. A proposal of indicators and reports was elaborated and submitted to the Ministry of Health.

With respect to policy and legislative advancements, the national Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Policy was approved and adopted by the Ministry of Health. The SRH Policy seeks to address SRH integration, SRH in emergencies as well as universal access to SRH, including for vulnerable groups such as young people. Additionally, the Minor's Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health services (2019) was approved for publication and dissemination in 2020 by the Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, Gender and Child Affairs; and advocacy efforts are continuing to amend the legislation. Key results and products produced to support advocacy efforts include: advocacy plan to support the amendment of the Children's Act to facilitate Minor's Access to SRH produced; health practitioners sensitized, fact sheet produced and shared and call to action developed and disseminated; infographic for the engagement of young people; and a script for video and presentation developed for the engagement of parliamentarians.

A youth rapid needs assessment was conducted to systematically gather and analyze information relating to the comprehensive SRH/HIV/GBV needs of young women, men, girls, and boys in all their diversity and vulnerability, to determine the needs and gaps that have emerged or have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Caribbean, including Trinidad and Tobago. The results of the assessment will be used to inform interventions to effectively address the needs and gaps identified and improve the health and wellbeing of young people across the region.

With respect to Health, Nutrition and Food Safety, FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture Lands and Fisheries (MALF) with strengthening legislative frameworks for food and food safety. The Draft Fisheries Management Bill

(2019) was approved by Parliament in 2020 and replaces the 100 year old fisheries legislation; the legislation now includes actions for addressing illegal unreported unregulated fishing (IUU). MALF and FAO further collaborated on food security and food safety in Trinidad and Tobago in 2020 through the promotion of food safety and meat hygiene in the Poultry Cottage Industry. FAO partnered with the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of the West Indies (SVM-UWI) to implement activities on surveying and training of poultry cottage industry processors. The SVM finalized an Operations Manual required for training of the cottage industry operators and public health inspectorate; training will commence in 2021.

2.4 A Safe, Cohesive, and Just Trinidad and Tobago

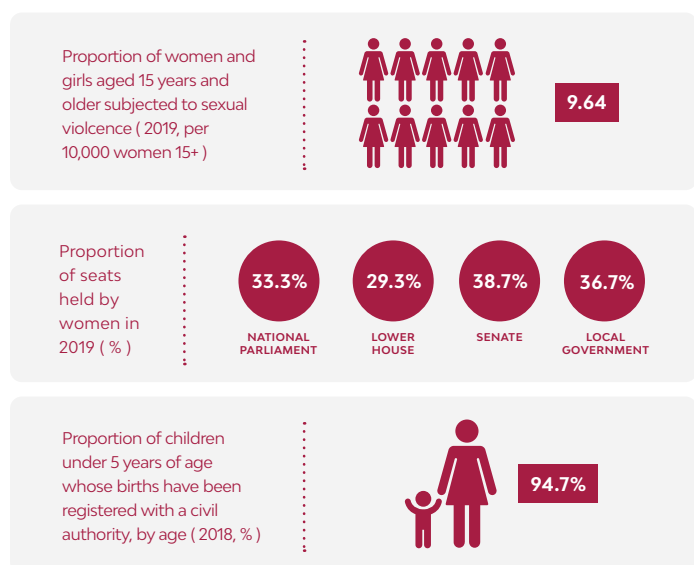


Agencies: UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP

Available: USD 4,579,672

Spent: USD 3,714,854

Key SDG Indicators



The UNCT and Government collaborated on actions and interventions to support equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety.

These joint efforts contributed to 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 11- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Joint work with CSOs to strengthen the national social protection system continued in 2020. UNHCR conducted ongoing mapping and advocacy of CSOs and services to expand the existing referral pathways. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, UNHCR's implementing Partners provided psychosocial support to 95 survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) through remote tele-counselling and reached at least 12,000 through social media sensitization programmes on (GBV).

During the year, 192 survivors and 11 victims of trafficking received specialized case management, including legal assistance and 29 women and children were provided with secure housing in the absence of access to designated GBV shelter. 29 survivors of GBV received medical assistance while refugees and migrants received over 7,000 free clinical services related to sexual and reproductive health delivered through tele-health approaches and at static clinics.

Key challenges remain including access to safe emergency shelter, consistent access to legal remedies and decent work and livelihoods opportunities for survivors of GBV. There is a further need to expand comprehensive sexual and reproductive health support and sustained coordination among actors in the response to GBV in 2021.

UNFPA also supported the strengthening of capacities of the government and CSOs in preventing sexual and Gender Based Violence in 2020 through:

- ✓ the establishment of a multi-stakeholder committee as part of the Inter-ministerial committee on GBV to assess and strengthen the delivery of GBV case management services;
- ✓ the sensitization of trade union leaders on GBV;
- ✓ advocacy and engagement of the public and the targeted communities on issues of family violence and sexual harassment in the workplace;
- ✓ the production of videos on child abuse and elder violence; and
- ✓ support to remote service provision including the provision of phones, data plans, computers and PPE.

UNFPA also supported the operationalization of two Government shelters.

To strengthen evidence informed decision-making and the provision of key services to survivors of GBV, UNFPA also supported the testing of the GBV database and the adoption of a new Case Management GBV System for Trinidad and Tobago, using the Antigua and Barbuda database as a model. UNFPA also supported the re-establishment of the GBV Registry housed by

OPM Gender and Child Affairs. Stakeholders were trained and a draft SOP for information sharing was developed. UNFPA also supported a first responder assessment of IT systems, for which a list of first responders was produced and agreed to by the Office of the Prime Minister, Gender and Child Affairs Division (OPM); OPM is presently reviewing the proposal for implementation.

UNDP partnered with national agencies on actions to establish a foundation for sustained and integrated approaches to preventing family violence before it occurs, by facilitating the improvement of institutional capabilities. Key initiatives included the review of the Domestic Violence Act; training in the use of Police Standing Orders; and the development of an accompaniment program and community engagement frameworks.

Trinidad and Tobago also saw an increase in the number of Venezuelan migrants in 2020. IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF provide key support to Government and CSOs to strengthen protection mechanisms, including data capture to allow for more focused service delivery. IOM and UNICEF collaborated on another iteration of migrant tracking, assessment and monitoring using the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). A total of 950 Venezuelan migrants participated in the survey exercise and findings were presented to key Government Stakeholders, UN partners, members of the R4V platform and the donor.

Findings allowed for a comparison with 2019 migrant profiles and characteristics, and provided key data insights on migrant education, work status, accommodation, health and emerging needs.

At the start of 2020, UNICEF and UNHCR continued the implementation of an accredited educational programme for refugee and asylum-seeking children; as part of the Education Working Group, UNHCR supported the Equal Place online learning programme with 650 refugee and asylum-seeking children regularly engaged. Despite the onset of COVID-19 and the restrictions that continued during the year, Equal Place quickly transitioned to full online implementation, and tablets were distributed to 1,100 students. At the end of 2020, 1,080 students were engaged in the programme, including 783 primary (397 boys, 386 girls) and 297 secondary (138 boys, 159 girls) students. 148 primary-level students were identified for spaces in local board-run schools, and officials from 8 schools were sensitized and trained.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the food, beverage and entertainment sectors where the majority of refugees and migrants are employed resulted in the loss of income and livelihoods and reduced capacity to meet basic needs. Government social safety nets to mitigate the impact did not include non-nationals in irregular situations. UNHCR, together with implementing Partner Living Water Community, provided multipurpose cash grants to 689 extremely vulnerable households, or 1,535 individuals, who were facing eviction and threats to life, who had specific needs, and who were engaging in negative coping mechanisms. 88% of the beneficiaries were Venezuelan, while the remaining 12% represented households of 20 other nationalities. The age/gender disaggregation of beneficiaries were: Men ≥18: 20%; Women ≥18: 34%; Boys <18: 15%; and Girls <18: 21%.

To respond to the most urgent need for food, UNHCR partnered with Living

Water Community to launch an emergency food assistance programme, using e-vouchers, redeemable in 29 supermarkets across the country. 2,491 households or 9,892 individuals received e-vouchers. The age/gender disaggregation of beneficiaries were: Men ≥18: 36%; Women ≥18: 63%; Boys <18: less than 1%; and Girls <18: 1%.

UNHCR also continued the Community Outreach Member programme with 17 members in 2020. The programme was especially important during COVID-19 restrictions when communication could only be shared remotely and not face-to-face.

25 broadcasts related to government protocols in response to the pandemic were communicated; and through the hotline system, UNHCR and partners responded to over 10,000 calls and messages requesting information and assistance. Implementing Partner Living Water Community supported over 30 community groups to assist refugees and migrants in communities throughout the country. UNHCR further provided PPE to its implementing partners and to other community based organizations.

Capacity-building activities with Government on international principles of refugee protection was also facilitated despite restrictions related to the pandemic; 296 government officials including immigration and police officers were trained. Additionally, the government extended the stay and works permits for Venezuelans who registered under their system through the end of 2020 and another renewal is expected in 2021. UNHCR also supported the Ministry of Health in providing medical assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities. The Ministry of Health included refugees and asylum-seekers in COVID-19 responses and was supported by UNHCR with the renewal of 18 GIS licenses. These licenses were crucial to mapping and monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and informing policy decisions by the Government.

The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated protection concerns among children of the Venezuelan population in Trinidad and Tobago in 2020. In response, UNICEF expanded its implementing partners to include the Catholic Commission for Social Justice along with strengthening continued partnerships with ChildLine, Children's Authority, Counter-Trafficking Unit, UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA and ICRC. Under the coordination of the Child Protection Working Group, members and national government stakeholders developed and implemented a 2020 Action Plan to address protection needs of children on the move. As a result, protection referral pathways were strengthened and adjusted in light of COVID-19 restrictions; protocols for alternative care for unaccompanied and separated children were developed with a draft programme framework; joint advocacy initiatives were launched on intimate partner violence, child labour, sexual exploitation and sexual grooming.

UNICEF expanded the provision of psychosocial support through online modalities including the launch of 'My ChildLine App' reaching 3,554 children; developed the capacity of 108 community actors including adolescents in providing psychosocial support and peer counselling; increased the capacity of 25 national protection agencies to enhance gender-based violence response for adolescent girls; supported family reunification or alternative care of 28 unaccompanied and separated children; supported 1,415 children with programmes to prevent and address violence, abuse

and exploitation, including GBV; and supported the transition to online programming for child friendly spaces in light of school closure. In partnership with UNFPA and Children's Authority video animations addressing sexual grooming and intimate partner violence were developed and distributed via social media to educate both host and migrant population on recent amendments to the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Acts.

Through UNICEF's partnership with FPATT, 145 children 0 to 59 months old, received medical screens. The screens comprised of addressing any medical complaints, a nutritional health assessment, an overall physical health review including inoculation history and a basic psychological screen. Approximately 12% of children screened presented with issues of nutrition. To aid in the nutritional consultations and counselling with parents and guardians, UNICEF supported the reproduction of key handouts that focused on child health, growth and development, good eating habits and healthy nutrition; the parents/guardians of 81 children (42 females and 39 males) received counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) for appropriate feeding; and through FPATT, utilizing a dietitian to provide personalized nutritional consultation and counselling to Venezuelan families.

Following COVID-19 restrictions, UNICEF provided cash-based assistance for food assistance for 321 migrant families with children up to 3 years old. The transfer was made using QR codes delivered to the cellphone of a caregiver to make a purchase at a local store. UNICEF and LWC also developed nutritional counselling cards that provided orientation on feeding practices for children up to 3 years old.

IOM supported victims of trafficking through the provision of emergency direct assistance. 43 victims of trafficking received accommodation support (40 adult females, 2 minor Venezuelan males, and 1 minor Venezuelan female); while 49 victims of trafficking received food and non-food items (hygiene/protection/cleaning kits). Mental Health and Psychosocial Support was also provided to 69 vulnerable migrants, Victims of Trafficking, and survivors of Gender-Based Violence (Minor Girls – 13, Adult Women – 53, Minor boys – 0, and Adult men – 3).

Support was also provided to the Airport Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (AATT) with procuring hygiene infrastructure and screening equipment for the airports. In partnership with the US State Department of Population, Refugees and Migrants, items procured included free-standing hand sanitizer stations with automatic dispensers, wall-mounted automatic hand sanitizer dispensers and 3D hand sanitizer wall signs, framed tempered glass sneeze guard screens, standing banners with COVID-19 guidelines, and custom standing customer service desks.

IOM also partnered with UN WOMEN and national partners to promote and strengthen livelihoods, economic empowerment and safety for Venezuelan women migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and host women, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. Both agencies supported TTV SOLNET, with the support of the Pan American Development Foundation with a basic sewing skills course for migrant women. Upon their graduation, they will be able to sew reversible bags, masks and bags made from recyclable materials. 80 sewing machines were provided by IOM to successful

graduates of the Sewing and Design Course; cycles 1 and 2 were completed with 50 successful graduates.

Rental support was also provided to 101 beneficiaries; 40 adult women and 1 girl who are Victims of Trafficking, 19 vulnerable adult migrant women, 9 vulnerable female minors, 21 adult men and 11 minor males. Protection kits were also distributed to vulnerable migrants and host community members in the rural areas of Mayaro, Rio Claro, Moruga, San Fernando, Penal, Siparia, Princes Town and Tobago in 2020. Approximately 1,000 protection kits were distributed to 3,036 beneficiaries including 1,035 vulnerable Venezuelan women and girls and 634 vulnerable host community women and girls. Beneficiaries also included 866 vulnerable Venezuelan adult migrant men and boys and 486 vulnerable host community men and boys. 15 vulnerable migrants from other nationalities also received protection kits. Information kits were also distributed and knowledge products from governmental organizations and NGOs were provided in both English and Spanish.

IOM, in partnership with its nonprofit partner, USA for IOM, and Citi Trinidad & Tobago, distributed 160 electronic tablets to primary schools and other organizations in 2020. This handover of electronic tablets to the Office of Law Enforcement Policy, Ministry of National Security, primary schools and non-governmental organizations was part of an initiative to narrow the digital learning gap created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The tablets provided vulnerable students in East Port of Spain with access to remote education; students of the San Rafael Primary School with devices to support with online education. As part of the tablet distribution, IOM also distributed 20 electronic tablets to the TTV Solidarity Network for migrant children, 20 tablets to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and five tablets each to the St. Mary's Government Primary School, Holy Trinity Moruga Anglican Primary School, Fifth Company Baptist Primary School and St. Michael's Anglican Primary School.

The distribution of the tablets was part of a larger initiative in response to the pandemic, which also included the distribution of food and hygiene kits to migrants and nationals in rural/coastal communities such as Icacos. A total of 382 persons from 92 families received hygiene kits in Icacos while 305 persons from 75 families received food vouchers in Rio Claro, Trinidad in December 2020.

UNDP and UNICEF continued the joint efforts with the Ministry of National Security on issues of crime and violence, including gender-based violence and youth violence prevention. The Youth Transformation and Rehabilitation Centre Programme (YTRC) aimed to equip young offenders with the skills to become role models and agents of positive change and to address the high rates of recidivism at the institution. To do this, the project provided laptops to 110 residents to facilitate participation. Training was provided to Prison Officers on the use of online platforms e.g. Zoom, and an online curriculum was designed. The first phase started with 20 participants while Phase II was launched in response to COVID-19 and saw a scale-up of 500% with the full population of over 100 residents attending sessions via online platforms.

Critical capacity building was provided to the Children Court of Trinidad and Tobago in the form of Drug Treatment Court training and capacity building

for Child Probation Officers. The strategic and operational directions of a Drug Treatment Juvenile Court Pilot were set up, and a more cohesive and comprehensive process of child justice administration for child probation officers has been mapped.

2.5 A Sustainable and Resilient Trinidad and Tobago

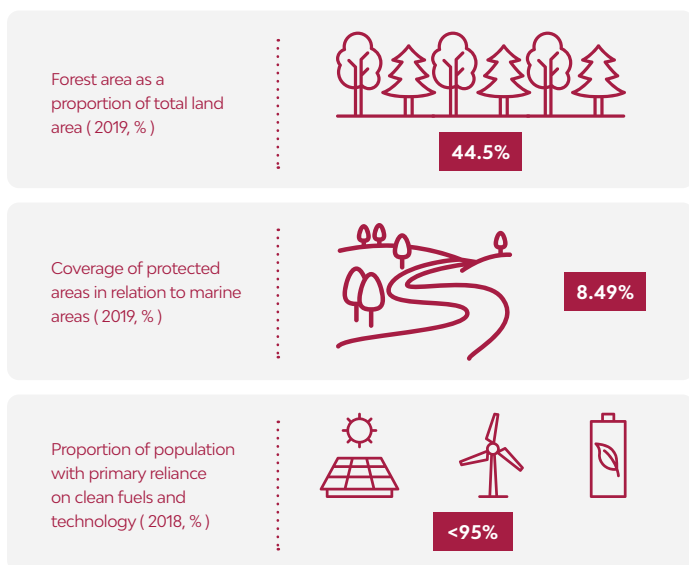


Agencies: FAO, UNDP, UNEP

Available: USD 2,068,464

Spent: USD 1,259,655

Key SDG Indicators



Trinidad and Tobago's sustainable development achievements include progress with climate change adaptation, resilience and risk reduction. The Global Climate Risk Index 2020, which analyses to what extent countries and regions have been affected by impacts of weather-related loss events (utilizing the most recent data available from 1999 to 2018), ranks Trinidad and Tobago (152nd) among the lowest affected countries by climate change over the period.

In 2020, UNDP and UNEP provided ongoing key support through inclusive and sustainable solutions to achieve increased energy efficiency and access to renewable /alternative energy; and for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services, chemicals, and waste. UNDP partnered with the Ministry of Planning and Development to support Trinidad and Tobago in identifying, designing, implementing and monitoring of climate change related interventions. Successful actions in 2020 included the identification of twelve (12) sites for solar PV installations, development of a public awareness campaign, and technical assistance to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries.

UNEP's collaboration 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 continued in 2020. Outputs included small scale production of organic lettuce, patchoi and bodi (string beans) generating income which was reinvested; mixed forest species community nursery replenished with 4,199 wildlings from the surrounding forest; national webinar with the TT Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TTEITI) and the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI) on "Digging Deeper: Seeking Solutions for the Mining Sector Challenges"- MEEI Monitoring System, which focused on the MEEI online portal-based system to manage their license application process for both internal and external stakeholders; and 27-member team of the Quarry Rehabilitation Champions (QRC) trained in areas such as site preparation and planting; creation of check dams and fire tracing; nursery development; top soil conservation and management; mulching and implementing vetiver as a rehabilitation intervention.

FAO supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries (MALF) to strengthen resiliency for fisherfolk, aqua culturists and coastal communities to climate change. Training on Fisheries Statistics and Damage and Loss Collection was completed with 33 participants; a virtual session was also completed in collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, Department of Mathematics and Statistics for 10 members of fisheries staff at Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries (DMRF) within the Division of Food Production, Forestry and Fisheries (DFPFF) in Tobago. The staff, who received Certificates of Participation upon completion of the training course, included fisheries officers, fisheries extension officers, data collectors and assistant data collectors. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) continued its implementation of the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) mapping impacts and assessing vulnerabilities across five coastal and fishing communities.

FAO and UNDP also joined with the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross to support local communities with the integration of agriculture and food security and social inclusion. A grow garden initiative was developed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic where 1,200 vulnerable women and youth were provided with grow-garden kits which included seeds, soil and seedling trays.

These kits were accompanied with step by step educational video tutorials on home gardening. The project aimed to enhance food security as well as provide stress relief and introduce agriculture as an alternative source of income.

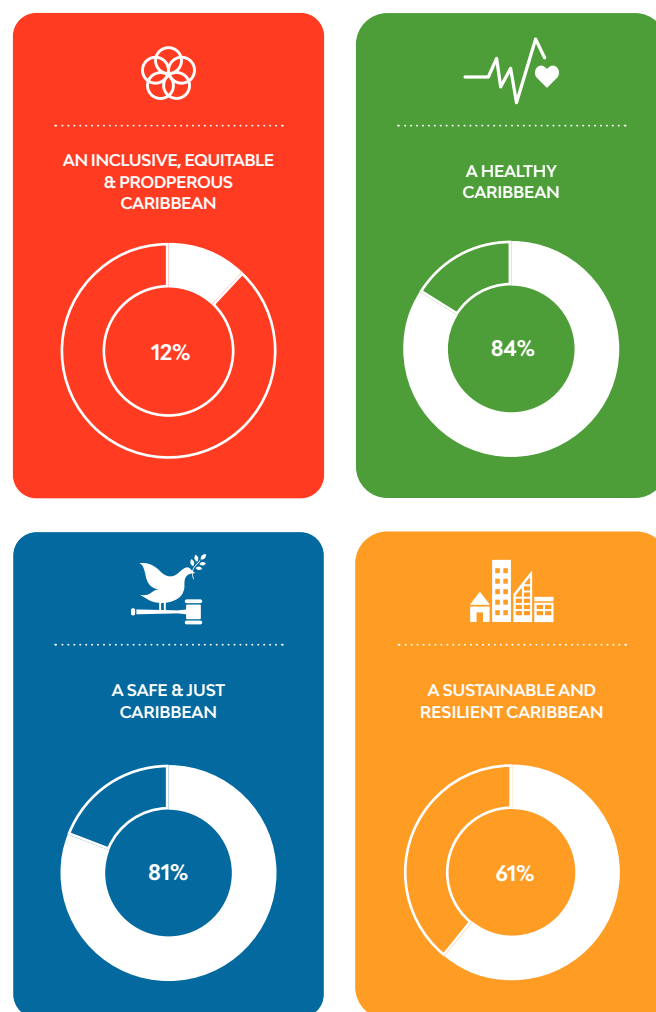
The project also provided agriculture vouchers for 200 at risk youth and

female heads of households as well as 100 food and hygiene hampers for vulnerable persons in home quarantine. Additional support was also provided in the form of food vouchers to more than 1,100 households.

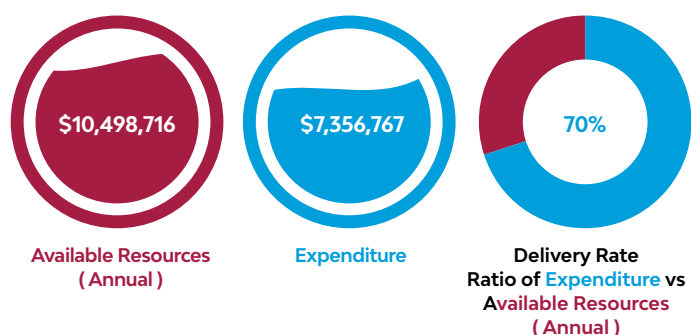
FAO and MALF also collaborated on restoration of landscapes, effective land use planning and strengthening sustainably cultivated green value chains. A scoping report for biodiversity supportive land use and land restoration in Trinidad and Tobago was produced as well as a report on scoping studies on green value chains in Trinidad and Tobago which provided baseline information to evaluate biodiversity supportive land use and land restoration in Trinidad and Tobago.

Collaboration between FAO, MALF and the University of the West Indies (UWI) on the sustainable management of bycatch in trawl fisheries continued in 2020. Actions included testing the viability of new technologies, a Fisherfolk Diagnostic study on the functionality of fisherfolk organizations in T&T, the development of the integrated fisheries information system, catch and effort data collection initiatives at landing sites (including associated data computerization) and observer at-sea trips, and a study on drivers of bycatch and profiles of trawl communities.

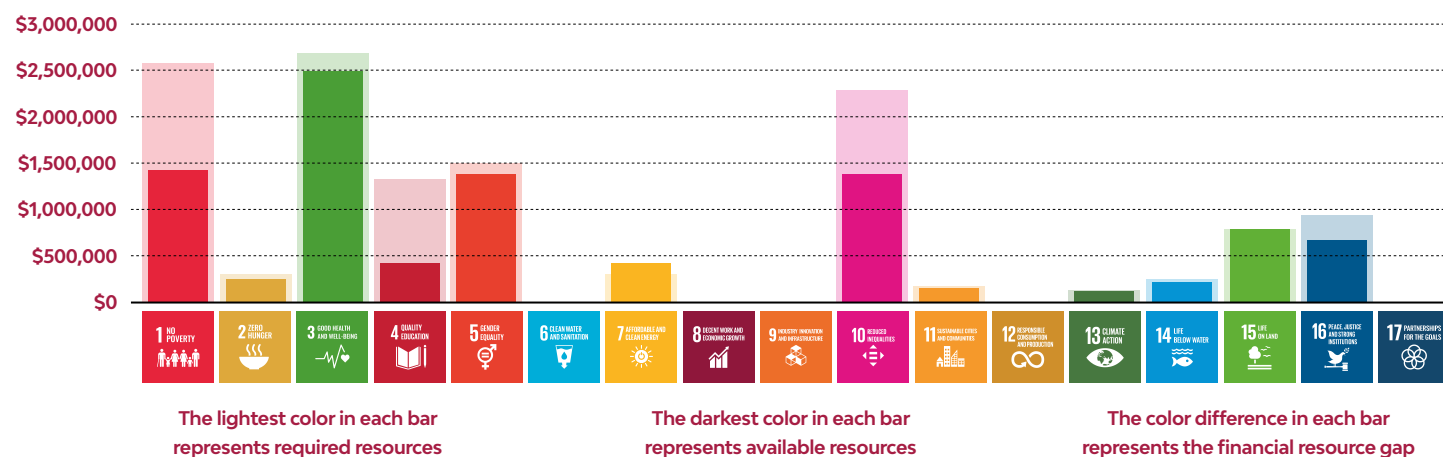
Delivery Rate by strategic Priority



2.6 Financial Review 2020



Financial Gap In UNCT Contribution Identified By Sdg, According To Required Resources And Available Resources, 2020

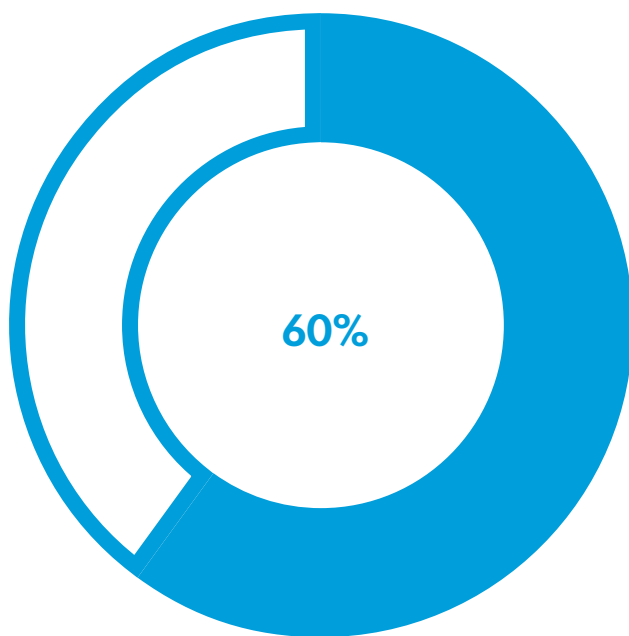


CHAPTER 3

UN Socio-Economic Response To The COVID-19 Pandemic

3.1 Overview

*SERP Available Resources as a percentage
of Overall UNCT Resources, 2020*



The government implemented management strategies and interventions early in 2020 to address the health concerns and socio economic fallout as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beyond the health crisis, government measures to provide an increased social safety net, to limit the loss of jobs and to support the educational needs of the children also delivered a degree of comfort despite the unprecedented strain on national resources and reserves.

Government interventions were ably supported through the United Nations Country Team COVID-19 response and assistance to Trinidad

and Tobago. UNCT's initiatives within the early months of the pandemic (March-June 2020) at an approximate cost of USD \$3.4 Mn supplemented government efforts to build back better and deliver social, economic, and public health service to all of society, especially the most vulnerable communities. Concurrently, a rapid socio economic assessment was undertaken which offered insight into COVID-19 management responses by the government and the UNCT, and probable gaps that existed.

Based on the assessment, and in accordance with the socio-economic response framework offered by the United Nations Development System (UNDS) to protect the needs and rights of the population living under the duress of the pandemic, to preserve the gains with respect to the SDGs made pre COVID-19, and to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; the UNCT developed a socio economic recovery plan (SERP) setting out the United Nations Country Team's support to Trinidad and Tobago in the face of COVID-19.

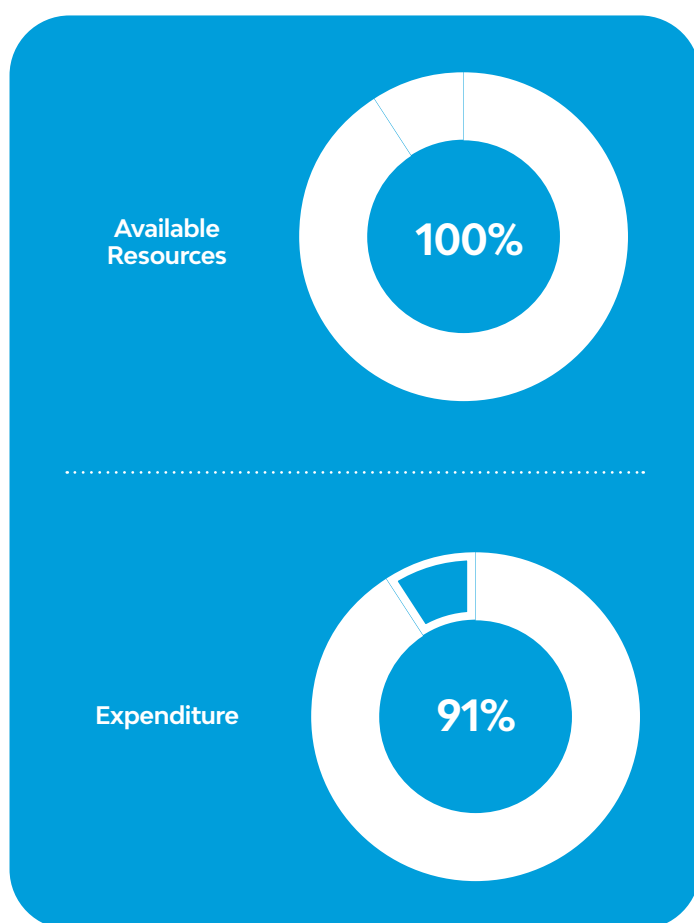
The Plan was developed in close collaboration with government ministries and agencies so that proposed interventions could match the short and medium term development needs of the country and complement government's own Road to Recovery Plan to build back stronger.

Actions under the plan were formulated under four key streams of Health First, Protecting People, Economic Response And Recovery, and Social Cohesion And Community Resilience; proposed actions were budgeted at USD \$46 Mn. While the SERP was shared with funding donors, IFIs and other international and private funding streams to leverage financing for the entire plan, the UNCT re-purposed funding from available CIP resources to support donor funding received for emergency COVID-19 responses. Accordingly, 60% of overall available UNCT resources (USD \$6.3 Mn) in 2020 was dedicated to responses to the pandemic.

Importantly, the UNCT aligned these responses to the UN MSDF priorities, and initiatives undertaken formed part of the CIP TT.

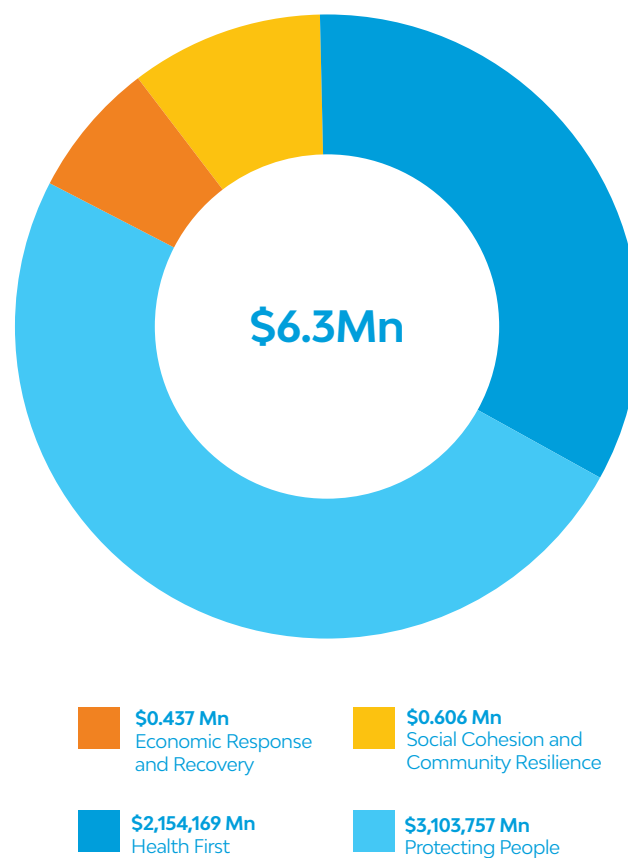
3.2 Financial Support

UN Socio-economic response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, by CBF



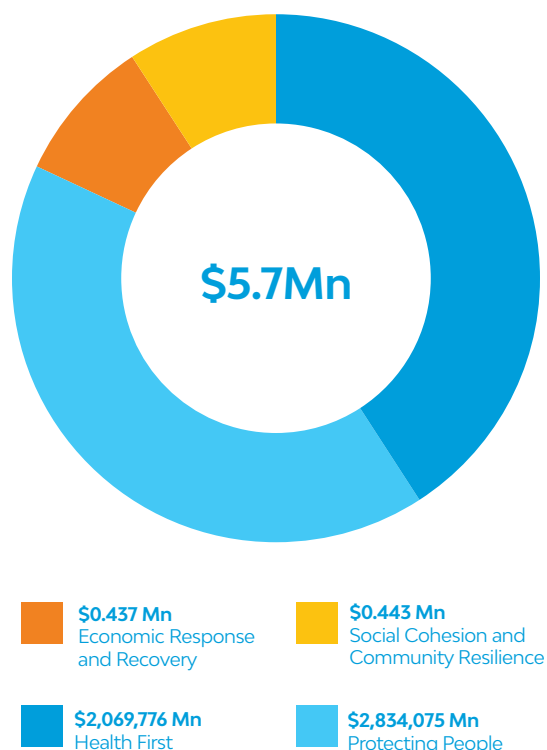
The UNCT implemented actions in response to the effects of the pandemic that accounted for 91% (USD 5.7 Mn) of overall available UNCT resources for COVID-19 responses.

UNCT Socio-economic response, Available resources by Pillar



Available funding (USD 6.3 Mn) for COVID-19 responses concentrated more on initiatives related to Health First (34%) and Protecting People (49%).

**UNCT Socio-economic response,
Expenditure by Pillar**



Ninety one percent (91%) of available funds for actions under Protecting People were expended in 2020. Key humanitarian actions included support to vulnerable communities, migrants and refugees, and victims of trafficking with cash based interventions, provision of food vouchers and non-food items. Psychosocial counselling support was also provided to survivors of GBV among the refugee and asylum-seeking population in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as psychosocial support to children, adolescents and their caregivers including establishment of child-friendly space for socialization, learning and play. The expansion of an accredited educational programme called Equal Place allowed refugee and asylum-seeking children access to online platforms providing educational support in English and Spanish. An Education and awareness campaign was

also delivered to increase knowledge and personal management of the pandemic, awareness of health risks resulting from indifferent personal behavior, and general information related to COVID-19.

Under Health First, ten key actions accounted for expenditure of USD 2.06 Mn, or 96% of available resources under this pillar. Key interventions included the strengthening and expansion of the COVID19 Diagnostic Laboratory capacity that facilitated the implementation of Antigen-based Detection Tests in Trinidad and Tobago, strengthening the Ministry of Health Surveillance System through the development of a Database pertinent to COVID19 patients, delivery of a Health Sector: COVID-19 Economic Impact Assessment Report, procurement of PPE according to approved WHO standards and lab supplies and other related supplies to be used for Covid19.

Support was also provided through the procurement of 7,250 cepheid SARS-COV-2 test kits; 28,000 N95 masks; 200,000 IIR surgical masks; and 15 Oxygen Humidifiers. Other medical equipment acquired included cardiac monitors, ultrasound machines and video laryngoscopes. 57 nurses were also recruited for the period of 3 months and assigned to Covid-19 treatment facilities.

The UNCT also supported livelihoods, economic empowerment and safety for Venezuelan women migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and host women, to prevent and respond to gender-based violence as part of response efforts under Economic Response and Recovery efforts.

Actions under Social Cohesion And Community Resilience focused on providing support to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the areas of food security and social inclusion. 73% of available funds were expended on grow garden initiatives, rapid socio economic assessments and studies in food security and food banks, and provision of agriculture vouchers for 200 at risk youth and female heads of households as well as 100 food and hygiene hampers for vulnerable persons in home quarantine. Additional support was also provided in the form of food vouchers to more than 1,100 households.

3.3 Key Indicators of UNCT Support Provided

Number of health facilities that received UN support to maintain essential immunization services since COVID-19 disruptions, Other support (including social protection measures)



18

Number of Migrants, refugees, stateless and internally displaced persons reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services



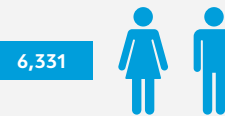
3,306

Number of PPE and RCCE material provided to Community Health Workers to maintain Essential Services



285,000

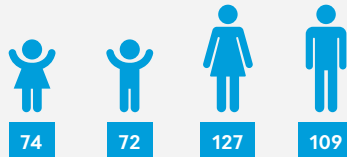
Number of beneficiaries of food and nutrition schemes, disaggregated by sex



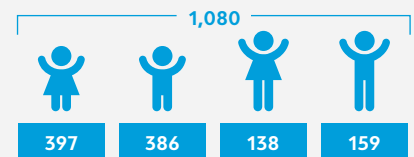
6,331

3,561

Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services, disaggregated by sex and age group



Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning, disaggregated by sex, number



CHAPTER 4

Results Of The Reform

And Joint Approaches By The UNCT

4.1 Results Achieved on SDG Data And Knowledge

The UNCT supported SDG data collection and reporting through collaborative initiatives with government, local data stakeholders, and regional and international experts.

In pursuit of the development of a draft UNCT data strategy, to be aligned to the UN Data Strategy of the Secretary General; an assessment of data sources and data mining in the UNCT was completed and gaps in data for sustainable development identified. Discussions between UNRCO, ECLAC

and the Central Statistical Office (CSO) also identified capacity challenges, emerging development issues, and the need for disaggregated data necessary to determine SDG progress.

Accordingly, the UNCT commenced the development of an SDG Data Repository in 2020 to identify critical data sets for SDG indicators so that the coverage of SDGs reported on could be expanded. Based on the current assessment and the availability of data, 140 indicators or 56% of total SDG indicators were identified for production; the number of indicators will increase subject to ongoing discussions with data producers and providers and interventions to improve the design of national survey instruments in 2021.

Trinidad and Tobago SDG Repository Database



The development of the SDG Repository formed a critical part of the production of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and will be used as resource material to generate annual analytic updates to the CCA. Importantly, the Repository will enable evidence-based assessment on the achievement of the SDGs, and better inform UNCT programme development and prioritization.

The Repository will be established as an online digital platform featuring data visualizations and linkages to external data platforms and research.

The UNCT's innovative approach to supporting the modernization of the local data ecosystem resulted in the introduction of the country's first Big Data Forum in 2020. The Forum, themed "A Smarter Future: Exploring Big Data Opportunities for T&T," brought together more than 1,200 unique participants virtually over a two day period explore the potential of Big Data.

Sessions included presentations from the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago, leading international organizations Google and Amazon; the UN's innovation arm, Global Pulse; as well as leading international Big Data experts in key fields of research and artificial intelligence; and academia. The Forum created an avenue for 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. Focus was placed on the transformational role of big data in the future smart Trinidad and Tobago, the business case for big data locally and regionally, and building trust in big data.

Key areas of consensus included the need for common ground rules for big data privacy, that there were many types of data that can be aggregated and anonymized that do not require sacrificing privacy, and can be used for social development; that advances in big data collection and analysis and artificial intelligence now make modeling the complexity of the economic, political, socio-cultural, demographic and climate environment within which programmes are designed and implemented more realistic; that big data can improve governance and accountability; and that private sector companies already own much of the region's Big Data but are largely unaware of how to unlock its potential.

The Forum generated widespread discussion on the potential of big data as an alternative source of data to complement official statistics, and provided key action points for further exploration in 2021 including the UNCT and Government pursuit of common ground rules for Big Data privacy by way of United Nations resolution; developing the framework and coordinating mechanism for the establishment of a Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics in the Caribbean; joint academia and private sector Big Data research locally; and a pilot study using artificial intelligence for a social development initiative.

4.2 Results Achieved on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization

Trinidad and Tobago is classified as a high-income country and is therefore ineligible for overseas development assistance from most funding sources. In 2020, the UNCT underscored the need to leverage joint resource mobilization through strategic partnerships with new and non-traditional sources of funding to mitigate this challenge.

Accordingly, a group of 21 development partners including IFIs and diplomatic missions from the Global South was convened to explore opportunities for financing of UN agency initiatives and co-creation of development actions. Through quarterly meetings and strategic discussions with the UNCT, two grants were realized from the CAF Development Bank of Latin America; USD 262,500 to UNICEF to support the Government's efforts to deliver education online; and USD 250,000 to FAO to integrate modern technology into local food production.

Efforts to leverage financing for the 2030 Agenda also focused on the country's private sector. An SDG Business Roundtable of nine of the country's largest and most influential companies was established to promote integration of the SDGs into the companies' business plans, operations, products and services. The UNCT also explored opportunities for aligning philanthropic investments of leading private sector companies with the SDGs to optimize the impact of these investments in relation to the 2030 Agenda.

Ten companies with collective philanthropic investments of more than USD 16 million per annum participated in training modules that will now allow them to prioritize their investments more effectively toward the SDGs.

The UNCT also focused on the strategic need to move towards more joint programmes, which are more attractive for resource mobilization from local, regional, and global funding sources. In support of this, multiple joint proposals were presented during funding calls; one application for a UN Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was successful. In 2021, the UNCT will explore these joint programme possibilities as part of an overall resource mobilization strategy being developed.

4.3 Results of the UNCT Communicating and Advocating Together

The UN Communications Group (UNCG) worked together to produce effective communications products and campaigns to raise the visibility of the UNCT as a development partner, and to increase awareness of the SDG agenda. In this regard, local media and media influencers were engaged to increase awareness of UNCT actions and UN signature events. A popular local media personality, Ms. Seigonie Mohammed, was selected as the first ever SDG Media Ambassador; and used the media platform to produce communication reports and infographics on the activities of the UNCT, and to promote relevant UN days.

The UNCG also improved UN agencies presence in mainstream media through regular interviews and appearances, and op-eds in newspapers were also established to showcase the work and service delivery of agencies to diverse audiences. The UNCG also revitalized UN Trinidad and Tobago social media sites which resulted in significant increases in interactions on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

In support of national efforts to address the COVID19 pandemic, the UNCT implemented interventions including media ads promoting safe practices and tips; a social media campaign aimed at the younger population; and regular participation by PAHO/WHO representatives and other agency focal points on COVID19 related matters in discussions and debates. The UN in Trinidad and Tobago also supported the regional efforts at effective COVID19 communications undertaken by UNIC.

The UNCT as a whole also participated actively in the UN75 campaign which targeted youth, social media and the dissemination of the UN75 survey. The campaign also featured the distribution of facemasks with UN75 logos which have proven to be a big hit with the public in Trinidad and Tobago.

Communications and advocacy actions also embraced youth engagement in 2020. SDG Youth Ambassadors and peers were engaged on key UNCT actions including the inaugural Big Data Forum. Youth featured as an outreach partner and were embraced as SDG advocates to help share key messaging of the UNCT.

The UN Communications Group also developed a communications strategy that will be implemented in 2021.

4.4 Implementation of Business Operations Strategy 2.0

The BOS 2.0 was successfully approved in 2020. Ten UN agencies ILO, FAO, IOM, PAHO, UN, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Recs & OaHs (UNECLAC) participated in Stock Take Activities and agreed on the following services to be included for consideration in the BOS implementation: Cleaning Services, Conference and Event Management, Accommodation Services (outsourced), Banking Services and bank charges, Pest Control services, Security Services (outsourced), Help Desk (first line support services), Catering Services, Travel Services, Maintenance of IT Equipment, Procurement of PPE supplies, Storage and warehouse Management Services and Internet Connectivity.

The Total Future savings of the BOS for 17 services chosen total US\$522,621. The Top 4 services with the highest cost avoidance were: Travel Services US\$211K, Conference and Event Management - US\$104K, Banking Services and bank charges -US\$79K and Maintenance of IT Equipment - US\$36K. In 2021, these four services will be included for consideration as well as the procurement of PPE. The total cost avoidance to be realized for these 5 services in 2021 will be US\$440K.

6 OMT members have successfully completed the BOS 2.0 Certification Online Programme and have attended the training intervention offered by UNDCO.

4.5 Implementation of the Spotlight Initiative



The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls by 2030. In Trinidad and Tobago, the focus of Spotlight Initiative is to address family and domestic violence with specific focus on the three target communities: Tunapuna/Piarco, Mayaro/Rio Claro and Tobago. The Initiative received Government recognition and cabinet approval in March 2020 for an implementation period of 2020-2022. Seven UN agencies, namely UNHCR, ILO, UNDP, UN WOMEN, UNFPA, PAHO and UNICEF executed work streams under the programme.

A public launch was successfully undertaken through a series of virtual presentations with participation from the Minister of State of the Office of Prime Minister Gender and Child Affairs Division (OPM GCA), the EU Ambassador, representatives from the civil society-national reference group (CS-NRG) and the Resident Coordinator. In addition to the public launch of the programme, the governance structures of the Spotlight Initiative were established in 2020.

Spotlight focal points also participated in joint inter-agency field visits to the three target communities of Tunapuna/Piarco, Mayaro/Rio Claro and Tobago; and conducted consultations with relevant local government stakeholders as well as hosting information sessions for community groups, grassroots and women's organizations and the general public. These actions allowed for recommendations for meaningful engagement from civil society inclusive of grassroots organizations to be streamlined into agency work plans.

In support of national efforts to address socio-economic challenges resulting from the pandemic, a COVID-19-response plan was developed and implemented to prioritize critical continued service provision for survivors of violence as well as communications activities to highlight prevention, care and support strategies during stay-at-home measures. Additional interventions included strengthening data systems to incorporate family violence and COVID-19 data, as well as sensitization campaigns for civil society organizations to integrate crisis and pandemic responses into advocacy work.

The programme also facilitated the provision of remote services by case managers, supported women's organizations providing psychological support and clinical management of rape services; provided PPE for first responders, and commenced the development of National Clinical Guidelines on Family Violence, including guidance on care and support for survivors during COVID-19 and other health emergencies.

At the end of the reporting period in 2020, Spotlight provided grant funding to nine (9) grassroots organizations to implement projects ranging from bolstering shelter services, implementing workplace harassment policies, empowering young girls from within the state system to become entrepreneurs and strengthening access to legal aid; in collaboration with the Institute of Gender and Development Studies at UWI (St. Augustine Campus), completed an assessment of the gaps within the health and family life education ("HFLE") curriculum with a view to enhancing this programme to incorporate comprehensive sexuality education, family violence modules and to facilitate teacher training specifically in the three communities; and commenced work with the Children's Authority on the development of an Inter-Agency Child Abuse Protocol.

Additional outputs included capacity development through training of over 75 judges and judicial officers and more than 200 interdisciplinary team members in relevant themes including the areas of Gender-Based Violence and The Law, and Judicial Temperament and Gender Equality Protocols.

Spotlight also closely collaborated with the Office of the Prime Minister to create messages targeting parents aimed at the prevention of violence against girls and boys in the home and community settings. The programme also received significant visibility through 16 Days of Activism events inclusive of five (5) virtual panel discussions moderated by various UN agencies, including one which aired on free to air television. Themes included Harassment and Violence in the Workplace; Evidence for Action on Gender-Based Violence and Strengthening Service Delivery in the Justice System.

In 2021, key actions to be implemented include evidence and community-based prevention programmes targeting youth in and out of schools, faith based organizations, men and boys; strengthening the delivery of services for survivors through the establishment of court and police accompaniment programmes and the training of TTPS; completing National Clinical Guidelines on Family Violence; training health care workers and developing communication materials in good practice in care and treatment of survivors; and improving access to quality, disaggregated data within the Central Registry on Domestic Violence to better inform policies.

CHAPTER 5

UNCT Key Focus

For 2021

The UNCT and Government will work together in 2021 to contribute to key strategic documents as part of the process for developing the next regional Sustainable Development Framework.

These include the finalization of the UN MSDF Evaluation 2017-21, the annual analytical update to the Common Country Analysis, and the development of the new five year regional Sustainable Development Framework 2022-2026. These documents will contribute to the priority areas of the Government's National Development Strategy 2030 over the next five year cycle.

UNCT efforts will also be directed to supporting the national Road to Recovery Plan and supplementing ministry and state agency interventions to offer the most vulnerable communities service delivery. Risks to adequate service delivery include an expanding migration flow from neighboring Venezuela into mostly rural communities, overstretched social protection systems, inaccessibility to funding resources from new and non-traditional sources, and extended COVID-19 restrictions pending vaccination of a significant percentage of the population.

The UNCT will also undertake the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2021; the UPR will review of the human rights record of Trinidad and Tobago with a view to improve the human rights situation and address human rights violations if they occur. As part of this process, the UNCT will support and strengthen the human rights actors and architecture locally.

Priority will be given to the development of a resource mobilization strategy that explores and develops additional SDG financing solutions.

Trinidad and Tobago was selected as the first Caribbean country to implement Generation Unlimited (GenU), a global initiative that aims to transform education so young people become empowered with the skills that future employers, entrepreneurial ventures and economies demand. With buy-in from the Government, civil society, IFIs, youth groups, and the private sector, GenU is appraising the education sector's capacity to deliver the skills the economy needs, formulating action and investment plans to address key gaps, and building an online ecosystem where young

entrepreneurs can access support and high-value marketplaces. The UNCT will expand technical support to this initiative in 2021.

The Spotlight Initiative will also be a significant area of focus of the UNCT in 2021. The Spotlight team will scale up efforts to address family violence in the country and to "leave no one behind" by targeting the most vulnerable and marginalized women and girls.

With respect to youth support, the UNCT will advance key initiatives like the Youth Empowerment and Strengthening Project, which is founded on the premise that youth must be empowered and their resilience strengthened, so that they can make targeted, purposeful decisions to meaningfully contribute to society. The project aims to address youth crime, violence and radicalization both within communities before youth come into contact with the criminal justice system, as well as within the prison system to reduce the risk of reoffending.

The UNCT through UNDP will also contribute to improving social protection systems by supporting the development and implementation of a Social Registry within the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services. Key strategic partnerships will be developed with the Ministry of Social Development & Family Services, in addition to the Office of The Prime Minister (Gender Unit), the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Digital Transformation. Numerous CSOs are also involved in the social protection sector and several key CSOs inclusive of women organizations and women community leaders will be included in the process to ensure strong support and solid national ownership for this initiative. In view of the multi-dimensional nature of Social Protection, several UN Agencies will collaborate with UNDP on this initiative.

Actions on SDG data and data management will also be a key area of continued focus in 2021. The establishment of the SDG Data Repository as a virtual and interactive platform will allow for user-friendly analyses and will provide the basis for streamlining national surveys to be more SDG focused in data collection survey design. The Repository is expected to benefit from additional data sets for indicators related to ICT in 2021 through the completion of the National Digital Inclusion Survey; the survey design was

reworked as a result of the SDG Repository to ensure that relevant Goals were treated with in the design of the data collection instrument.

Key actions arising from the inaugural Big Data Forum will also be advanced ahead of the second edition of the Forum in 2021. Key initiatives include the Big Data debates; developing the framework and coordinating mechanism for the establishment of a Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics in the Caribbean; joint academia and private sector Big Data research locally; and a pilot study using artificial intelligence for a social development initiative.

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