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Senator the Honorable Brigadier General Carlton Alfonso, Minister of National Security addressing the attendees at the UNDP Development Dialogue

A Development Dialogue on Citizen Security

On 7 July 2015, the UNDP hosted a Development Dialogue on Citizen Security, in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The dialogue's objectives were to engage key stakeholders in discussions on the national citizen security agenda; to define a framework for a national citizen security policy; to present international and regional results based practices on citizen security, share examples of other country experiences; and to disseminate the findings of a UNDP Peer Review of the Methodology of the Citizen Security Programme (CSP) being implemented in Trinidad and Tobago.

Participants engaged in discussions to identify potential solutions on citizen insecurity and provide recommendations under the areas of: Data Capacity, Citizen Security Indicators, Coordination, Capacity Building, Citizen Responsibility and Prevention Approaches.

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Participants at one of the focus group sessions

Understanding Multi-dimensional Progress and Subjective Well-being in T&T

The upcoming Regional Human Development Report (RHDR) for Latin America and the Caribbean 2016 will focus on Multidimensional Progress for Human Development. The term multidimensional progress signifies a departure in the measurement of poverty from an economic based measure which looks solely at income to one which encompasses indicators of health, education and standard of living. This focus on multidimensional progress challenges the assumption that persons who may be considered 'middle class' do not experience deprivations in their daily lives and are not vulnerable to slipping back into poverty.

As part of its contribution to the RHDR on multidimensional progress, UNDP-TT partnered with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), UWI St. Augustine Campus to conduct a study on subjective well-being in Trinidad and Tobago. The Study seeks to better understand the views of poverty and vulnerability through focus groups in North, Central and South Trinidad, as well as in East and West Tobago. [Continue reading](#)

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Capacity Development for improved management of Multilateral Environmental Agreements for Global Environmental Benefits.

The Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MEWR) in conjunction with UNDP, is in the process of initiating a project funded through a grant of US\$ 1.2 m under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). This project seeks to develop the country's national capacity to implement and manage actions required under a Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to which the country is a signatory, both to improve the quality of life for citizens of Trinidad and Tobago but also to contribute to Global Environmental Benefits. This project is in line with the Cross Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Programme strategy and objectives of the GEF programme which calls for countries to (a) strengthen capacities for management and implementation of convention guidelines (b) enhance consultative and management structures and

mechanisms; (c) integrate MEAs' provisions within national policy, legislative, and regulatory frameworks; and (d) pilot innovative economic and financial tools for convention implementation. The project is also well aligned with Trinidad and Tobago's National Environmental Policy (NEP) that aims to balance economic growth with environmentally sound practices and also with the National Spatial Development Strategy (NSDS) that emphasises the need to improve environmental legislation and policies as well as the need to improve collaboration and coordination among agencies.

Through a learning-by-doing process, this project seeks to implement capacity development activities in Trinidad and Tobago to improve the synergistic implementation of MEAs and, by extension, contribute to increase national and global environmental benefits. [Continue reading](#)

Primary Health Care Site Visits

Since September 2014, United Nations Volunteers (UNV), UNDP and the Ministry of Health, have been receiving International UNVs to work in Health Care Centres across Trinidad and Tobago to support current staff and ensure consistent quality service is being provided for citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. This partnership also ensures that regional health centres are properly staffed to meet the needs of the various communities, especially as the centres' hours are being extended to ensure that everyone can access and receive treatment and care.

UNV and UNDP take pride in the success of its projects and to ensure that this project achieves its aims and objectives, the UNV Caribbean Regional Sub-Hub embarked on a series of site visits where IUNV doctors are placed. These visits will showcase the doctors in action, provide an opportunity for their colleagues and their patients to report on the service that is being provided by the IUNV doctors. The IUNV doctors were thrilled to have these visits so that they can showcase the great work they

are doing. The IUNV colleagues and their patients on repeated accounts expressed their gratitude for the service that was now being provided by IUNVs in the health centres. [Continue reading](#)

IUNV Doctor Emma Thompson attending to a patient as UNV Programme Asst Rene Berryman-Sheppard looks on.



Effective Procurement - A Strategic Pillar of Development

In recent years, the need for transparency, integrity and best value for money has become increasingly self-evident to UNDP, as a means of achieving sustainable development. These three elements are the basic principles which govern procurement. In the Latin America and Caribbean Region, UNDP's programmes have always had a heavy reliance on procurement. Trinidad and Tobago's programme inputs are furnished by an array of procurement activities, which range from simple to complex and which comprise goods, services and civil works. While the Country Office's current portfolio of projects rely heavily on the procurement of services and to a far lesser extent goods, upcoming activities indicate a movement into the realm of civil works in 2016. UNDP notes the importance of procurement as a crucial ingredient in delivering programmes. [Continue reading](#)

Highlighting the roles of the Children Court and Peer Resolution

On 16 July, 2015, the Juvenile Court Project (JCP) team had an opportunity to raise awareness about the impending Children Court and Peer Resolution at a workshop entitled, "Managing Behavioral and Psychosocial Issues in the Classroom". The workshop was facilitated by the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) on behalf of the Ministry of Education. Attendees included secondary school deans, teachers and education administrators. While the JCP presentation covered the main elements of the project, emphasis was also placed on the myriad neurobiological and psychosocial factors that impact on a child's likelihood of offending and reoffending. These factors also support the adoption of rehabilitative and restorative principles in the new juvenile court system being implemented under the project. [Continue reading.](#)

GEF Small Grants Programme Knowledge Fair 2015

Established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) implemented by the UNDP, embodies the very essence of sustainable development by "thinking globally acting locally". By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods, SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.

The GEF SGP has been operating in Trinidad and Tobago since 1995, and celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year. To commemorate this milestone and World Environment Day 2015, the GEF SGP held a Knowledge Fair on May 28th and 29th, 2015 in collaboration with The Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (ALGSB). The theme of the event was "Igniting Global Envirominds, "Transforming Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow," emphasising the transition from passion to sustainable livelihoods and the need to practise sustainability in our everyday activities.

The key goal of the event was to encourage collaboration between the GEF SGP grant recipients and stakeholders to network, share best practices, showcase and catalyse innovations in environmental sustainability and promote opportunities for policy influence within SGP's five focal areas (biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and chemicals). The Fair targeted Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Private Sector and Public Sector Organisations, all secondary and tertiary education institutions and the general public. [Continue reading](#)



Attendees visit one of the many booths at the fair