### **Country: Trinidad and Tobago**

### **COUNTRY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE SUMMARY[[1]](#footnote-2)**

### Reporting Period: 2017 to 2020

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Trinidad and Tobago economy has grown substantially since its independence in 1962. It has invested heavily in its human capital using the wealth generated by natural resources in oil and gas. Consequently, the country has made good progress with respect to human development as recorded in UNDP’s most recent Human Development Report which places the country in the high human development category—positioning it at 67 out of 189 countries and territories. The country is considered a leader in the Caribbean region in terms of its economic strength as well as its levels of socioeconomic development.

Like other resource-rich countries, the health of its economy has been determined by the volatility of international market prices for oil and gas. Recent low prices for these commodities have had a deleterious effect on the country’s economy which has been further exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19 on the global economy. COVID-19 has also set back some hard-won development gains.

The Sustainable Development Goals (the Goals) have been accorded a premier policy priority in Trinidad and Tobago. More specifically, the country’s National Development Strategy (Vision 2030) is directly aligned with the Goals. Critically, the monitoring, measurement, and evaluation of the progress of Vision 2030 is also being conducted against SDG goals and targets as part of official government policy.

Though Trinidad and Tobago has a clear agenda for achievement of the Goals and a strong commitment to meet international climate obligations, the country faces challenges which are now accentuated by COVID-19. There is the risk that its continued reliance on oil and natural gas as the mainstay of its economy may delay the transition to a green economy. This is a time of global shift to renewables that will ultimately result in reduced demand for fossil fuels, thus making a stronger case for a more aggressive diversification plan. Given the limited fiscal space of government and growing debt levels, achievement of the Goals is intricately connected to the availability of new sources of finance. As a high income country it is ineligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) and concessional financing. Consequently, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is crucial going forward. Inextricably linked to this is the *sine qua non* of improving the ease of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago with the implementation of the associated policy reforms. Trinidad and Tobago, as a small island developing state (SIDS), is acutely vulnerable to shocks from natural hazards which are now increasing in intensity and frequency due to climate change. Climate change poses an existential threat and building resilience via effective climate action must be at the epicenter of policymaking and resource allocation.

In terms of governance, Trinidad and Tobago has been a good example of electoral democracy convening elections as provided for in the constitution with the will of the people being respected. Enhancing accountability and transparency; improving tax systems; improving public sector efficiency and efficacy; improving bipartisan mechanisms on matters of the highest national priority; and improving the administration of justice remain issues of national attention. Crime and citizen security is amongst one of the most pressing national concerns including an alarming rise in homicides (8.9% increase in 2019), gender-based violence and gang related violence.

Trinidad and Tobago has historically prioritized investments in its social protection system, and protecting the vulnerable has been one of the pillars of government policy. While the government’s social protection system has been generous, there has been duplication in the provision of support as well as gaps in coverage. As in the case of many other countries, the fiscal impact of COVID-19 will constrain the government’s capacity to provide support on a scale and scope as before. In this regard, value for money and efficient models of social protection are high priorities.

As a multi-country office, UNDP also has responsibility for the Dutch Islands of Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten. All three economies experienced significant declines (21-26% in GDP) in 2020, mainly due to impacts of measures mitigating the spread of COVID-19. However, prior to the pandemic, the countries were already experiencing socio-economic challenges. In 2019, Curaçao saw the highest unemployment rate in the Caribbean region due to the closure of its oil refinery and most recently the collapse of oil services, financial services, and a dramatic 72% decline in tourism sector. Sint Maarten has been recovering since 2017 from a category 5 catastrophic hurricane. Aruba has been addressing its key challenges by implementing its Smart Island Strategy, which includes the goals to transition to 100% renewable energy, reduction in national debt, attract foreign investments, and progress towards the Goals. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these previously existing socio-economic challenges and each government has developed far- reaching recovery plans that are integrating other government priorities, such as Aruba’s transition to renewable energy, Curaçao’s National Export Strategy, and Sint Maarten’s drive towards sustainable recovery of vulnerable communities.

Against this background, UNDP has strategically focused its efforts during 2017-2020 on strengthening relationships with national counterparts while promoting and providing support for localizing the Goals. This strategy has targeted four key areas: 1) poverty reduction policies and strategies; 2) democratic governance; 3) equitable access to justice and citizen security; and 4) climate change resilience, disaster risk reduction and access to clean and sustainable energy. UNDP has adopted an issues-based, multidimensional approach in its country program, recognizing the need for collaborative and complementary programming to address these complex issues.

Aligned with the Goals, UNDP has emphasized the mainstreaming of the cross-cutting themes of equity and leaving no one behind in its programing and integrated them into national policies and plans, where possible. Projects to support the most vulnerable segments of the population, such as persons with disabilities, at risk youth and the socially displaced, contributed to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) in its progress towards establishing policy coherence using a human rights-based approach and putting in place the required support systems. The institutionalization of human rights capacities in an independent entity is consistent with the country’s developed nation aspirations.

UNDP’s response to the unexpected spread of COVID-19 demonstrated its ability to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies. Given the longstanding relationship with the Ministry of Health in Trinidad and Tobago, UNDP was called upon to support the government in obtaining the necessary protective equipment needed to keep health workers safe, COVID-19 tests to keep the broader population safe, and equipment and nursing staff to treat patients with COVID-19. In addition, UNDP adapted and expanded its programming across the islands to support the government in delivering services that improve food and financial security for those vulnerable groups most impacted by the COVID-19. Across the board, UNDP creatively adjusted its programming to ensure needs were met within the newly required parameters. This resulted in UNDP surpassing its delivery target and doubling delivery from previous years.

Based on extensive consultations and its own comparative advantages, the UNDP is convinced it can play a vital role in helping Trinidad and Tobago and the other islands it serves to achieve the Goals by adding demonstrable value, lending substance, bringing global experience, and leveraging its convening power.

### **II: Country Programme Performance Summary**

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| **Country information** |  |
| **Country name: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO** |
| **Current country programme period: 2017 - 2021** |
| **Outcomes** | **Total Expenditure** | **Outcome Indicators** | **Progress made against key indicators** |
| **1. Access to equitable social protection systems, quality services and sustainable economic opportunities improved*.*** | $2,892,125 | 1. Number of monitoring and evaluation frameworks for social protection programmes in Trinidad and Tobago.[[2]](#footnote-3)
2. Marginalised groups, particularly the poor, women, people with disabilities and displaced are empowered to gain universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities and benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs[[3]](#footnote-4)
 | * National Social Mitigation Plan (2017-2022) is addressing the complexity of poverty and support to the most vulnerable through a multi-dimensional, far-reaching plan.
* Improved accessibility and timeliness to social assistance by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) (2017-2019)
* Minimum wage increased from $15.00 to $17.00 per hour, to improve economic stability, decent work and fair wages for all employed persons. (2019)
* 200,000 persons benefitted from the social protection regime in 2020
* Social protection programmes in Trinidad and Tobago conducted 3 evaluations 2017-2020; Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP) conducted by MSDFS, evaluations on existing funded programmes within the Office of the Prime Minister Gender and Child Division, and the national school nutrition programme by the National School Dietary Services Evaluation Committee established by the Ministry of Education

In response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government accelerated, expanded and adapted its health and poverty alleviation efforts to quickly serve people in need. (2020-2021)* MSDFS increased online accessibility to apply for and receive services
* GORTT adapted their food and financial support programs to expand their reach and programming for the most vulnerable during the pandemic. The following are examples of some of those efforts.[[4]](#footnote-5)
	+ 33,813 individuals who lost their jobs or had their incomes reduced have received 81,179 grants amounting to $129.8 million in salary relief or income support grants
	+ Increased income support to 42,000 Public Assistance and Disability Assistant beneficiaries
	+ 25,101 grants have been paid under the food support programme
	+ 30,000 food vouchers were distributed to families in direct need
	+ Expanded reach of food programs through collaborations with religious bodies; $30 million for food distribution which in turn distributed 49,330 hampers to needy persons
	+ Up to 10,000 families are receiving or will receive rental assistance
	+ small- and medium-enterprises received relief with 5,010 receiving in cash accelerated VAT refunds and 142 received zero interest government-guaranteed loans
	+ 460 companies with up to $10 million in refunds per VAT cycle received fully tradable VAT bonds amounting to $3 billion
	+ Salary Relief Grants to 22,000 to those registered for National Insurance and 25,000 Income Support Grants to those outside of the National Insurance Scheme. More are in process for both programs.
* Ministry of Health developed a parallel healthcare system, separating those working with COVID and those addressing other health issues.
* Increased capacity of the Statistical Office of Curacao (CBS) has improved the agency’s ability to collect, analyze, preserve and disseminate poverty data via their newly transformed data and information management systems and respective operations, enabling the CBS to examine the impact of poverty mitigation policies and providing the Government with evidenced information on the effects of COVID-19 on poverty in the territory (2020)
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| **UNDP Contribution:**CP Outputs:* 1. Contributing to systems to make people less vulnerable to transitional poverty, including responsiveness to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
	2. Contributing to increased public participation in poverty policy dialogue

Progress and Achievements:*Multidimensional Poverty Support*1. In Trinidad and Tobago, technical support in research and analysis enhanced evidence-based planning and program design. With support from UNDP, the Ministry of Social Development (MSDFS) developed a comprehensive Social Mitigation Plan with inputs from UNDP and other key stakeholders. Through the development of a study analyzing people’s perceptions of multi-dimensional poverty, government officials’ awareness was raised on the complexity of poverty alleviation leading to a common understanding that there was a need for a national Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and the need for greater coordination of social protection throughout Trinidad and Tobago. This project remains a top priority for MSDFS and is pending approval. In Curaçao, capacity building support for the National Statistical Office in collecting, analyzing and distributing poverty data improved the government and other stakeholders’ ability to develop more relevant and effective programming.
2. Responding to the impacts of COVID-19, UNDP quickly adapted its ongoing work with the government, supporting the identification of vulnerable groups, call centers for persons with disabilities, specifically those who are deaf or hard of hearing to receive social assistance. This was done through the use of video relay calls to the MSDFS through the Caribbean Sign Language Centre (CSLC). Prior to COVID-19, 32% of the respondents worked in service industry, and 63% of respondents indicated that their household incomes have been reduced after the COVID-19 pandemic. UNDP is also providing technical support to the national efforts led by MSDFS to develop a unified social protection registry. Additionally, UNDP worked with a range of national partners and CSO to identify vulnerable populations and distribute food vouchers to them while supporting innovative food security programs to engage at risk youth.
3. UNDP supported socio-economic studies to analyze the impacts of COVID 19 on the economies in Tobago and Aruba gathering insights from academia, the diplomatic community, government officials and other stakeholders to inform national policies.
4. Together with FAO, UNDP studied the impact of COVID 19 on food security with recommendations for strengthening the agricultural sector and inter-Caribbean trade which is providing the basis for a national summit leading into the Food Systems Summit of the United Nations. In Sint Maarten, a pilot food security initiative in contributed to improved economic opportunities and food security through the more efficient use of urban environments, giving citizens the ability to grow produce in inner city settings. In response to COVID 19, UNDP is supporting the establishment of a national food bank system built on principals of a circular economy.

*Multidimensional Health Sector Support*1. The Primary Healthcare Initiative (PHCI) project with the Ministry of Health (MoH) strengthened primary health care delivery in underserved rural communities. Twenty-six UNV health professionals were deployed to health centers serving rural populations across the country, backstopping local practitioners and collaborating with the MoH and NGOs. In 2 locations, UNV medical professionals facilitated a more human rights-based approach (HRBA) in their treatment of persons diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.
2. Under the PHCI project, UNDP supported the MoH’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic by supplying medical equipment, including PPE and COVID-19 test kits, as well as recruiting 50 nurses to work under the parallel medical system established by the MoH specifically for COVID patients. Additionally, prior to the pandemic UNDP conducted a needs assessment of the emergency rooms throughout the health system and also helped to build cooperation among health departments and facilities from various countries to strengthen leadership development and health management, both of which contributed to improved management during the pandemic.
3. UNDP also provided health support in Aruba by procuring PPE, face shields, goggles, examination gloves and medical gowns, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
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| **2. Capacity of public policy and rule of law institutions and civil society organizations strengthened.** | $868,838 | 1. Capacities, functions and financing of rule of law and national human rights institutions and systems strengthened to expand access to justice and combat discrimination, with a focus on women and other marginalized groups[[5]](#footnote-6)
2. National and local systems enabled and communities empowered to ensure the restoration of justice institutions, redress mechanisms and community security[[6]](#footnote-7)
 | * The GORTT passed two major efforts in support of women’s rights: the Marriage Act abolished child marriages and the National Workplace Policy addressed Sexual Harassment.
* There has been a downward decline in women elected to Parliament in 2020 as compared to 2015, from 29% to 26%; still significantly below the minimum threshold level of 30% for leadership and political participation.
* Implementation of CEDAW recommendations was strengthened by increasing NGO capacity in gender policy and by ongoing dialogue between NGOs and the Gender Affairs Division of the Office of the Prime Minister (2017-2020).
* The establishment of a Central Registry on Domestic Violence at the Office of the Prime Minister provides critical data on survivors and perpetrators of domestic violence, informing government efforts related to DV and contributes to government data on poverty.
* VNR published for first time in 2020.
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| **UNDP Contribution:**CP Outputs:* 1. Assisting in the development of policies to strengthen transparency and accountability for various Government Institutions
	2. Facilitating citizen participation in democratic governance.

Progress and Achievements:1. UNDP facilitated a review of 2013-2018 Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Strategic Plan. The recommendations from that review informed the government’s Action Plan (2020 – 2022) that outlines concrete steps for continuing to address components of the Strategic Plan, namely in the areas of Institutional Capacity, Legislative Processes, Parliamentary Oversight and the Outreach and Representative Role of MPs.
2. The Minister of Rural Development and Local Government was strengthened by UNDP’s support in digitizing materials in various departments, which led to improved availability of data and increased processing time in municipal regions. This process utilized the same technologies as the Office of the Prime Minister to encourage synergy of data management across the two ministries.
3. UNDP supported the government on achieving the Goals and their reporting in the VNR by facilitating a MAPS mission to develop a roadmap for fast-tracking the achievement of the Goals, inform government planning, and align the Goals with government priorities.
4. A separate MAPS mission, coordinated by UNDP and supported by UN Agencies, identified poverty reduction as a priority and one of the five Accelerators for Curaçao, which led to the PovRisk analysis also supported by UNDP and funded by UN Agencies. UNDP drew upon local facilitators trained prior to 2017 by the earlier Democratic Dialogue project to support consultation with stakeholders, building on past efforts and utilizing local expertise.
5. UNDP contributed to increased resilience, transparency and improved governance through continued capacity building and institutional strengthening with various Joint Select Committees (JSCs) of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, such as supporting the policy, legislation and establishment of the Office of the Procurement Regulator, including consultations with other stakeholders. Another example is UNDP’s support for the development of a policy paper on campaign finance reform. And at a broader level, UNDP convened a regional retreat on building Caribbean resilience for local and regional parliamentarians from 15 countries, focusing on policies, strategies and guidelines necessary for building resilience.
6. The work in this area has contributed to the attainment of improved equitable access to employment by building capacity through knowledge sharing among stakeholders within two communities of practice facilitated by UNDP on 1) the implementation of the Convention for the elimination of discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) recommendations; and 2) on the National Gender Policy.
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| **3. Equitable access to justice, protection, citizens security and safety reinforced.** | $4,768,651 | 1. Country has national plans of action for prevention of violent extremism under implementation[[7]](#footnote-8)
2. Country has strengthened institutions and systems supporting fulfilment of nationally and internationally ratified human rights obligations.[[8]](#footnote-9)
 | * First National Plan of Action for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism was drafted (2018), approved by the Inter-Ministerial Implementation Committee for Counter-Terrorism (2019), and is currently pending National Security Council approval.
* Opening the first two Children’s Courts in the English-speaking Caribbean increased Judiciary institutional capacity and are in accordance with the principles of restorative justice (2018-2019).
* The Youth Training and Rehabilitation center implemented a rehabilitative programme which included psycho-social and educational support for their community. In response to COVID, the first online programming in a Trinidadian prison was established which paved the way for virtual learning to become institutionalized based on the success of this initial program.
* The International Partners Group comprising development partners working in the PVE space improved coordination and streamlining of donor support by developing and utilizing a framework for reporting that aligns with government priorities.
* A network of community mediators and youth mediators established across Trinidad and Tobago allowing for more enhanced peacebuilding intervention in community spaces.
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| **UNDP Contribution:** CP Outputs:1. Building capacity in the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago to effectively deal with cases involving children and to introduce the concept of restorative justice into the criminal justice system
2. Building capacity amongst civil society organizations to assist in crime prevention and response, specifically gender-based violence
3. Reducing the rate of recidivism amongst youth offenders.

Progress and Achievements:UNDP took a holistic approach to addressing the criminal justice system and preventing violent extremism (PVE) by focusing on psycho-social issues and applying a restorative justice lens.1. UNDP was closely involved in the establishment of the Children Court of Trinidad and Tobago, which was the first children’s courts in the country and designed to strengthen the capacity of the Judiciary system when dealing with children’s matters consistent with international rules and guidelines. UNDP provided probation services training on child justice administration to strengthen the system’s capacities. A key feature of the Court is the application of risk assessments for child offenders and Children in Need of Supervision to assist in judicial decision making and the development of appropriate Treatment Plans that provide the pathway toward rehabilitation, as well as a Children Drug Treatment Court Process. UNDP has also provided capacity building to strengthen restorative justice approaches by conducting 1) trainings with Child Probation Officers resulting in a more cohesive and comprehensive process of child justice administration; and 2) study tour with four senior Children Court officers to the Drug Treatment Court Officers in Atlanta, CA to learn from their processes and best practice, with specific focus on the operations and procedures of the Rebound Programme at DeKalb County’s successful Juvenile Court Drug Treatment Programme. The purpose was to inform the strategic and operational directions of a Drug Treatment Juvenile Court Pilot in Trinidad and Tobago
2. The Positive Deviance Pilot Project targeted youth in high-risk communities by employing psycho-social interventions, counternarratives and skills-building that offer youth productive options and attracting them away from gangs, radicalization and violence. Participants enrolled in technical and vocational programs, demonstrated improvement in psycho-social well-being and resilience, and increased employability (prior to COVID-19). This project led to the Youth Ambassadors project, which was launched at YTRC in 2019 with 17 participants. The programme aimed to reduce recidivism and equip young offenders with the skills needed to become role models and agents of positive change within their environments. Participants became certified in CPR and First Aid, Leadership, and basic yoga. The participants were also trained as Peace Ambassadors. Noting positive behavioral changes with the project’s participants, prison officers requested the trainings be extended to the full YTRC population.
3. UNDP developed and implemented pioneering psychosocial and resilience building interventions intended to reduce the high rate of recidivism at the Youth Training and Rehabilitation Centre (YTRC) and equip young offenders with skills to become role models and agents of positive change within their environment. The Youth Peace Ambassadors program was developed from the Positive Deviance Pilot Project to support youth within YTRC. When the COVID-19 pandemic restricted in-person interactions, the program quickly created a first ever online programme within prisons and expanded capacity building program from to the initial 17 participants in the pilot to the full 100+ YTRC population. UNDP HQ has shown interest in the program and invited UNDP CO staff to share their experiences from this program through webinars and provide inputs into the development of a toolkit for others.
4. UNDP drew from its network of experts to provide policy advice and technical guidance on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE). UNDP worked closely with the Implementation Committee for Counter-Terrorism to conduct a comprehensive review of the draft National Plan for P/CVE resulting in the Plan’s realignment and refocus on more urgent Priority Areas, such as harnessing youth energy, girls and women’s empowerment, building resilient communities, promoting inclusive governance, and rehabilitating persons from conflict zones. UNDP then offered its expertise to streamline and align efforts with the National Plan for P/CVE through policy advice with the Nightingale Committee responsible for women and children returning from conflict zones and technical guidance for the role and framework of the International Partners Group.
5. The Community Inclusive Mediation Initiative was conceptualized by Community Mediation Services Division (CMSD) of the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts and supported by a UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme intended to effectively address the increased level of community conflict in Trinidad and Tobago. The project empowered 25 participants within 3 communities to become providers of mediation services in a manner that promotes a culture of peace building, peaceful co-existence, and social cohesion. Forty contact hours during a five-day residential training program was facilitated by expert consultants. Additionally, for the mentorship component and in light of COVID-19 restrictions, 5 “live” sessions were organized by CMSD and these were mediated by the consultants on-line.
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| **4. Policies and programmes for climate change resilience, disaster risk reduction and universal access to clean and sustainable energy.** | $3,608,847 | 1. Number of national adaptation plans or disaster risk reduction and climate-resilient strategies under implementation.[[9]](#footnote-10)
2. Number of strategies that address climate change in relevant planning documents and processes.[[10]](#footnote-11)

 | * Met national targets for 35% reduction of Ozone Depleting Substances by 2020 under the terms of obligation under the Montreal Protocol and on track to further reduce Ozone Depleting Substances by 2030 for those both with and without high Global Warming Potential.
* Progressed on meeting the national carbon emissions obligations with UNFCC.
	+ Transportation produced 21% reduction
	+ Industry produced 5% reduction
	+ Power generation produced 2% reduction
* The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was ratified.
* The Climate Change Agenda for the Environmental Management Authority started to be developed in 2018. No official reporting has occurred since, regarding plans, strategies and policies addressing disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.
* GORTT committed to achieving by 2030 a reduction in emissions from three sectors (electricity generation, industry and transportation) by 15% from business as usual (BAU) and an unconditional reduction in public transportation emissions by 30% compared to 2013.
	+ Currently, highest value per capita of Greenhouse Gas emissions in the region and ranked 2nd globally for highest CO2 emissions per capita
* The national State of the Environment Report has not been updated within the period of the CPD.  Therefore, no official reporting concerning national numbers of plans, strategies and policies addressing disaster risk reduction and climate resilience currently exists.
* Partnerships with the private sector are being established in areas such as solar energy; currently only a quasi-zero fraction of the country’s energy comes from renewable sources.
* National capacity was built to understand and implement obligations of Trinidad and Tobago as signatories to the Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
* A national Monitoring, Reporting and Verification system for Carbon Emissions was designed, established and piloted over the period.
* A Greenhouse Gas Certification Programme was created to build national capability to undertake GHG Inventories among key stakeholders was designed and will be piloted in 2021.
* An NDC Financial investment plan was created, which allowed for an assessment of available financing streams necessary to meet national carbon emissions reduction targets.
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| **UNDP Contribution:** CP Outputs:* 1. Building national capacity in climate mitigation through policy, strategy and piloting of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies
	2. Addressing national implementation of MEA obligations
	3. Strengthening availability of data for monitoring reporting and verification (MRV) of carbon emissions

Progress and Achievements:1. UNDP partnered with GORTT to advance the climate change mitigation agenda through a number of plans, strategies and policies. These included a Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) implementation plan, the design and piloting of a robust policy, strategy and planning framework (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification system), and a national data collection and management system (Knowledge Management System) to house and analyze greenhouse gas (GHG) data. UNDP contributed to the development of a financial investment plan for NDC implementation and a gender analysis and action plan for incorporating gender considerations into NDC planning. UNDP facilitated the revision and update of the national climate change policy, as well as supported the development of a national climate change code, recommendations for the legal framework to support the national MRV system and draft climate change legislation. These key outputs formed essential building blocks for GORTT to meet its carbon emissions reduction obligations and indeed to upscale ambition in its next NDC submission.
2. A UNDP intervention began a programme for the implementation of the NDC through the installation of twelve small scale solar systems at public utilities and at remote and vulnerable communities throughout the country, as well as provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries for the operationalization of renewable energy (RE)/energy efficiency (EE)-conducive policies and legislative frameworks.
3. Capacity among stakeholders strengthened with the intention of supporting the government’s mitigation efforts through the development of a certification programme for GHG inventorying, quality assurance and control, trainings in key obligations under MEAs, a mapping and capacity assessment of CSOs, and training on climate models and climate change projections.
4. UNDP supported national implementation of Low-carbon Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) Technologies through a GEF project which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, in support of the country’s international commitments to combat climate change. The project, although still in progress, intends to address the use of ozone depleting substances within the refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC) in the public and private sectors, and to contribute to the national goal of a 15% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030.
5. Capacity building and increased public awareness efforts by UNDP supported the development and ratification in 2020 of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, a comprehensive framework for government actions and community approach towards disaster reduction as an integral part of the advances in keeping with the 2030 Agenda.
6. UNDP provided emergency preparedness and response support in early warning system situation analysis and upgrading of national alert system, as well as capacity building for mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction. UNDP “Preparing you!” a Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Evacuation programme for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, pioneered the inclusion of people with disabilities as well as their guardians and caregivers into government programs and services for persons with disabilities. This project partnered with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) and provided a series of training workshops for disaster preparedness and emergency evacuation. Best practices have been integrated into the National Emergency Special Needs Handbook.
7. UNDP assisted the government of Aruba to create the Centre of Excellence for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to strengthen the capacity of SIDS to realize sustainable development solutions through training in the establishment of country specific roadmaps, the development and launch of a virtual platform to facilitate technical support and knowledge exchange, in-country technical assistance and the development of knowledge products and learning tools.
8. UNDP is supporting an assessment of the institutional capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Sint Maarten as well as a comprehensive review of the food bank systems.
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| Summary of evaluation findings (e.g. from outcome and project evaluations, UNDAF reviews, and other assessments)**Major Lessons Learnt:[[11]](#footnote-12)**1. The multi-dimensional, holistic approach to programming increases effectiveness and impact by addressing these complex issues with a range of complementary, layered projects. Ongoing monitoring and assessments of these projects, both individually as well as their collective impact, should continue to inform future programming to ensure key components of an issue are being addressed and complementary projects are leveraging each other’s efforts.
2. Aligned with the UN goals to streamline and coordinate efforts among UN entities, UNDP’s coordination with other UN entities has strengthened the UN’s response to country needs especially in response to COVID-19. This included the timely market research and communications campaign targeting adolescent mental health, which began with PAHO and UNICEF on mental health and the expansion of UNDP’s Joint Programme with UNICEF on support for social protection, particularly the development of a social registry. Further coordination and collaboration will improve delivery for both UNDP and the UN system as a whole and ultimately increasing impact for those in need.
3. Having developed a strong and trusted relationship with the government over many years, UNDP has the unique and privileged position of working on sensitive and strategic topics – such as, national security and crime prevention – with parliament on pieces of strategic legislation. UNDP should continue to work closely with the government on sensitive and strategic issues.
4. Response to the COVID-19 pandemic was also more efficient and effective because of UNDP’s long-term relationship with the GORTT and UNDP’s ability to adapt and respond quickly to provide the services and equipment needed to help the country address the crisis. As a result of its efforts, UNDP boosted productivity, expanded programming and profile, and more than doubled delivery. These relationships and capacity for quick, agile responses should continue to be utilized during future unforeseen crises.
5. UNDP has been a key partner with GORTT and local organizations in climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction. As the globe continues to accelerate its efforts towards a carbon neutral green economy and each country meeting their climate commitments, UNDP should continue to leverage its global network of experts to support the GORTT in achieving its goals.
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III. Country Programme Resources

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| **Focus Area** | **Programme Expenditure ($)** | **% of Total** |
|  | Regular (TRAC) | Other | Total |  |
| Poverty Policy and Strategy | $0 | $2,892,125 | $2,892,125 | 23.8% |
| Open and Participatory Governance | $0 | $868,838 | $868,838 | 7.2% |
| Citizens Security | $273,055 | $4,495,596 | $4,768,651 | 39.3% |
| Climate Change and Disaster Resilience | $0 | $3,608,847 | $3,608,847 | 29.7% |
| **Total** | **$273,055** | **$11,865,406** | **12,138,461** | **100%** |

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| **Data sources: (please indicate the main sources from which data were obtained for this report.)**  |
| * Results Oriented Annual Report (2017, 2018, 2019)
* Country Programme Document 2017-2021
* Common Country Analysis in Trinidad and Tobago, draft (2021)
* Primary Health Care Initiative Evaluation Report (2017)
* Consultation Report on Multi-Dimensional Poverty Trinidad (2018)
* Voices of Children on Poverty in Trinidad, Consultation Report on Multi-Dimensional Poverty (2018)
* National Social Mitigation Plan 2017-2022 (Trinidad and Tobago)
* SDG Implementation Mission Curacao 2018; Preliminary Findings (MAPS mission);
* Strategic Plan of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (2013-2018);
* Report on the review of the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;
* National GHG Inventory Report (2018);
* National Climate Change Projection Report (2019);
* MEA Stakeholder Mapping Assessment (2019) and Training Reports (2020);
* Financial Investment Plan for NDC Implementation;
* The Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Annual Report 2018-2019
* Gender Analysis and Action Plan for Incorporating Gender Considerations into NDC Planning (2019);
* Disability Inclusive Development in UNDP Guidance and entry points 03 December 2018
* 2020 Supplementary Appropriation and Mid-Year Review Statement by the Minister of Finance, Honorable Colm Imbert, MP House of Representatives (June 12, 2020)
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1. This assessment of results is to be prepared only in the absence of a completed Independent Country Programme Evaluation (ICPE) for the cycle. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. CPD [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. IRRF Indicator 1.1.2  [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. This is based on the most recent available data, which was July 2020. The government has continued to offer significant support to those in need throughout the ongoing pandemic. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. IRRF Indicator 2.2.3: Includes youth, people with disabilities, people living with HIV and other traditionally marginalized groups, as relevant in each national context. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. IRRF indicator 3.2.2 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. IRRF indicator 3.2.1.1 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. IRRF indicator 2.2.3.1 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. CPD [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. CPD [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. As no high level evaluations or reviews of UNDP’s efforts were conducted during this period, these lessons learnt were developed for the purposes of this assessment, based on project evaluations and evidence-based internal reflections. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)