



Arima residents participate in a focus group session

The Missing Dimensions of Poverty

The UNDP hosted two focus group sessions on June 22 at the Arima Townhall for the Development of a Regional/ Community Poverty Profile of Arima. The objective of the focus groups was to obtain the views of Arima residents on the living conditions in the Borough and to ascertain their perceptions on poverty in Arima. These views would then be incorporated into the poverty profile. The poverty profile which is expected to be replicated in each municipal region. It is being done to streamline programmes and projects, and the allocation of resources in communities and regions, to effectively meet the needs of the poor in each region in line with a results-based management approach. Through a partnership with the Chilean Fund, UNDP will facilitate and exchange ideas and experiences between Chile and Trinidad and Tobago in the areas of public policy and expertise in the field of poverty reduction. [Continue reading](#)



A student of Scarborough Secondary School gives his view on Peer Resolution.

Piloting Peer Resolution in Tobago

The Juvenile Court Project has been collaborating with the Tobago House of Assembly's Division of Education, Youth Affairs and Sport (DEYAS) to pilot peer resolution in secondary schools in Tobago. This collaboration comes at an opportune time as the DEYAS is seeking to develop a structured programme of school intervention strategies for secondary schools in Tobago.

The peer resolution concept is an education-by-participation programme where children are held accountable for wrong-doing by their peers using court-like procedures and applying restorative philosophy. Peer resolution is the second component of the Juvenile Court Project implemented by the Judiciary, managed by UNDP and funded by USAID. The objective of the JCP is to strengthen the capacity of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago to deal with juvenile matters using a rehabilitative and less retributive approach. In the Tobago pilot, children will be trained to hear cases referred to peer resolution involving school infractions committed by their peers.

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Promoting Transparency in Election Campaign Financing

Currently, there is no legislative framework in Trinidad and Tobago requiring the registration of political parties or the disclosure, by political parties, of the contributions made to them by individuals or corporations. This lack of disclosure may allow for corrupt practices as funding of political parties may be based in the premise of receiving future benefits. In this regard, a Joint Select Committee (JSC) of Parliament was established to develop a strategy in moving forward with the issue of election campaign financing and solicited feedback from stakeholders. UNDP was invited by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago to provide technical advice and recommendations on the way forward.

Election campaigns among competing political parties and movements play an important part in influencing the votes of the electorate. In this process, political parties and candidates need access to money in order to reach out to the electorate, promote their goals and policies and receive input from the people on their views. UNDP produced a Concept Paper titled, "A Review of Regional and International Approaches to Election Campaign Financing" as well as facilitated the expert advice from Mr. Charles Chauvel who leads the Inclusive Political Processes team in UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programmes Support in New York. Mr. Chauvel previously worked as a Parliamentary Development Advisor, leading UNDP's global parliamentary programme, providing support and advice to UNDP's parliamentary strengthening projects in sixty-eight (68) countries.

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Financing for Development Challenges in Caribbean SIDS

UNDP recently launched a report on the challenges of accessing financing for development in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The report, prepared by a team of researchers led by Professor Compton Bourne, proposes that despite the achievements of SIDS in reaching the status of middle-income countries and achieving a high rank in the United Nations Human Development Index, small states in the Caribbean currently experience a range of fundamental economic and social difficulties which threaten to reverse their advancements and impede future progress.

Limitations to the domestic resource mobilization capacity of Caribbean SIDS make access to development finance from the international community a matter of central importance to them. While Caribbean SIDS have higher levels of per capita income, they nonetheless share many development challenges with other countries due to characteristics such as: small geographic size, small populations, limited resources, and remoteness from international markets.

Other challenges include diseconomies of scale,

foreign trade dependence, vulnerability to external economic shocks and natural hazards. Some of these serious development challenges lead to slow and volatile economic growth; high and rising levels of unemployment; significant incidence of poverty; inequality of income and wealth; under achievement of the MDGs in relation to health, access to basic services, gender equality and environmental sustainability; acute vulnerability to natural hazards; substantial risks ensuing from climate change and rising sea levels.

On reviewing the criteria necessary for Caribbean SIDS to be eligible to access concessional financing, this report outlines some recommendations on how SIDS could improve their access. These include the removal of the per capita national income eligibility criterion for access to concessional and non-concessional development finance assistance... [Continue reading](#)



Boosting the capacity of Medical Services

On 6 June 2014, the Primary Healthcare Initiative was signed by the Ministry of Health and UNDP Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative aims to place 30 International United Nations Volunteer (IUNV) medical professionals largely in health centres to help boost the capacity of medical services offered to the public, particularly in rural communities. Through the provision of trained medical staff recruited through the United Nations Volunteer Programme, the project will assist the Ministry of Health in achieving its objectives to increase the opening hours of health centres throughout the country thereby improving the level of service delivery and ensuring reliable and quality healthcare to all citizens regardless of economic circumstances. [Continue reading](#)



UNV Dr. Diki Wangyal attends to a patient at the Tabaquite Health Centre

Enhancing Sint Maarten' National Data Capacity



Participants at the Basic User and Database Administration Workshop

Ten civil servants from the Government of Sint Maarten completed five days of training in a Basic User and Database Administration workshop. The workshop ran for the period 1 to 5 June and was organized by the National Development Plan (NDP) team from the Department of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BAK), the implementing agency for NDP project, the 10 civil servants now have the knowledge to work with the country databases Sint Maarten Info and Census Info Sint Maarten. A follow-up training will be the next step – training the trainers – which will enable the participants to train other team members on the use and functioning of the database system.

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Managing Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

On 19 June, UNDP hosted a Risk Management workshop in Havana Cuba titled, *Risk Management in the Caribbean: Caribbean Risk Management Initiative (CRMI) and Beyond*. The workshop objective was to share the results and recommendations of evaluation of UNDP's regional project which focused on disaster risk reduction, recovery and gender integration in the region. It was also to identify risk reduction and climate change adaptation priorities in the region, in which UNDP can provide value-added support.

During the workshop, the CRMI Project Manager shared information on the final evaluation project report, such as key results, challenges and lessons learned from the projects implementation. The purpose of the evaluation was to provide the UNDP Country Offices and other stakeholders, including Trinidad and Tobago, with findings and recommendations on how to improve management and accountability, and inform development programming and strategy for future actions in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation (DRM/CCA) in the Caribbean. [Continue reading](#)