

Connect



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



Foreword



Richard Blewitt,
UN Resident Coordinator and
UNDP Resident Representative

Over the past two years in office as the UN Resident Coordinator and also UNDP Resident Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with an incredible group of people who are clearly committed to the development of Trinidad and Tobago. This passion and keen focus on finding solutions to development challenges have enabled UNDP to increase its responsiveness to emerging areas of demand. At UNDP we are equally committed to ensuring that our work is delivered effectively and integrated into the wider national development strategies with our partners. As UNDP continues to advance its Strategic Plan 2015-2017 we will continue to work in the areas of governance, poverty and inequality; energy and environment; and citizen security and youth development. We will also be reaching out more to civil society, the private sector, donor agencies and other institutions to strengthen south-south collaboration and convene spaces for development dialogues in Trinidad and in the region.

UNDP shares many development objectives in common with our partners in Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten. Consistent with our Strategic Plan, we are committed to helping countries build pathways to sustainable development, democratic governance and resilience. We continue to support diverse development projects across a wide range of disciplines by providing technical expertise, developing new programmes and initiatives, conducting technical studies, and building local capacity through, for example, the provision of UN Volunteers (UNVs) and consultants, as we work in partnership with our national counterparts to achieve agreed development outcomes. Our success in helping to advance national development agendas is dependent on a shared vision for building more sustainable, equitable and inclusive societies and on our collective efforts. In this newsletter, we are pleased to share highlights of some of our key projects, initiatives, activities, events and to feature some of our UNVs and other partners who represent 'development in action'. Enjoy and we look forward to receiving your feedback!



Stacy Richards-Kennedy,
UNDP Assistant Resident Representative

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HIGHLIGHTS



Members of the Juvenile Court Project Team meet with representatives of the Tobago House of Assembly

Revolutionising the Juvenile Justice System in Trinidad and Tobago

“The sanctions we create will not only deal with the child we save today, but the adult we save tomorrow.” Those were the words of young Tobagonian, Julien Skeete. The “sanctions” Skeete refers to, are sentencing options that may be placed on a first-time, juvenile offender under the proposed Juvenile Peer Resolution Centre (JPRC). The JPRC, which allows young persons to assist in determining sanctions for juvenile offenders, is one of the components of the Trinidad and Tobago Juvenile Court Project (JCP) being implemented by the Judiciary of Trinidad & Tobago and managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The JCP focuses on the establishment of a Juvenile Court system using a rehabilitative and restorative approach. Through this project the court system will consider the needs and best interests of the child and assist in addressing the root causes of conflict with the law. The project will also build the institutional capacity of juvenile courts to enable effective and efficient case management in accordance with new laws and principles of Restorative Justice. The project is being funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the amount of US\$4.5M over three years.

Enhancing Primary Healthcare in Trinidad and Tobago

The health sector in Trinidad and Tobago, while probably the best-equipped in the English speaking Caribbean, suffers from limited opening hours in primary healthcare facilities, particularly in rural health centres. The current dearth of healthcare professionals in Trinidad and Tobago is a result of migration to foreign healthcare markets and drift away from the public sector healthcare system to more profitable private practices. UNDP is pleased to be providing support through the provision of medical doctors in the delivery of health services to the public, in particular those residing in rural communities where it is expected that extended hours of access will become available. This project will assist the government in the attainment of several medium-term health care goals as laid out in its Medium-Term Policy Framework (MTPF). This is fully consistent with Government’s priority of addressing poverty and the provision of access to essential social services.

The objective of this technical assistance project is to enhance the delivery of healthcare services by providing International United Nations Volunteer (IUNV) medical professionals throughout Trinidad and Tobago and extended hours of operation.



UNDP and Ministry of Health Representatives at the launch of the project



The Parliamentary Round Table in session on the 11 March 2015

Strengthening the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

In 2012, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the leadership of the House of Representatives and the Senate initiated a process to reform the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago. The aim of the reform, based upon a Comprehensive Strategic Development Plan of Parliament, is to strengthen the Parliament in carrying out its core functions and responsibilities by recommending policy and legal guidance to establish the functional autonomy of Parliament. Two of the priority projects that are being implemented within the Strategic Development Plan are the development of a Project Management Unit as well as a Research and Development Unit within the Parliament.

On March 11 2015, a Parliamentary Round Table event was held to highlight the best practises on Post Legislative Scrutiny with the objective of implementing a pilot project within Trinidad and Tobago. It was attended by members of the UNDP, representatives of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as technical experts from the UK House of Commons and the Parliamentary Centre in Canada. During the Parliamentary Round Table, presentations were made on Post Legislative Scrutiny, Sunset Laws and the Community Scorecard Methodology. Discussions were also held with technical officers from various institutions including the Judiciary, the Law Reform Commission, Parliament and Chief Parliamentary Council. By the end of the round table, a decision was made to implement a pilot project on post-legislative scrutiny in Trinidad and Tobago.

Addressing national requirements for Low Emissions Capacity Building (LECB)

On February 26 2015, the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources conducted an Inception Workshop for the Low Emissions Capacity Building Project, under the Global LECB Programme, at the Rudranath Capildeo Learning Centre, McBean Couva. The LECB project falls under the global programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Trinidad and Tobago is the only Small Island Developing State (SIDs) invited to participate in the programme. The project will support and complement the activities and outputs of ongoing projects being executed to implement the National Climate Change Policy including the carbon reduction strategy. It will also support and develop a framework for strategy implementation to identify and select the most feasible alternatives and options for low carbon development in the sectors assessed. Additionally the project seeks to support key public and private stakeholders for its implementation, particularly in Greenhouse Gas inventorying, reporting and verification through relevant capacity building activities.

The workshop addressed some of the emerging requirements for the LECB project. It also sought to educate the stakeholders with respect to the goals and approaches of the project towards the full and effective implementation of the National Climate Change Policy in accordance with international obligations. Among the speakers were Mr. James Vener, Technical Specialist, LECB Programme UNDP, Environment and Energy Group, Bureau for Development Policy. The workshop was well attended by participants from the private sector, business support organizations, governmental agencies, regional organizations, academia and other key stakeholders. It gave them the opportunity to participate and make recommendations to inform policy-making on climate change in Trinidad and Tobago.



A cross-section of participants at the LECB Project Launch and Inception Workshop.

Formulating a National Development Plan in Curaçao



Council of Ministers, members of the Parliament, top management of the government, unions and private sector at the High Level Retreat.

The United Nations Development Programme together with the government of Curaçao is facilitating the process of formulating a National Development Plan (NDP) for the country. The project, which has been active since 2013, has four outputs to deliver by 2016. The NDP as the main output will assist in building a realistic framework for broad sustainable social and economic development for the coming 15 years. The process to get to the NDP involves many consultations, dialogues and bringing different groups together with one main objective: to discuss what are the critical choices Curaçao has to make to not just formulate a national development plan, but have the guarantee that it will also be implemented in the short and long term. On February 20 and 21, 2015 a High Level Retreat was held at the Santa Barbara Beach and Golf Resort in Curaçao with the aim of validating the themes emerging from the

National Development Plan. During the first day of the High Level Retreat the Council of Ministers, members of the Parliament, top management of the government, unions and the private sector had the chance to validate the conceptualised NDP. They determined four themes that needed more focus: national identity, education, economy and good governance with sustainability as the overarching framework building in resiliency for sustainable changes.

Day two brought together another group to work on scenarios of where the country wants to go, and what is needed to get there. Antonella Spada from UNDP's Political Analysis and Prospective Scenarios Project (PAPEP) assisted in the process with an introduction to scenario planning. The High Level Retreat was received with positive reviews and many were curious to know what the next steps would be and how they could contribute to the NDP.

Accelerating The MDG Framework in Sint Maarten



UNDP
Representative
at the Community of Practice

The Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean recently held a Sustainable Development Community of Practice titled “*Integrated approaches for Sustainable Development*” in Panama from March 10 to 13, 2015. The objectives of the Community of Practice (COP) were to gain a collective understanding of the future development agenda and its implications for UNDP’s work. The COP also shared

tools and methodologies for policy and programming and the wealth of experience that the participants have in the socio economic and environmental fields. Participants of the COP consisted of primarily the poverty reduction and environmental focal points from the twenty four (24) Country Offices in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Representatives from organizations such as The International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth, CONEVAL, the National Environment Authority of Panama and the Millennium Challenge Corporation, among others, were also present at the COP where Country Office representatives led sessions and provided examples of UNDP’s work at the country level. UNDP Trinidad and Tobago Country Office shared its experience working on Sint Maarten’s National Development Plan and Institutional Strengthening Project. This project is supporting the creation of a National Vision and a National Development Plan and focuses on capacity development in the area of Results Based Management (through the development of a National socio-economic database). The project also aims to strengthen the nation’s capacity to achieve MDGs through the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF).

A New Strategic Plan For GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grant Programme recently held a Regional Workshop in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from the March 9 to 13, 2015. The workshop focussed on the new strategic direction, opportunities and challenges for the GEF Small Grants Programme Operational Phase (SGP) Cycle 6.

Ms. Patricia Turpin, GEF’s focal point for Non-Governmental Organizations in the region shared ideas on how the civil society organisation network can support the regional national coordinators. Some of the outcomes of the workshop include a greater focus on capacity building initiatives and identifying and leveraging co-benefits of projects that span beyond the environment. The GEF SGP is implemented by UNDP in Trinidad and Tobago and has been in existence for the past 20 years. Over these years more than US\$3M has been distributed to Civil Society Organisations to implement community projects on climate change, land degradation, chemicals, bio-diversity and international waters.



Participants at the SGP
Regional Workshop
in Santo Domingo,
Dominican
Republic

Sub-regional Meeting on UNDP Regional Human Development Report 2016

On March 19, UNDP-T&T Country Office hosted a sub-regional meeting on the preparation of the 2016 Regional Human Development Report for Latin America (RHDR) and the Caribbean (LAC) as well as a sub-regional Human Development Report (SRHDR) for the Caribbean. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Susan McDade, UNDP Deputy Regional Director for the LAC Region and attended by the UN Resident Coordinators/UNDP Resident Representatives and the Deputy Resident Representatives of UNDP Offices based in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Belize. The discussions focused on the different ways the Country Offices could provide inputs for the RHDR and SRHDR and encourage wider stakeholder participation in the process.

Meeting of UN Resident Coordinators

On March 20, UNDP-T&T also convened a Meeting of the UN Resident Coordinators in Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Belize, Guyana and Jamaica to share ideas on new opportunities for strengthening UN coordination and advancing the UNDP work programme as well as the proposal of a regional UNDAF for the Caribbean.

PEOPLE

Building Skills for a Better Tomorrow

“Nothing worth having comes easy” that is one of Rhonda Clarke’s favourite quotes and it aptly describes this young, ambitious and hardworking On-the-Job Trainee (OJT) as she pursues her life’s goals.



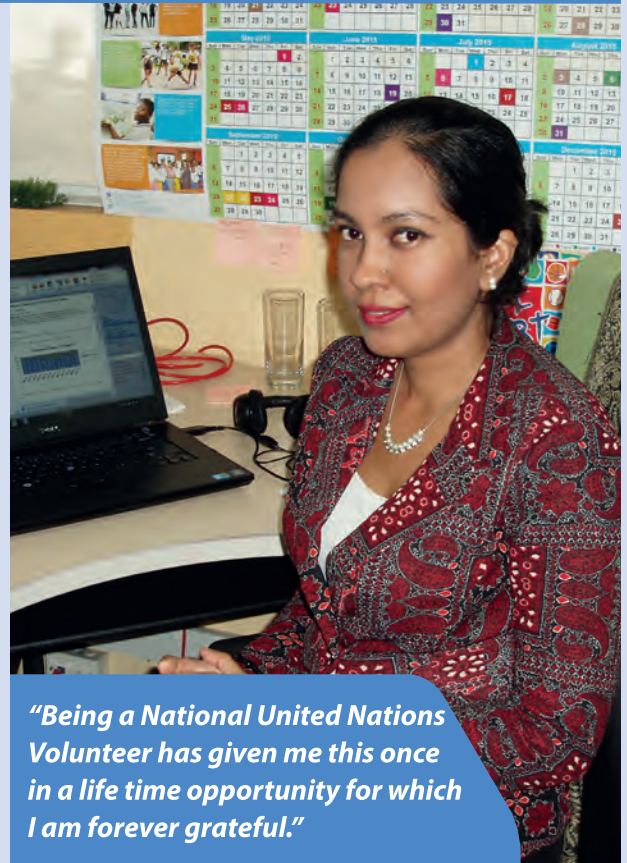
(L-R) Rhonda Clarke receiving her Instrument of Appointment from Richard Blewitt. Next to him is the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Senator the Hon. Fazal Karim and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar

In December 2013, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Nations (UN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the UN OJT Global Programme. Rhonda was successfully assigned in February 2014, as the UN Coordination Assistant. One of her key roles is working as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Liaison Officer to the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, in which she acts as a liaison and co-ordinator between both organisations. The UNDAF is an agreement between the UN Trinidad and Tobago and the Government on the areas where the UN

supports national development and how it contributes to the achievement of national development priorities. Rhonda believes that this position is most rewarding and suits her well because of her BSc in Political Science with a minor in International Relations and MSc Global Studies. This academic knowledge has helped her to understand the dynamics of the organization and practical insights into the day-to-day operations of organizations such as the UN System, a rare opportunity. Rhonda is convinced that this opportunity to work with the UN Trinidad and Tobago office has challenged her and allowed her to develop both personally and professionally.

Making a Difference: A United Nations Volunteer Experience

Over the past six months Ramona Ramroop has been realising her dream of becoming a Criminologist by working as a Programme Assistant in the area of Citizen Security. Ramona has been using the theoretical knowledge gained from her formal education in MSc. Criminology and Criminal Justice, which she is currently pursuing at the University of the West Indies (UWI), to support the Community Policing Pilot Project which the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is exploring with the Ministry of National Security. One of the many treasured experiences for Ramona was supporting a Peer Review of the Citizen Security Programme, "It was invaluable to gain insights into the challenges of persons who live in crime hotspot communities in Trinidad and Tobago." says Ramona. Working as a United Nations National Volunteer has not only broadened and complemented her skill set but has also given her the opportunity to make new friends that make working in the UNDP enjoyable and worthwhile. As Ramona's tenure comes to an end in July 2015 she urges, "It's an opportunity that I would recommend to others. Volunteering your services and being open to challenges will teach you that there will be obstacles to overcome, but many benefits to be reaped as well."



"Being a National United Nations Volunteer has given me this once in a life time opportunity for which I am forever grateful."

United Nations Volunteers (UNV): Online volunteering

The Trinidad and Tobago United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Field Unit participated in a Brownbag Session on April 14, 2015 hosted by The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The purpose of the session was to raise awareness of online volunteering and to inform organisations about how it can be utilized. The session was attended by members of the Volunteer Centre of Trinidad and Tobago, ECLAC and other UN Agencies. UNV volunteers are helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by reducing poverty and contributing

to economic, social and political development, peace and security, and the health and welfare of millions of people worldwide. They are improving opportunities and participation and making unique contributions to societies locally and nationally. The session was successful in garnering interest in online volunteering from all who attended, with Jamila Mohammed Khan – a member of VCTT, stating "I think this is a fantastic modality, I will be using it."

Members of the Volunteer Centre of Trinidad and Tobago, ECLAC and other UN Agencies at the Brownbag Session



Enhancing the Capacity of Staff and Project Teams in Programme Delivery

More than 30 UNDP staff and project team members benefitted from an in-depth training programme during the 23 -27 March 2015 at UN house. The agenda focussed on providing participants with an enhanced understanding of ATLAS, which is the software programme used by UNDP global. Areas of training included internal control frameworks, revenue management, resource planning and budget and vendor management. Participants also learned how to identify risks and issues and create risk logs as well as understand how the UNDP procurement process functions.



UNDP staff and project team participates in intensive training

EVENTS

Caribbean Forum to challenge conventional wisdom



Regional and international leaders will gather in Port of Spain from 5 to 7 May 2015 to tackle challenges to Caribbean development and identify strategies for securing a sustainable future. The Forum on the Future of the Caribbean is being co-hosted by The University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago in collaboration with the United Nations System as well as regional inter-governmental partners, and The Commonwealth.

Forum participants - including Caribbean heads of government and policy-makers, civil society and business leaders, and academic experts - will engage in discussions on development paradigms by encouraging

new and innovative approaches and disruptive thinking. This is aimed at producing models for research, policy development and transformative action to support an equitable, sustainable Caribbean society in the post-2015 period and for generations to come. Agenda areas of focus include multi-dimensional poverty, inequality and resource mobilization as well as the specific vulnerabilities of small - often high and middle income - Caribbean States. They will challenge each other to consider persistent development problems in new ways and identify approaches directed at widening opportunities and improving living conditions for all Caribbean citizens.

The Knowledge Fair 2015

*Participants
at the 2013
Knowledge Fair*



Igniting Global Envirominds – Transforming Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme implemented by UNDP in Trinidad and Tobago will be hosting its second Knowledge Fair on the 28 – 29 May, 2015. The theme of the fair is *Igniting Global Envirominds – Transforming Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow*. The Knowledge Fair will be held to promote new ways to create a more sustainable future. This will be done by showcasing the contributions and best practices of the groups who received funding from the Small Grants Programme for environmental community projects. In an effort to deliver a new learning experience for participants, the Knowledge Fair will be integrating a social innovation framework. It is expected that this will help drive a more solutions-based approach to the complex environmental issues in Trinidad and Tobago.

The theme for May 28 is “Envirominded & Social Solutions for GeNext”, for which there would be a Pop Up City Exhibition where work from various Grantees will

be on display. There will also be a segment for individual case studies focusing on best practices in social and environment challenges with presentations from local and regional representatives. The segment will showcase successes in responding to social challenges, facilitate the exchange of knowledge and foster the sharing of best practices. Another area of focus is Private Sector Solutions to social and climate challenges. This segment is expected to share local best practices from private sector organisations or agencies that are engaging or empowering civil society organisations to focus on climate change solutions in their communities.

On May 29, the theme is “Igniting Envirominded & Social Solutions for GeNext”. An open session workshop will be hosted to engage grant recipients and conference attendees (especially youths and civil society organisations) in brainstorming, designing and co-creating innovative solutions.





FEEDBACK

"I am very pleased to congratulate you on the very successful work that you are doing on Basic Social Services through your project in the health sector. You are already very close to the target of recruiting a total of 30 medical doctors to support various health facilities across Trinidad & Tobago. We know this hasn't been easy, as it can be very challenging to come across qualified doctors for these assignments. Still, you are doing it – and doing it very well!"

**UNV Chief,
Development Programme Section
Mr. Geoffrey D. Prewitt**

"One can hardly deny that the current structure of criminal justice provides limited opportunities for dispensing justice to juveniles. This project therefore provides an opportunity for minors in the system to be dealt with in a manner appropriate to their age, and to be rehabilitated without being adversely affected by the accompanying hazards of the existing system."

**The Honourable Chief Justice
of the Republic of
Trinidad & Tobago
Mr. Justice Ivor Archie O.R.T.T.**

*I wish to thank the UNDP for their support in the very successful **strengthening of Parliament project** and I hope that this partnership will continue as the institution evolves to meet the challenges of a modern 21st century Parliament.*

**Clerk of the House
Mrs. Jacqueline Sampson-Meiguel**

"The LECB Programme which we are partnering with the UNDP to undertake nationally is an innovative and essential component of the national strategy to manage carbon emissions. As the only SIDs which has access to this global programme this project contributes significantly to placing T&T at the cutting edge of climate change mitigation in this region."

**Head of Multilateral Environmental Agreements Unit,
Ministry of Environment and Water Resources
Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh**

"We need to send the message that a young person who has made a mistake can be given an opportunity to correct them,"

**Tobago Youth Council President
Mr. Farley Augustine**



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Our Vision:

To help countries eradicate poverty and reduce inequality and exclusion

Our Areas of Work:

Sustainable development pathways

Democratic governance

Building resilience

Our Outcomes:

Inclusive and sustainable growth and development

Increased voice, accountability and rule of law

Stronger institutions that deliver universal access to basic services

Greater women's empowerment and less gender inequality

Lower risk of conflict and natural disasters

Early recovery in post conflict and post disaster settings

Priority to poverty, inequality and exclusion in development debates and actions

Our Engagement Principles:

National ownership and capacity building

Human rights based approaches to development

Sustainable human development

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Participation and voice

South-South and triangular cooperation

Helping countries play active role as global citizens

Universality

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