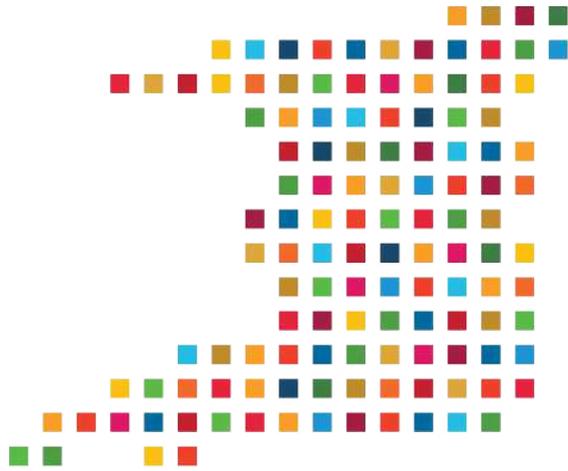




GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



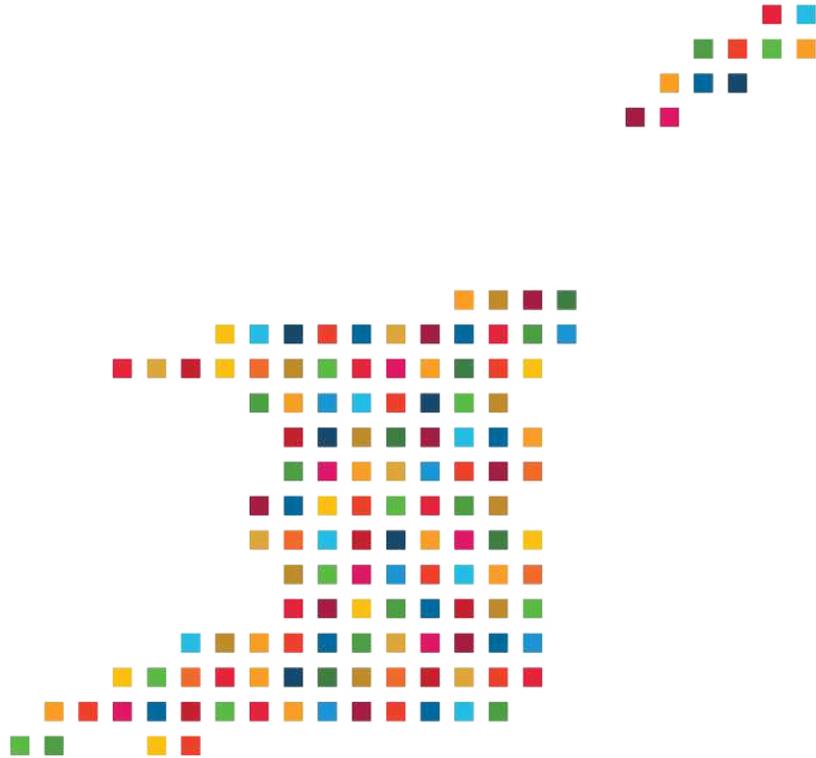
Voluntary National Review

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Connecting the Dots to the SDGs

2020





Voluntary National Review

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Connecting the Dots to the SDGs

Trinidad and Tobago's first Voluntary National Review presented to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, July 2020

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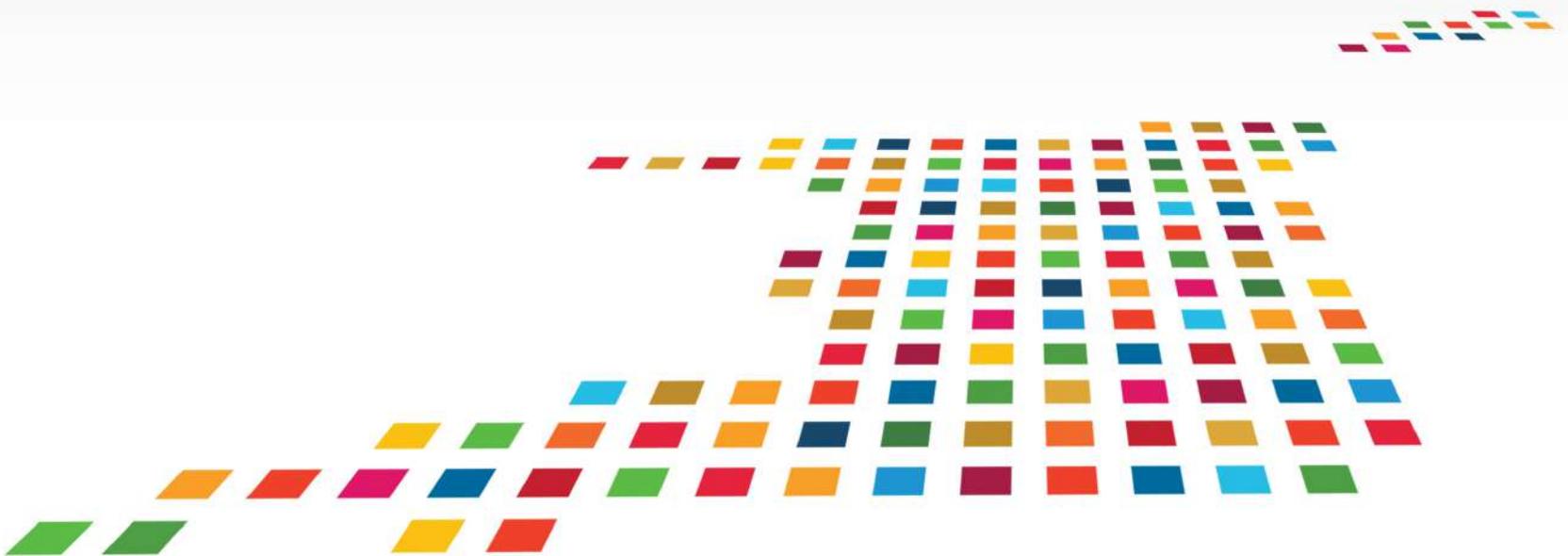
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|------------------|--|
| 2030 Agenda | 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | MRV | Monitoring Reporting and Verification |
| ADHD | Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder | MSDFS | Ministry of Social Development and Family Services |
| BAU | Business as Usual | NACC | National AIDS Coordinating Committee |
| CANARI | Caribbean Natural Resources Institute | NCCP | National Climate Change Policy |
| CARICOM | Caribbean Community | NCD | Non-Communicable Disease |
| CARPHA | Caribbean Public Health Agency | NDC | Nationally Determined Contribution |
| CCLCS | Cipriani College of Labour and Cooperative Studies | NDS | National Development Strategy |
| CCSLC | Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence | NEE | Not in Education or Employment |
| CDAP | Chronic Disease Assistance Programme | NEP | National Environment Policy |
| CEC | Certificate of Environmental Clearance | NGC | National Gas Company |
| CEDP | Comprehensive Economic Development Plan | NGO | Non-Governmental Organisation |
| CERM | CO2 Emission Reduction Mobilisation Project | NIHERST | National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology |
| CFTDI | Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute | NPF | National Performance Framework |
| CKFTO | Caribbean Kids and Families Therapy Organisation | NPO | Non-Profit Organisation |
| CNG | Compressed Natural Gas | NSITT | National Statistical Institute of Trinidad and Tobago |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus Disease 2019 | NTAC | National Tripartite Advisory Council |
| CSEC | Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate | ODPM | Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management |
| CSO | Central Statistical Office, and Civil Society Organisation | OECD | Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development |
| CSOs4GoodGov | CSOs for Good Governance | OJT | On-the-Job-Training |
| CSR | Corporate Social Responsibility | PAHO | Pan American Health Organisation |
| CSSP | Continuous Sample Survey of Population | PPE | Personal Protective Equipment |
| ECCE | Early Childhood Care and Education | PSB | Project Screening Brief |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment | PSIP | Public Sector Investment Programme |
| EMA | Environmental Management Authority | RIA | Rapid Integrated Assessment |
| EU | European Union | RIC | Regulated Industries Commission |
| FCB | First Citizens Bank | RITTR | Rehabilitating Inmates Through Training and Retraining |
| FDI | Foreign Direct Investment | S.A.M.O.A | SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action |
| GBV | Gender-Based Violence | SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product | SEA | Secondary Entry Assessment |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas | SEED | Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development |
| GNI | Gross National Income | SIDS | Small Island Developing States |
| GORTT | Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago | SLMS | School Learning Management System |
| HIV/AIDS | Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome | STD | Sexually Transmitted Disease |
| HLPF | High-Level Political Forum | STEP-UP | Social Transformation and Empowerment Programme - Uplifting People |
| HSF | Heritage and Stabilisation Fund | T&TEC | Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission |
| ICT | Information and Communications Technology | THA | Tobago House of Assembly |
| IDB | Inter-American Development Bank | TTMA | Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association |
| ILO | International Labour Organisation | TTPS | Trinidad and Tobago Police Service |
| JCEP | Junior Co-operative Enterprise Programme | UN | United Nations |
| LED | Light Emitting Diode | UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| LEND | Local Economic Development Programme | URP | Unemployment Relief Programme |
| LNG | Liquefied Natural Gas | UTT | University of Trinidad and Tobago |
| MAPS | Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support | UWI | University of the West Indies |
| MDAs | Ministries, Departments and Agencies | VAT | Value Added Tax |
| MDG | Millennium Developments Goal | VNR | Voluntary National Review |
| MDG | Millennium Developments Goal | WHO | World Health Organisation |
| MICS | Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey | YDAC | Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centre |
| MIPED | Mayaro Initiative for Private Enterprise Development | | |
| MOLSED | Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development | | |

FOREWORD



FOREWORD

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is honoured to present our first Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to the United Nations. Under the theme **'Connecting the dots to the SDGs'**, we reaffirm our commitment to continue Trinidad and Tobago's trajectory to prosperity and sustainable development.

At the beginning of 2020, the humanitarian call by the United Nations to "Leave No One Behind", particularly resonated in Trinidad and Tobago's response to the unprecedented challenges to global health due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the economic instability arising from the economic response to the global pandemic. We have responded through fiscal and social measures to ensure the safety and security of our citizenry. These challenges have deepened the resolve of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to sustain our commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through the implementation of our National Development Strategy 2016 – 2030, otherwise referred to as Vision 2030.

Vision 2030 details the pathway for us to build our country's economy, restoring confidence, equity and social justice as well as improving every area of national life. By integrating the

Sustainable Development Goals into Vision 2030's thematic areas, which focus the country's economic, social and environmental development efforts to the year 2030, we ensure that progress towards Vision 2030 and progress towards the SDGs are one and the same.

The Vision 2030 thematic areas and their alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals are as follows:

- Theme I** Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11)
- Theme II** Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence (SDGs 10, 11, 16, 17)
- Theme III** Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transportation (SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11)
- Theme IV** Building Globally Competitive Businesses (SDGs 8, 9, 12)
- Theme V** Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development (SDGs 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17)

Indeed, the underlying premise of Vision 2030, is one where there will be partnerships with every business, worker and

citizen, towards sustainable growth and development. As such, the Government remains committed to nurturing such a milieu, to protecting our people, rebuilding our economy, restoring confidence, trust, equity, peace and social justice, protecting our natural environment and improving every area of national life to ensure no one is left behind, and to better build our twin-island state of Trinidad and Tobago.

Like all countries, we face several challenges to these aspirations. Finite financial and human resources, skills gaps, an economy driven by fossil fuels, challenging crime rates, cultures of dependency and entitlement, and environmental degradation are things we are working to overcome.

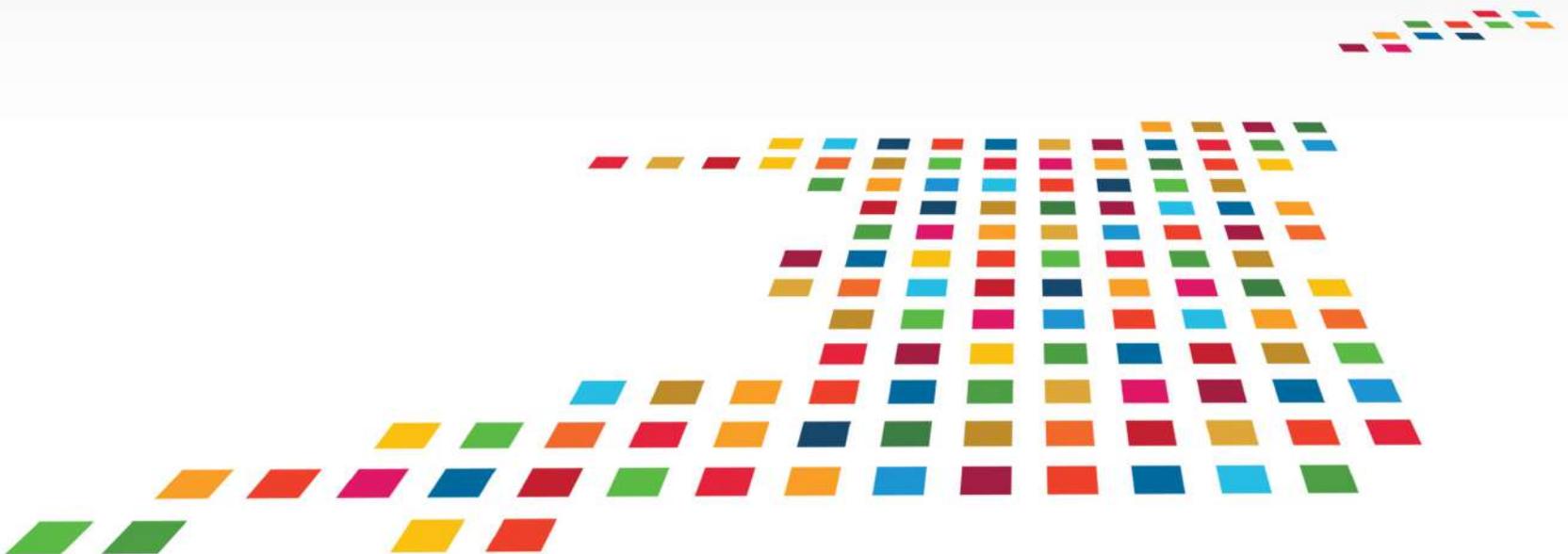
However, despite these challenges, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is clear about what needs to be done. A range of policy initiatives, projects, and programmes have been developed to achieve Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals, with many others planned for the near future. In addition, the Voluntary National Review process has helped us to identify areas for improvement, such as the enhancement of multi-sectoral collaboration, training and skills development in areas such as monitoring and development, and effective use of data.

In this, our first Voluntary National Review, we are pleased to share our experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learned, and look forward to learning from other nations, with the aim of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We commend the work of the Ministry of Planning and Development and all other ministries, departments and agencies, private sector bodies, civil society organisations and members of the public who contributed to this process. The support of the United Nations is also acknowledged, with much appreciation, and Trinidad and Tobago anticipates greater collaborative endeavours as we move forward.

There are times in the development path of a country, and indeed an entire planet, when extraordinary challenges demand an equally compelling response. Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals have shaped the response and we join with others to ensure that we “Leave No One Behind.”

1. HIGHLIGHTS

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has adopted the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cognisant of the great significance of the global policy framework for charting a course towards the achievement of increased peace and prosperity for all the world's people.



Trinidad and Tobago is committed to national development that are at the core of sustainable development principles. In this regard, Vision 2030, which is a comprehensive national development framework; reinforces commitment to meeting Agenda 2030 by ensuring that all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated and prioritized across all national goals and objectives, and is therefore intended to facilitate a long term process for achieving the SDGs while remaining focused on local development needs.

Recognising the inextricable linkages among the SDGs, the Government has acknowledged that progress towards achieving the SDGs cannot be the sole responsibility of Government. A 'whole-of-government' and 'whole-of-society' approach, with an emphasis on collaboration and partnerships across the public sector, private sector, and civil society, create greater inclusivity, and synergy towards development.

Trinidad and Tobago's first Voluntary National Review (VNR), focuses on eight SDGs - 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17. The selection of these eight SDGs in no way diminishes Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to the other nine SDGs, which would be reviewed in subsequent VNRs. The principal vehicle for localisation of the SDGs in Trinidad and Tobago has been Vision 2030, which provides the overarching parameters within which the country has conducted its review.

In the engagement process towards the development of the VNR, a broad range of stakeholder groups participated in workshops and dialogue on the SDGs and Vision 2030. These included Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), civil society organisations (CSOs), the private sector, women's groups, academia, subject matter experts and members of the general public. Methods of consultation included in-person interviews, focus groups, an online survey and communication via e-mail, print and social media. Consultations also catered for groups at risk of being left behind which, in Trinidad and Tobago, are identified as the poor and vulnerable, women, children, persons with disabilities, the

elderly, persons living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), ex-prisoners, deportees, and the socially displaced.

The Ministry of Planning and Development spearheaded the activities for the VNR, establishing a Steering Committee to provide technical oversight and guidance. Trinidad and Tobago's VNR underscores the Government's commitment to sustainable and inclusive development that leaves no one behind and to identifying pathways for accelerating action toward sustainable development and implementing of the 2030 Agenda over the next decade.

Leaving No One Behind

The Government has consistently targeted persons at risk for particular attention through comprehensive policy initiatives. Children, women, persons with disabilities and the economically vulnerable have been targeted for specific interventions. Some of these include:

- Draft National Child Policy - advocates for the protection of children and public consultation is ongoing.
- Community Therapeutic Service - is being pursued in keeping with Articles 25 and 26 of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Social Support Services - for the poor and vulnerable, through the distribution of food cards to individuals and households. Healthy breakfast and lunches are also provided to vulnerable children in the nation's schools.



Trinidad and Tobago is committed to leaving no one behind. Students of the Morne Diabo Roman Catholic Primary School.

HIGHLIGHTS

SDG Progress - Snapshot

The following is a snapshot of the eight SDGs addressed in Trinidad and Tobago's VNR. Information detailing the progress of the SDGs is provided in Chapter 6 – Progress Towards Achieving the SDGs.



Significant enhancements have been made to infrastructure to support the universal healthcare system, with parallel improvements in the number of physicians and nursing professionals. The Policy for Treating with Non-Nationals with respect to the Provision of Public Healthcare Services outlines the services made available to migrants.



The free and compulsory primary and secondary education systems have been modernised, through the introduction of a School Learning Management System and School-Based Management Standards to drive education outcomes.



The National Policy on Gender and Development, being implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs Unit), helps to eliminate barriers and promote gender equality. Major achievements include the Marriage Act, 2017 which abolished child marriages, and the establishment of a National Workplace Policy on Sexual Harassment.



The economy has steadily recovered following the crash in oil prices in 2014. The year-on-year change in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) moved from -6.3 per cent in 2016 to -0.2 per cent in 2018. The reduction of Government expenditure from TT\$61.9 billion in 2014 to TT\$50.5 billion in 2019 formed part of prudent fiscal management during a period of severely constrained fiscal environment. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago plays a significant role in promoting decent work through a number of strategic objectives. These include fostering decent working conditions, strengthening labour oversight bodies, modernisation of labour legislation and the further development of policies and initiatives toward the realisation of the Decent Work Agenda.



Support for the social sector and protection of the most vulnerable citizens is augmented through the National Social Mitigation Plan 2017-2022 and the development of a National Policy on Persons with Disabilities.



Trinidad and Tobago's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitment aims to achieve a reduction in emissions from three sectors - electricity generation, industry and transportation - by 15% by 2030 from business as usual (BAU), and an unconditional reduction in public transportation emissions by 30%, compared to 2013, by 2030.



Trinidad and Tobago constantly strives to devise and implement multi-dimensional solutions to strengthen capacities towards achieving long-lasting peace and safety in society. To provide greater protection, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service established the Gender-Based Violence Unit while the Judiciary established the Children's Court System.



Civil society organisations lead the way on partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs, through initiatives such as the CSOs for Good Governance Project, SDG Catalyst Network and the SDG Knowledge Platform.

Opportunities for Refinement and Progress

Trinidad and Tobago continues to be cognisant of the challenges that must be overcome and the support that must be given to sustain, as well as to enjoy more progress against the SDGs. In the Energy Sector the dichotomy between our continued reliance on fossil fuels as a substantial contributor to GDP, and opportunities for alternative green financing hampers economic diversification and decarbonisation. Challenges of data collection and assessment, and the persistent shortage of statistical personnel and monitoring and evaluation specialists in the public sector, continue as areas for urgent attention. Capacity gaps have been identified in the national statistical system that prohibit the collection and timely dissemination of data; even disaggregation remains a challenge. When combined with the difficulties caused by sub-optimal collaboration and information-sharing within

Government, and with the private sector and civil society, it becomes starkly evident that Trinidad and Tobago must continue working to remove such hindrances to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. This will become even more relevant during the 2020–2030 Decade of Action to accelerate delivery of sustainable solutions for development.

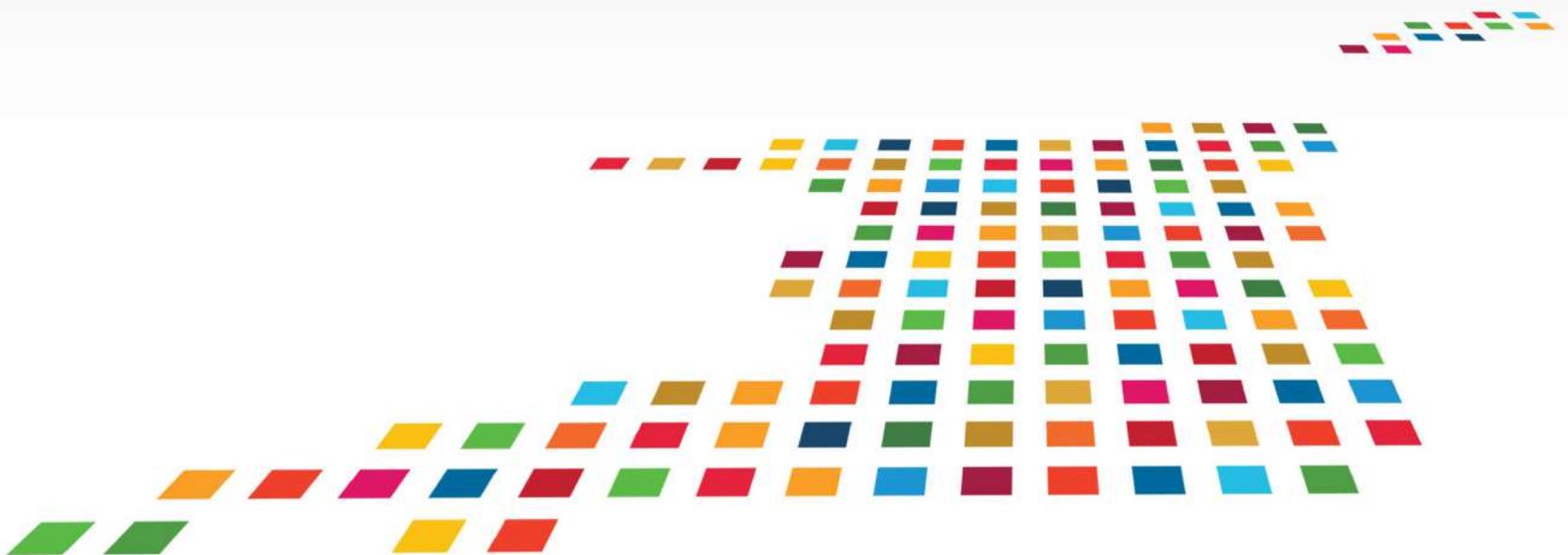
Moreover, as the country builds on the progress already recorded, Trinidad and Tobago will review the 16 medium-term national goals (2021–2025) to ensure they are aligned with SDG targets and indicators, while reflecting the prevailing social, economic, and environmental conditions at the national level. In addition, the Government is committed to the implementation of the accelerators identified in Trinidad and Tobago's Roadmap for SDG Implementation.



Trinidad and Tobago is reviewing its national goals and working with all stakeholders to take advantage of opportunities for refinement and progress.

2. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Trinidad and Tobago, like the rest of the world, continues to face profound challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the country has risen to this unprecedented situation with a 'whole-of-government' and whole-of-society' response.



The economy of Trinidad and Tobago experienced several negative effects as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These included a reduction in business activity due to necessary public health measures, interrupted supply chains and exacerbated circumstances for vulnerable groups due to job loss, school closures and reduced demand for goods and services. Additionally, developments in the oil and gas sector, internationally, are expected to slow revenue significantly.

Trinidad and Tobago has taken a multi-dimensional approach to the COVID-19 response, inclusive of the following policy objectives:

Macroeconomic Measures

Government introduced a number of financial and economic measures to minimise contraction of the economy and maintain economic activity, which included:

- Monetary and financial measures - reduction of the reserve requirement for commercial banks and the Repo rate, to inject

additional liquidity into the commercial banking system. Within the private sector, commercial banks agreed to a moratorium on mortgage loan and installment loan payments, while also reducing interest rates on credit cards.

- Fiscal measures - acceleration of the payment of outstanding Value Added Tax (VAT) refunds, income tax refunds as well as overdue payables owed by the Government to suppliers and contractors; provision of a Liquidity Support Loan Programme to Credit Unions to facilitate provision of loans to individuals and small businesses at favourable interest rates; provision of a special grant for hoteliers in Tobago, towards the upgrade of their facilities in preparation for future business.
- Recovery measures – A 22-member committee comprising of representatives from Government, private sector, civil society, labour and academia, was established to develop a plan for the reopening of society and the road to economic recovery for the post-pandemic period.





Containment/quarantine measures involved travel restrictions, flight bans and closure of air and sea ports to passenger travel.

Health Measures

The Government established a High-level Coordinating Committee chaired by the Chief Medical Officer with a mandate to lead the development, implementation, and monitor and evaluate measures to manage and prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in Trinidad and Tobago. These included:

Containment/Quarantine Measures

- Travel restrictions, to and from specific countries, and subsequent closure of Trinidad and Tobago's borders;
- Closure of all child care and educational institutions; and
- Social distancing was put into effect with the closure of restaurants, bars, cinemas, and all non-essential services, to reinforce stay-at-home measures.

A parallel healthcare system

This system was established to avoid overburdening the existing health system. The objectives were:

- Treatment and Care - Setting up dedicated secondary and tertiary hospital facilities to treat confirmed Coronavirus patients exclusively; and
- Quarantine, Isolation and Rehabilitation - Primary care facilities for quarantine of suspected cases and rehabilitation of recovering patients.

Strengthening of the health sector

- Infrastructure and Institutional Strengthening - Increasing access to in-patient beds;
- Biomedical Strengthening - Increasing capacity in relation to ventilators, infusion pumps and cardiac monitors;
- Human Resource Strengthening - Hiring and deployment of additional medical personnel - doctors, nurses; and
- Procurement of non-pharmaceutical consumables, and including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and test kits.



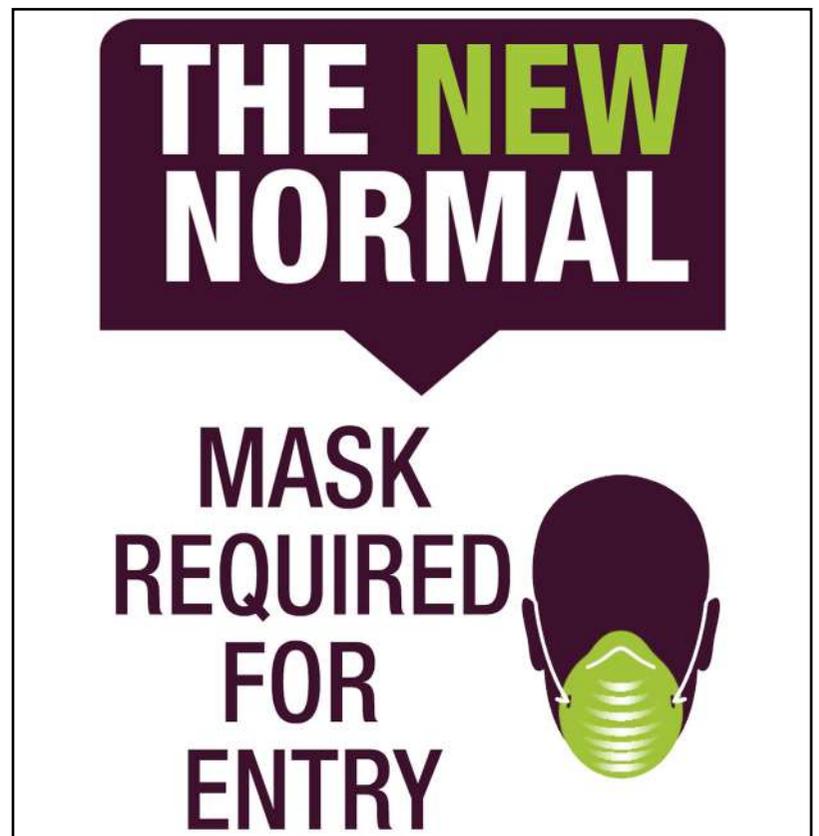
- Food support-Additional support, for an initial period of three months, was given to existing beneficiaries, as well as, households (i) which experienced retrenchment, termination or reduced income; and (ii) where children received meals from the school feeding programme. Income Support-Provision of additional funds to existing beneficiaries of the Public Assistance and Disability Assistance Grants, and to families where a member was retrenched/ terminated/experienced reduced income including self-employed persons;
- Accommodation/Rental Assistance-where a wage earner or the household income was negatively impacted by the pandemic;
- Support to NGOs to assist socially displaced persons - Additional financial support to NGOs to ensure that meals are provided for homeless persons; and
- Salary Relief Grant -Provided temporary assistance to persons retrenched or terminated during the pandemic, through the provision of a temporary Salary Relief Grant of up to TT\$1,500 for a period of up to three months. The Salary Relief Grant targeted persons registered with the National Insurance Board.

In addition, numerous private sector and civil society organisations, together with concerned individuals, proactively identified opportunities to contribute. For example, the country's largest distillery and brewery both began to produce alcohol-based hand sanitiser, which was donated to the protective services and front line employees. Others began to produce PPE.

- Provision of daily bulletins and update briefings by the Ministry of Health to keep the public informed on the number of tests, cases, deaths and persons discharged.
- Development of an Action Plan for a gradual easing of restrictions was developed which comprised several phases with clearly defined steps.

Social Measures

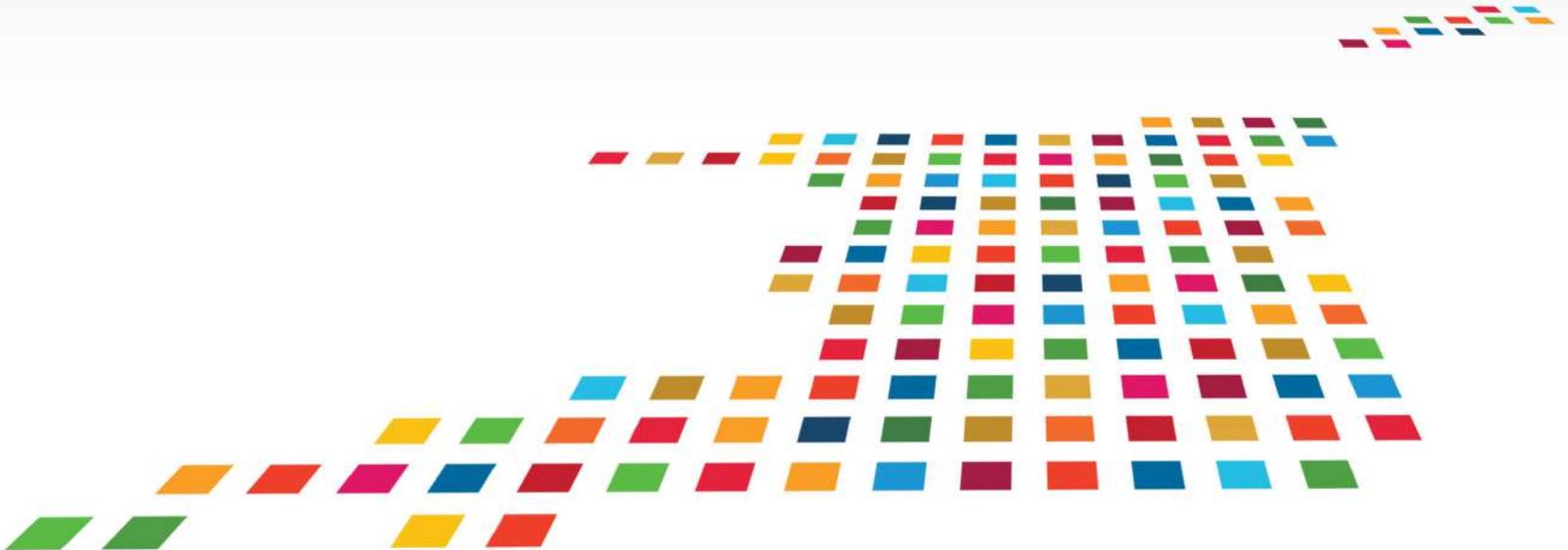
The Government recognised that the effects of COVID-19 would exacerbate the living conditions of existing poor and vulnerable persons, as well as persons whose incomes may have been significantly reduced. As such, the social protection system was augmented to mitigate the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 with the implementation of the following measures:



Office Signs- Mask

3. INTRODUCTION

Trinidad and Tobago is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with a population of 1.4 million. In 2008, the twin-island republic graduated to high-income status, due to its high GDP and rich energy resources. While faced with economic volatility as a result of fluctuating energy prices, Trinidad and Tobago's economy remains resilient and the people committed to the achievement 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

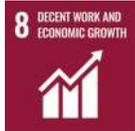


Vision 2030, the country’s development plan, is hinged on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway.

The Vision 2030 development strategy navigates the country towards socio-economic prosperity by the year 2030, in line with its commitment to meet the SDGs and address national issues.

It addresses the cross-cutting issues of gender, environment and human security across the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

Vision 2030 integrated and prioritised all 17 SDGs across the five thematic areas and the 56 national goals into a three- and five-year plan. The Vision 2030 thematic areas and their alignment to the SDGs are reflected below:

| | | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| Theme I | Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset |  |  |  |  |
| | |  |  |  |  |
| Theme II | Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence |  |  |  |  |
| Theme III | Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transportation |  |  |  |  |
| Theme IV | Building Globally Competitive Businesses |  |  |  | |
| Theme V | Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development (include SDG 17 as shown) |  |  |  |  |
| | |  |  |  |  |
| | |  |  | | |

INTRODUCTION

The realisation of the national goals will inherently see the country meeting various SDG targets, while remaining attentive to local development needs. As Vision 2030 is implemented, efforts are being made to strengthen the alignment with the SDGs, and to ensure adherence to national and global development needs. Additional information regarding the alignment of the SDGs and Vision 2030 is presented in Chapter 5: Policy and Enabling Environment.

Integration of International Agreements

The Government recognises that the national development agenda is impacted by regional and global factors, many of which are the subject of international agreements. Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory to many such agreements and efforts are made to ensure clear ownership and policy coherence across overlapping areas. Examples of these international agreements and their alignment to the SDGs and Vision 2030 are included in the following table.

Table 1: A sample of international agreements and their alignment to the SDGs and Vision 2030

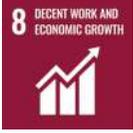
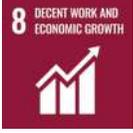
| International Agreement | Primary SDG Alignment | Vision 2030 Alignment |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control |  | Theme I |
| Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women |  | Theme I |
| UN Convention on the Rights of the Child |   | Theme I |
| ILO Convention Concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour |  | Theme I, II |
| ILO Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention |  | Theme I, II |
| International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination |  | Theme I |
| UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |  | Theme I |
| Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions |  | Theme V |

Table 1: A sample of international agreements and their alignment to the SDGs and Vision 2030

| International Agreement | Primary SDG Alignment | Vision 2030 Alignment |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| UN Framework Convention on Climate Change |  | Theme V |
| UN Convention on the Law of the Sea |  | Theme III, V |
| Convention on Biological Diversity |   | Theme V |
| UN Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime |  | Theme II |
| UN Convention Against Corruption |  | Theme II, IV |

Monitoring and Evaluation

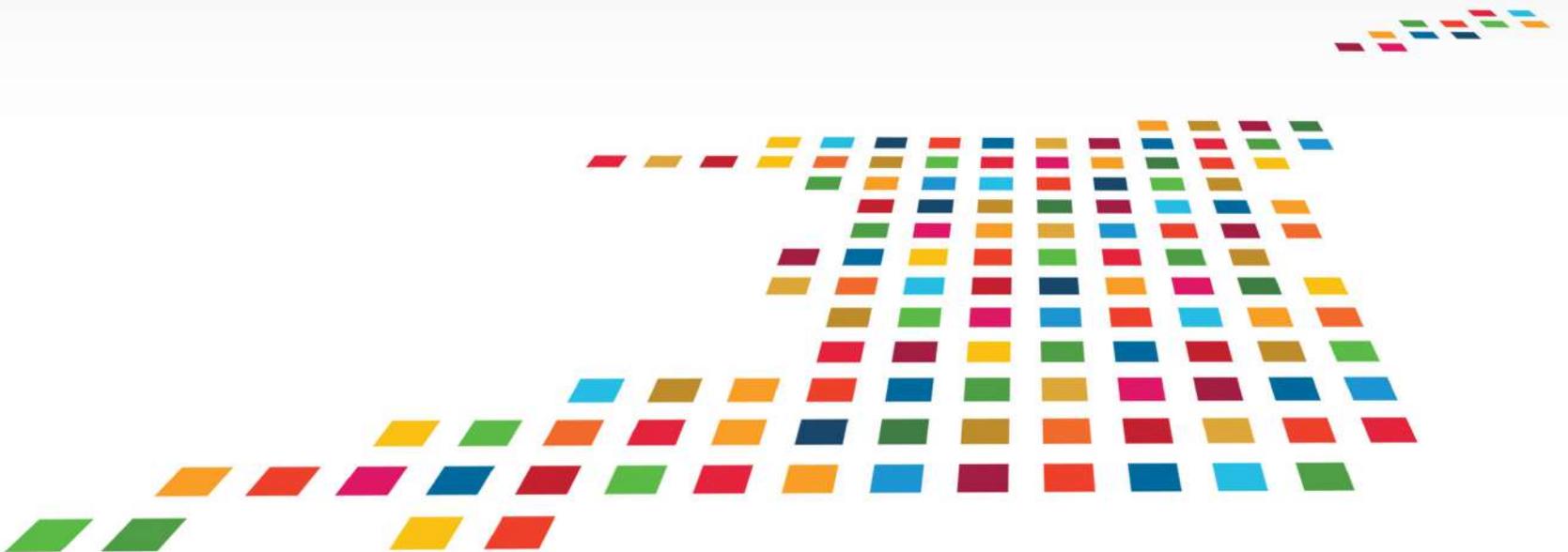
Strengthening the institutional practices for monitoring and evaluation is an important process for both the Vision 2030 and the SDGs. The National Performance Framework (NPF), was developed to provide a consistent approach for systematically collecting, analysing, utilising and reporting on the implementation of Vision 2030 and the associated SDGs. Using the thematic areas, policies and strategies outlined in Vision 2030, the NPF defines impacts, outcomes, and outputs as well as performance indicators, which were drafted as part of an extensive consultative process. As a result, the NPF translates the national goals outlined in Vision 2030 into national results that are actionable, achievable, measurable and time-bound. To date, two national achievement reports have been published: *Vision 2030 Reporting on Progress 2015–2018: Tracking our journey, securing our future*, and *Vision 2030 Achievement Report 2018-2019: Realising our national vision together*. These reports highlight the collaborative efforts of all key stakeholders and the major successes attained towards the achievement of Vision 2030 and the SDGs.



The National Performance framework was developed to standardise monitoring and evaluation of Vision 2030 and the SDGs across government ministries.

4. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

Trinidad and Tobago's first VNR complements the two national achievement reports published to date, *Vision 2030 Reporting on Progress 2015–2018: Tracking our journey, securing our future* and the *Vision 2030 Achievement Report 2018-2019: Realising our national vision together*, to provide a clear picture of progress towards the SDGs and outline the pathway to future success.



METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

VNR Scope

While the Government and national stakeholders are actively working to achieve all 17 SDGs, and have assessed their progress within the National Reporting Framework, this report focuses on progress toward eight of the SDGs (see Figure 1). SDGs not covered in this report will be included in subsequent VNRs.

For the eight SDGs identified below, a total of 68 unique indicators were identified for inclusion in the VNR. This number represents 62 per cent of the total number of unique SDG indicators proposed by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).



Figure 1: SDG scope of Trinidad and Tobago's first VNR

METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

Stakeholder Engagement

Development of the VNR included direct engagement with a broad range of stakeholder groups, to ensure an 'all-of-government' and 'all-of-society' approach is being utilised in implementing the SDGs. These groups comprised Government MDAs, CSOs, the

private sector, women, youth, academia, subject matter experts and the general public. Throughout the stakeholder consultations, efforts were made to include groups at risk of being left behind and to discuss their perspectives. stakeholders participate



Stakeholders participate at VNR sessions



The following three objectives guided the execution of the stakeholder engagements:

- *Build ownership of the SDGs* – Raise awareness of the SDGs and stakeholders' roles in achieving them.
- *Create opportunities for collaboration* – Provide groups involved in implementing the SDGs a chance to share challenges and solutions and identify policy and implementation gaps.
- *Collect data* – Utilise consultation sessions and surveys to collect quantitative and qualitative data on stakeholders' activities which contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

To ensure effective consultations, multiple methods of stakeholder engagement were utilised, as illustrated in Table 2.



Table 2: Methods of stakeholder engagement

| Engagement | Number | Engagement Goals | Stakeholders |
|------------------------|----------------------|--|---|
| Print and Social Media | >45,000 interactions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase awareness of the SDGs and their relationship to Vision 2030 and the VNR ▪ Highlight examples of Government's efforts to implement the SDGs ▪ Promote online SDG survey | General public |
| Interviews | 49 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase awareness of the SDGs and their relationship with Vision 2030 ▪ Understand relevant activities, achievements, challenges and needs ▪ Collect qualitative and quantitative data ▪ Build relationships with stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Academia ▪ Civil Society ▪ MDAs ▪ Private Sector ▪ Subject Matter Experts |
| Focus Groups | 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create shared understanding of achievements, challenges and needs, while identifying opportunities for collaboration and potential solutions ▪ Collect qualitative and quantitative data ▪ Build relationships with and among stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Academia ▪ Civil Society ▪ MDAs |
| Online SDG Survey | 1,008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collect qualitative and quantitative data ▪ Increase awareness of the SDGs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ General Public ▪ Civil Society ▪ Private Sector |

METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

Print and Social Media

Building greater awareness of the SDGs was a central pillar of the communication strategy adopted for the VNR process. Several mediums, including electronic and print, were used to create and disseminate information on the SDGs. These strategies were designed by Government to highlight its role in the process, and

to create awareness, provide information and encourage action and participation surrounding the VNR. Guided by the theme 'Connecting the dots to the SDGs,' the key messages confirm the commitment by Trinidad and Tobago to deliver its VNR and emphasise the projects undertaken by the Government targeting the SDGs.

Table 3: Print and Social Media Activity

| Print Media Activity | Social Media Activity |
|---|--|
| <p>Topical articles on Vision 2030 and the SDGs were featured in major newspapers in December 2019. An article was also published in January 2020, on the popular online news platform LoopTT, and the Ministry of Communication's news website, highlighting the participation of Trinidad and Tobago in the 2020 VNR.</p> | <p>Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were utilised to demonstrate linkages between transformative projects and climate change initiatives to Government's national development efforts, toward achievement of the SDGs. In addition, posts shared information explaining what the VNR is and means to the Government's national development efforts.</p> <p>To date, the combination of interactions on all social media platforms total over 45,000. As Government continues to connect the dots to the SDGs, these interactions are expected to increase over time.</p> |



Stakeholder engagement was a key part of the VNR process.

METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

Interviews

Forty-nine interviews were conducted with individuals and teams from several MDAs, CSOs, the private sector and subject matter experts in Trinidad and Tobago. These interviews were guided by a questionnaire, which was shared in advance with participants. A list of the organisations engaged are in the Appendix.

Focus Groups

Four focus groups were held in Trinidad with 133 representatives from MDAs and civil society organisations on the themes of People (SDGs 3, 4, 5), Prosperity (SDG 8, 10), Peace and Partnerships (SDGs 16, 17) and Planet (SDG 13). Each focus group utilised breakout sessions to discuss an agreed set of questions in the context of a given SDG (see Table 4). The planned focus group sessions in Tobago were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 4: Focus Group discussion questions

| Area of Focus | Questions |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Policy and enabling environment | <p>What have you done to mainstream the SDGs in legislation, policies and programmes?</p> <p>What environment exists to ensure that all services, policies and programmes provided are inclusive of all persons, including vulnerable groups?</p> |
| Progress on goals and targets | What are your most significant achievements in relation to the SDGs and who are the beneficiaries? |
| Means of implementation | How is your respective organisation implementing interventions related to the SDGs being discussed? |
| Next steps | How can Vision 2030 be used as a platform to advance the achievement of the SDGs to make sure that no one is left behind? |

Online SDG Survey

Although nationwide consultations with multiple stakeholders were planned, the recent COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the postponement of some in-person consultations, prompting the Government to continue engagement through an online platform. The online SDG survey was conducted over four weeks in March 2020.

This survey was completed by individual members of the public and representatives from the private sector and civil society in Trinidad and Tobago. The survey captured information on topics such as levels of awareness of the SDGs and Vision 2030, perceived levels of implementation, priority issues and concerns, and areas of individual action.

VNR Development

The Ministry of Planning and Development, with responsibility for oversight, was assigned to deliver the VNR together with three external consultants recruited with support from the UN Country Team. The consulting team comprised a lead consultant, charged with

conducting stakeholder consultations in Trinidad and drafting the VNR, a consultant responsible for conducting stakeholder consultations in Tobago, and a statistical consultant who prepared the statistical annex. The statistical consultant worked closely with the Central Statistical Office (CSO), the lead consultant and relevant MDAs to manage the data collection and analysis.

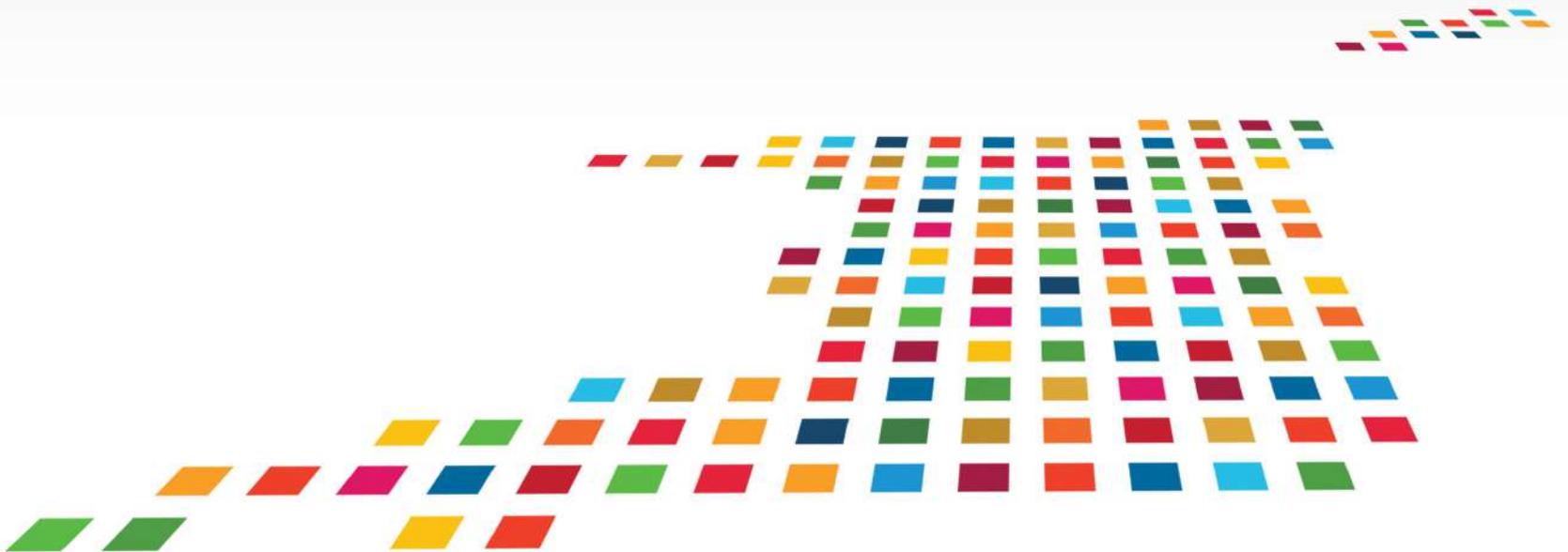
Data Assessment

A critical activity in the VNR process involved determining whether the data required to produce each of the SDG indicators in the scope defined, were available and met appropriate standards. This activity was essential to allow for the accurate computation of the required indices. In order to make this assessment, three methods were used for the data mapping exercise:

- A review of relevant project documents;
- Face-to-face interviews with key MDAs and sector partners; and
- Secondary research of other data sources.

5. POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has been steadfast in its commitment to develop the nation, while ensuring that sustainable development principles and objectives are at the core of the national policy development agenda.



Creating Ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, Trinidad and Tobago joined with other member states of the UN to adopt the 2030 Agenda. Building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the 2030 Agenda outlined comprehensive, ambitious and transformative goals towards which countries strive to achieve sustainable prosperity, inclusion and equality. Simultaneously, the Government embarked upon a robust, long-term development agenda for transforming and guiding the country toward socio-economic prosperity by the year 2030, with the development of Vision 2030. It builds the pathway to the future that will transform Trinidad and Tobago into a developed country, sustaining growth and development, and optimising the quality of life of all citizens.

Vision 2030, as a comprehensive national social, economic and environmental development planning framework, reinforces our commitment to meeting the SDGs, by ensuring that all 17 SDGs were integrated and prioritised across all the national goals and thematic areas. The Vision 2030 development strategy is intended to facilitate an orderly, long-term development process for achieving the SDGs and their targets, while remaining focused on local development needs.

Engagement of Key Stakeholders

A key factor for the successful implementation of public policy is broad-based buy-in, clear leadership and national ownership. To this end, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago employed strategies to encourage the national community to embrace Vision 2030 and the SDGs. These included:

- Engagement of key internal and external stakeholders, including technocrats, elected officials at national and local levels, private sector entities, academia, civil society and persons within vulnerable and marginalised groups (including youth, persons with disabilities, women, children and the elderly); and
- Education and awareness-raising for the general public through marketing and communication.

The Government worked assiduously to develop Vision 2030 and ensure its alignment with the SDGs. Vision 2030 builds on the outcome of the vast national stakeholder engagement process for Vision 2020, which involved over 80 national consultations and 27 sub-committees comprising academia, the public and private sectors and civil society. Working with this base, and adopting a more streamlined stakeholder process, the Government refined both the Vision and the national development agenda. This approach ensured relevance and responsiveness to new realities and emerging international trends.

Through the collaborative process involving line and oversight Ministries and Departments, the draft national goals were developed for each thematic area. These goals drive specific actions to achieve the Vision, taking into consideration the SDGs. This consultative process will continue as Vision 2030 is periodically revised to reflect stakeholders' views and changing socio-economic and environmental circumstances.

Education and Awareness through Marketing and Communication

The Government supported and promoted Vision 2030 through numerous marketing and communication initiatives. For example, subsequent to completion of Vision 2030 in 2016, several radio and television interviews were conducted to promote Vision 2030 and its alignment to the SDGs. Further, a Vision 2030 pocket brochure was developed to promote the importance of Vision 2030 and its synergies with the SDGs, as well as to urge all stakeholders - government and non-governmental - to adopt an action-oriented approach towards implementing the 2030 Agenda.

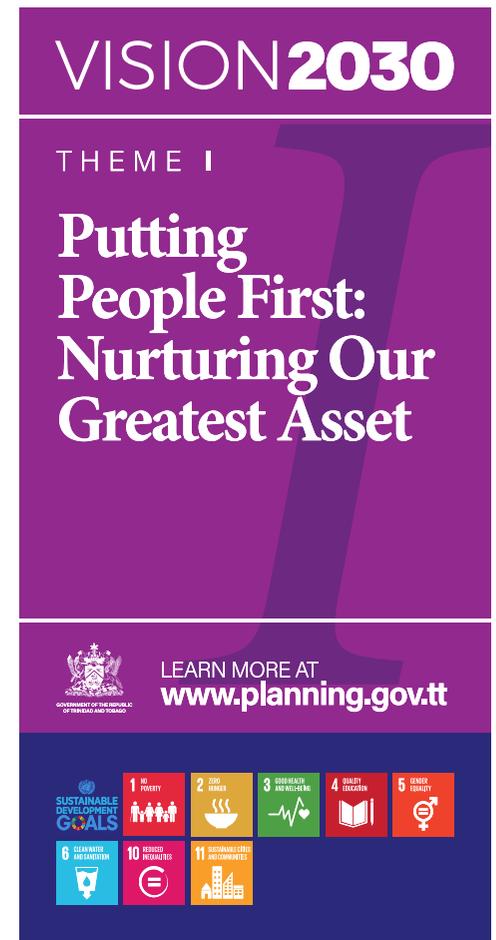


Figure 2: Theme I, Alignment of Vision 2030 and the SDGs

POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Additionally, newspaper series entitled “Vision 2030: A Call to Action”, were published in all three main, daily newspapers from June 2019 - January 2020. The articles highlighted key tenets of Vision 2030, including its links to the SDGs and national development, and featured the work of a number of government and non-government stakeholder organisations in advancing the achievement of both Vision 2030 and the 2030 Agenda. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago commits to maintaining these strategies in order to sustain national ownership of Vision 2030 and the SDGs going forward.

Incorporation of the SDGs into Development Planning Policies, Strategies and Frameworks

Government made a concerted effort to ensure the integration of the SDGs into the national planning, budgetary and development financing processes. Using Vision 2030, which is SDG-aligned at the thematic and goal levels, as the anchor, a policy decision was made to align all national and sector level policies to the relevant SDGs. Additionally, the Government reviewed all 17 SDGs and aligned them to the 56 short-, medium- and long-term national goals while developing Vision 2030.

This integrated approach means that achieving the Vision 2030 goals will simultaneously drive progress on the SDGs, while still maintaining the necessary focus on Trinidad and Tobago’s developmental needs. This approach was consistent with the option available to the UN Member States of utilising existing national development planning processes for the localisation of the SDGs rather than creating new, parallel structures.



Figure 3: Theme II, Alignment of Vision 2030 and the SDGs

Tobago’s Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (CEDP 2.0)

The CEDP 2.0, which spanned from 2013 – 2017, was the policy that focused on sustainable development in Tobago. The overarching goal of the CEDP 2.0 was the transformation and diversification of Tobago’s economy, in order to build resilience to rapid changes in the national and international landscape. The CEDP 2.0, Vision 2030 and the SDGs share fundamental principles, goals and objectives. Furthermore, collaboration with targeted stakeholders was pursued in an effort to mainstream the SDGs and the CEDP 2.0 in Tobago. The CEDP Secretariat led the coordination and oversight of the Plan’s implementation. The eight Strategic Priority Areas of the Plan were:

1. Branding Tobago Clean, Green, Safe and Serene
2. Good Governance and Institutional Reform
3. Development of Entrepreneurship
4. Human Capital Development
5. Social Development and Resilience
6. Physical Infrastructure and Utilities Development
7. Enhanced Safety and Security
8. Environmental Sustainability.

Following its expiration in 2017, a successor to the CEDP 2.0 that would guide achievement of the SDGs in Tobago is yet to be agreed.

United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) methodology, to evaluate the country’s level of preparedness for the implementation of the SDGs, was utilised to review policies and plans on the basis of how they incorporated the principles of (i) policy integration, and (ii) no one left behind. Trinidad and Tobago’s efforts to align Vision 2030 and the related development policy and planning frameworks to the SDGs were favourably evaluated by the Rapid Integrated Assessment conducted by a UN Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) Mission in 2017, with the results indicating that the Vision 2030, the NPF and sectoral policies are in alignment with 81 per cent of the relevant SDG targets.

Additional details on this alignment are illustrated in Figure 4. The assessment also provided a roadmap and key accelerators for enhancing the country's implementation of the SDGs over

the period 2020-2030. Cabinet's acceptance of the roadmap and its recommendations further emphasises Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to Agenda 2030.

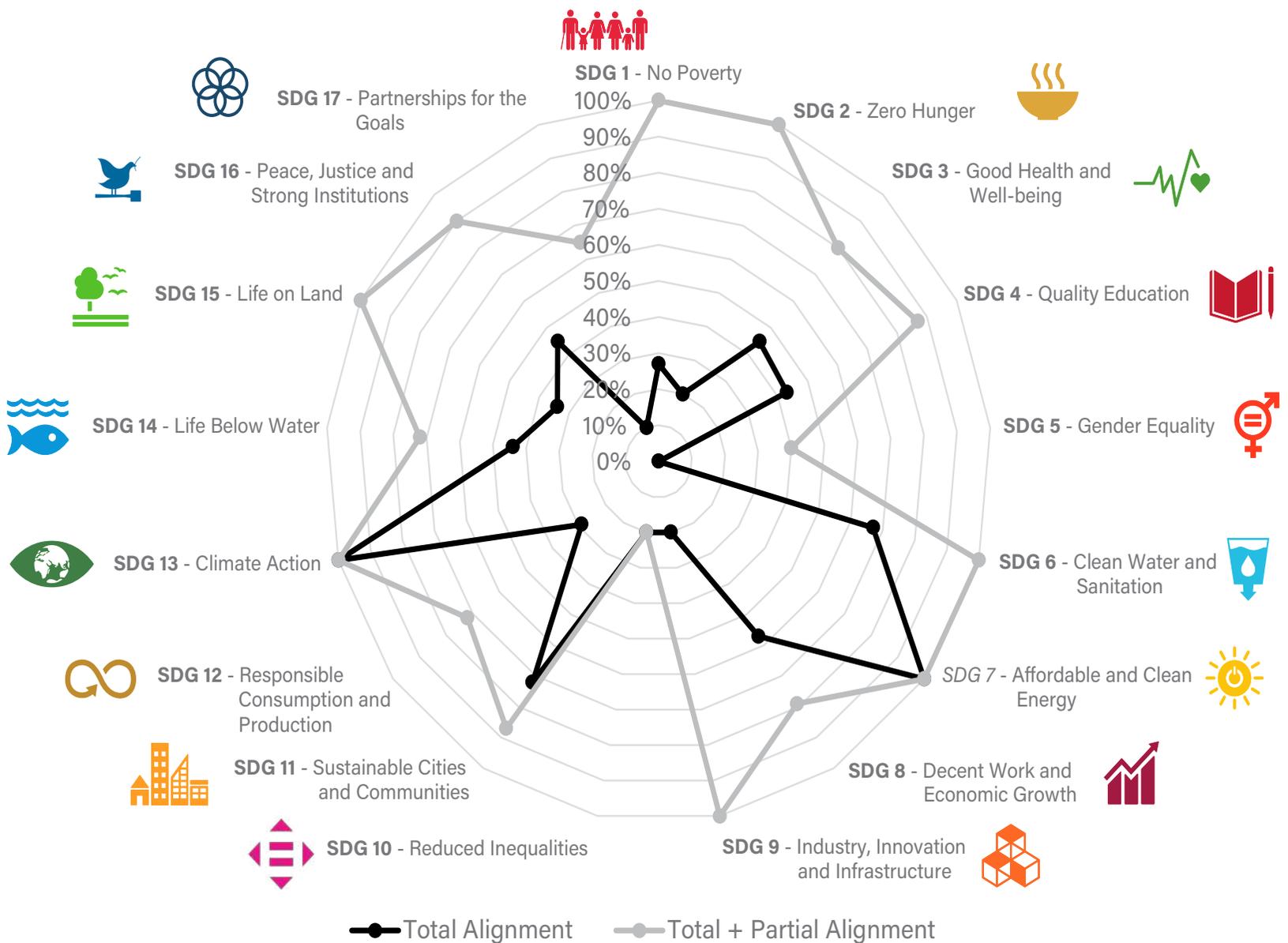


Figure 4: Alignment of planning Government's documents analysed with the SDGs
Source: Trinidad and Tobago Roadmap for SDG Implementation (2017)

POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Beyond the alignment of the Vision 2030 themes and goals to the SDGs, work continues on integrating SDG targets and indicators into performance frameworks, linked not only to Vision 2030 but also to Ministerial and Sector plans (Figure 5).

Notwithstanding alignment to the National Development Strategy and ministerial and sector plans with the SDG targets, some important gaps remain particularly around the areas of gender equality, reduction of inequality and partnerships. Key to closing the gaps, would be the implementation of specific priority policy measures to accelerate progress towards national development and the SDGs, in the current context of implementation constraints. The Roadmap proposed five accelerators to catalyse progress towards the national development objectives for each of the focus areas identified in Vision 2030 and the SDGs as follows:

- a) Improving the performance of the social protection system;
- b) Increasing access to justice;
- c) Greening infrastructure for sustainable development;
- d) Strengthening competitiveness and productivity for inclusive growth; and
- e) Establishing an integrated land and coastal management system.

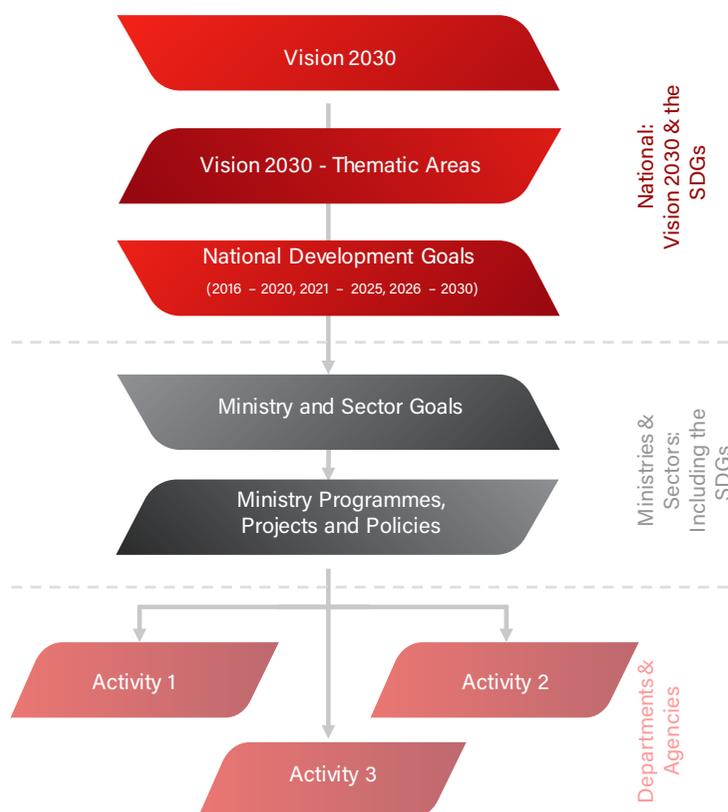


Figure 5: Integration of the SDGs into National, Ministerial and Sector Plans. Adapted from: Vision 2030



Incorporation of the SDGs into Budgetary, Financial and Investment Processes

Vision 2030 is a key starting point for the budget development and prioritisation process to facilitate priority investment in the SDGs. In this regard, the Government has taken steps to mainstream Vision 2030 and the SDGs into the public sector annual budgetary, financial and investment processes. The primary mechanism for achieving this, has been the formal requirement that Government Ministries, Statutory Bodies and State Agencies make every effort to ensure that programmes and projects proposed for funding are consistent with the five thematic areas of Vision 2030 and the SDGs. Consequently, funding priority is given to interventions that are strongly aligned to the country's development agenda, in an attempt to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in implementing Government's development objectives.

Further refinement of the budgetary submission requirements was made with the introduction of a Project Screening Brief (PSB) for new projects being considered for inclusion in the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP). In 2018, the Government implemented a revised PSB to (i) better align project proposals with national and sectoral policy objectives, including the SDGs; (ii) facilitate more rigorous appraisal and evaluation of projects and programmes and (iii) foster better decision-making and prioritisation of funding allocations. The revised PSB is expected to accelerate progress on the national development agenda. Also, the Government and donor partners, including the UN and its Agencies, continue to provide resources to strengthen Trinidad and Tobago's capacity to implement and monitor Vision 2030 and the SDGs.

Institutional Arrangements for SDG Implementation

Trinidad and Tobago's institutional arrangements for implementation of the SDGs are centred on the Ministry of Planning and Development's overarching role to set, coordinate and monitor the national development agenda, as the implementation of Vision 2030 and achievement of the SDGs redounds to all public sector entities. The Ministry is responsible for:

- Providing the strategic development framework and national policies that guide the direction of projects and programmes;
- Preparing and monitoring national public sector investment to ensure alignment to the strategic development objectives of the Government, continued development of the economy, efficiency in the use of resources and transparency in financial management; and
- Evaluating the impacts of projects and programmes in terms of benefits accrued, best practices learnt, and strengths and weaknesses in project design.

An International Development Cooperation Division is being established to manage the Government's International Development Policy and coordinate the Government's relationship with International Development Agencies, including UN agencies, development banks and other multilateral and bilateral entities.

The CSO, the national statistical agency, provides official national statistics that serve to measure the success of SDG implementation. Other government entities, such as the Ministries of Health and Education also provide some of the data required.

Integration of the three dimensions of Sustainable Development

Trinidad and Tobago has integrated the three dimensions of sustainable development through national policy, legislation, and project and programme development and selection.

Policy

The three dimensions of sustainable development have been incorporated into Vision 2030's thematic areas, as well as the associated national development goals.

Thematic Area I - Putting People First: Nurturing Our Greatest Asset, focuses primarily on the social dimension of sustainable development. This theme speaks to the centrality of citizens to the national development process and the importance of creating a more equitable and just society, in which everyone is allowed to contribute and to realise his or her full potential, consistent with SDGs 5, 10 and 16.

Thematic Area II - Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence, has strong linkages to the economic dimension of sustainable development, particularly SDGs 8 and 16. This thematic area is also critical to supporting all of the other themes of Vision 2030 and the SDGs.

Thematic Area III - Quality Infrastructure and Transportation and Thematic Area IV - Building Globally Competitive Businesses, both integrate all three dimensions of sustainable development, however, with greater emphasis on economic development. Thematic Area III, for example, posits that a prerequisite for social and economic advancement (SDGs 8 and 10) is the provision of adequate and safe transportation networks that include roads and mass transit systems by land, sea and air (SDG 9). It also speaks to the provision of sound infrastructure in an environmentally responsible manner. Thematic Area IV promotes the need to maintain economic stability, mainly by pursuing sound monetary and fiscal policy, promoting healthy trade and payments balances, and taking the steps necessary to contain inflationary pressures. It advocates for an increase in productivity and real growth, which can then be translated into higher wages originating from innovation and competition (SDG 8).

Thematic Area V - Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development emphasises the need to mainstream environmental considerations in all spheres of development, as well as all national and sectoral policies. This includes the use of renewable energy and other clean technologies (SDG 7), the impact of climate change (SDG 13), and environmental and resource protection (SDGs 14 and 15). The theme also highlights the environment's linkages to the health and wellbeing of citizens (SDG 3) and its roles as an essential source of the country's wealth (SDG 8).

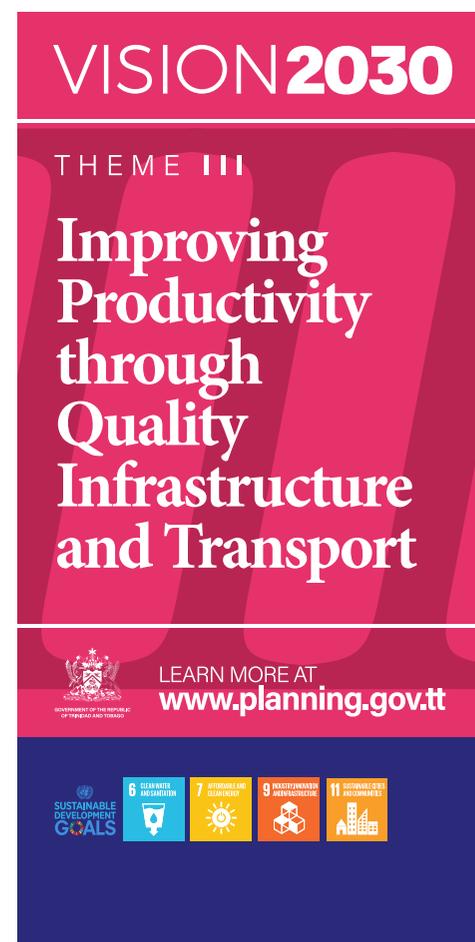


Figure 6: Theme III, Alignment of Vision 2030 and the SDGs

POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Legislation

All three dimensions of sustainable development are reflected in relevant pieces of legislation and legislative reviews. For example, amendments to the Education Act (SDG 4) following a national consultation and comprehensive review. In terms of the environment, Trinidad and Tobago embarked upon a comprehensive review of environmental policy, legislation and relevant standards. Specifically, the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) conducted stakeholder consultations as part of a two-year review and update of the National Environmental Policy (NEP 2006). The resulting NEP 2018, sets the framework for developing the requisite institutional capacity for effective environmental management in Trinidad and Tobago.

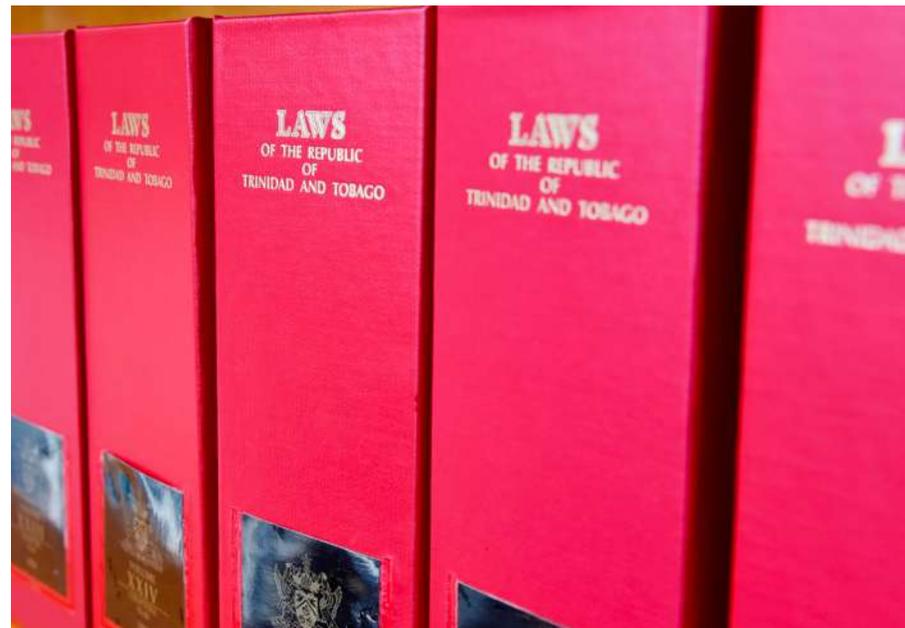
Project and Programme Development and Selection

The PSB mentioned earlier, has allowed for the generation and approval of Government projects and programmes that are better aligned to national and sectoral policies, including Vision 2030 and the SDGs. Further, the screening criteria for project feasibility consider the three dimensions of sustainable development. Alternative solutions to the problem being solved by the projects and programmes will be evaluated against the environmental, economic and social impacts of the interventions, as outlined below.

Alternative solutions to the problem being solved by the projects and programmes will be evaluated against the environmental, economic and social impacts of the interventions, as outlined below.

- Social Impact - What social consequences are likely to occur due to the project or programme? Does the project or programme impact areas such as health, gender, culture, community or quality of life?;
- Environmental Impact - Identify whether the project

Figure 7: Theme IV:
Alignment of Vision 2030 and the SDGs



Legislation and legislative reviews are one means of facilitating the acceleration of the goals to 2030.



Projects and programmes are being evaluated on their impact on areas such as health, gender, culture, community or quality of life.

or programme poses any potential risks to the environment and whether a Certificate of Environmental Clearance (CEC) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) are required. Consideration must also be given, wherever possible, to the employment of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP), which provides for action to be taken on reducing or avoiding greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (mitigation), as well as addressing and coping with adverse impacts of climate change (adaptation);

- Economic Impact - The approximate number of persons that may gain employment during implementation and the operational phase of the project or programme.

Leaving No One Behind

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognises that pursuit of the commitment to leave no one behind can take various forms, based on the realities of a country’s unique context. In Trinidad and Tobago, at present, focus is being placed on taking steps to reduce poverty, diminish inequalities, and catalyse progress for the most vulnerable people in society, currently identified as: the poor, women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, persons living with HIV/AIDS, ex-prisoners, deportees, and the socially displaced.



VISION 2030

THEME V

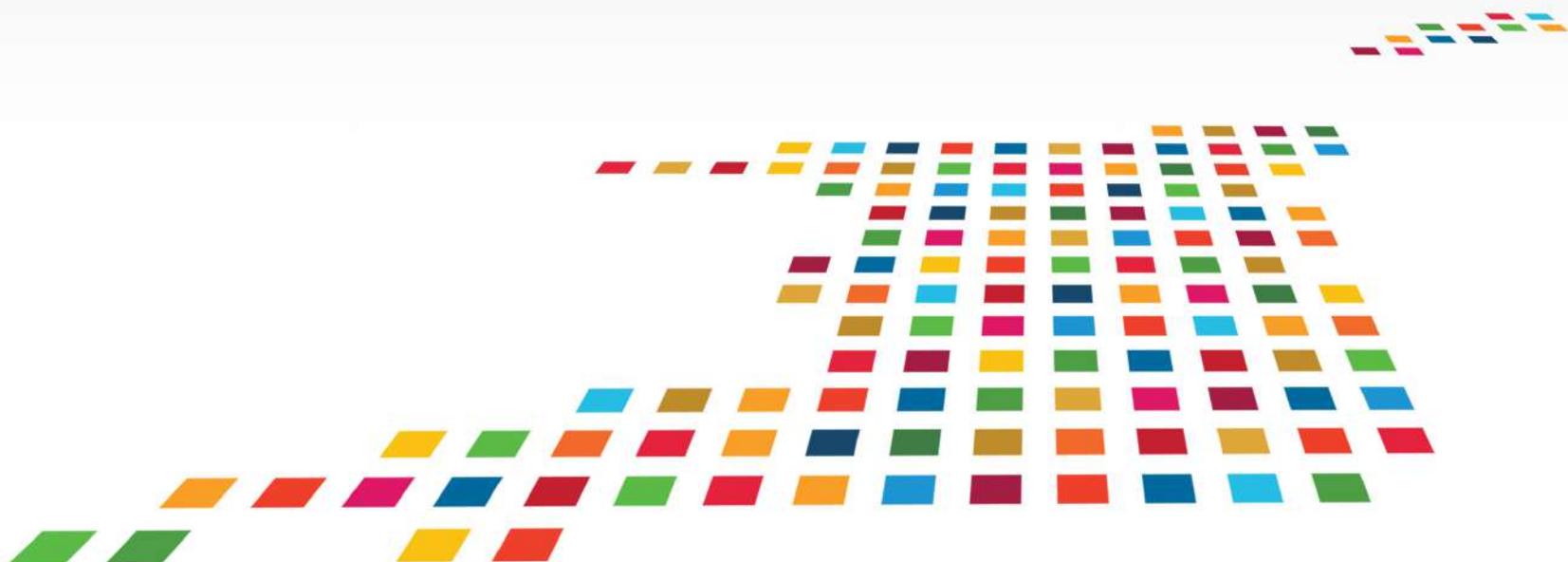
Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development

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Figure 8: Theme V: Alignment of Vision 2030 and the SDGs

6. PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

This Chapter describes Trinidad and Tobago's progress on the eight SDGs in the scope of this VNR. Additional information is provided in Appendix I – SDG data tables and the SDG Statistical Annex.





Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Planning and Development

We believe in and promote integrated national development within an economic, social, environmental and spatial framework.

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f t i s



Goal 3:
*Ensure healthy lives and
promote well-being for all
at all ages.*



The health and wellbeing of citizens of Trinidad and Tobago is of paramount importance and critical to national development. Key focus areas for the country have been the reduction of incidences of both Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and ensuring that the health sector is responsive to the health needs of all citizens.

To this end, in addition to focusing on meeting citizens' immediate healthcare needs, the Government has worked to modernise healthcare infrastructure, build capacity and capabilities in healthcare professionals, improve patient care and service delivery, and empower citizens to live healthy lifestyles.

Non-Communicable Diseases

To guide its efforts on NCDs, the Ministry of Health developed the National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (2017-2021). The plan is founded on the principles of prevention-focus, equity and inclusiveness. It is people-centred, evidence-based and results-driven. It outlines the response to NCDs and desired outcomes and targets for the period 2017-2021.



Government is putting people first and nurturing our greatest asset by ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being of everyone

GOAL 3

This Strategic Plan is of critical importance as NCDs account for over 60 per cent of annual deaths in Trinidad and Tobago, with the most common being cancers, cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes (see Figure 9). Seven out of ten NCD-related deaths in Trinidad and Tobago are considered to be premature, occurring before age 70. In addition, 40 per cent can be prevented as they share the same modifiable behavioural risk factors, including tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity (SDG 3.4).

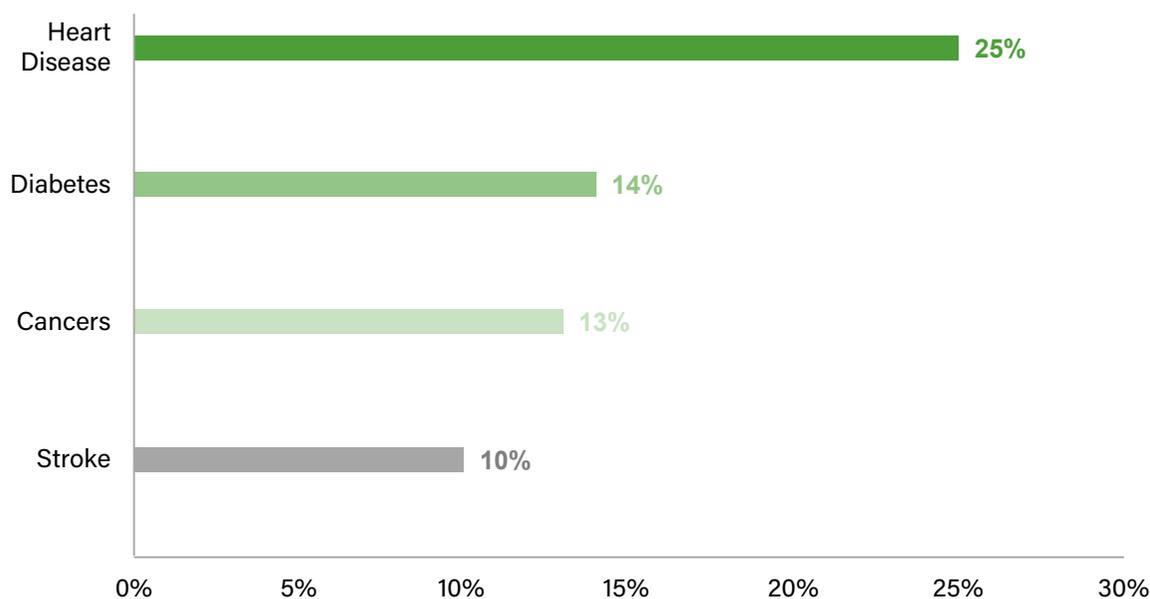


Figure 9: Leading causes of mortality in Trinidad and Tobago
Source: National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs (2017-2021)

Over the period 2015–2019 several national indicators showed mixed progress on NCDs. The NCD Mortality Rate increased from 525 per 100,000 persons in 2015, to 768.9 per 100,000 persons in 2018. The Diabetes Mortality Rate also increased, though less significantly, from 113.6 per 100,000 persons in 2015, to 122.4 per

100,000 persons in 2019. Good progress was made on the Cancer Mortality Rate, which fell from 128.8 per 100,000 persons in 2015, to per 100,000 persons in 2019 (SDG 3.4.1).

Leaving No One Behind

Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP) – Ministry of Health (SDG 3.b.1)

CDAP provides citizens with free prescription drugs and other pharmaceutical items to combat a range of health conditions. All citizens of Trinidad and Tobago are eligible to benefit from CDAP, with no age restrictions or exceptions. Over 2,750 pharmacies across the country provide access to the drugs available through CDAP. New prescription drugs are also added periodically. During 2018 and 2019 patients accessed the programme on more than 330,000 occasions.

In order to foster greater improvement and management of CDAP and to allow for possible cost savings and efficiency, the Government, during the fiscal year 2018/2019, implemented several improvements measures to the CDAP including;

1. The reduction of the CDAP dispensing fee paid to Pharmacies from \$10.00 to \$8.00 with effect from May 1st 2018 thereby, generating a cost savings of \$5Mn per year
2. The re-order cycle be reduced from 2 months to 1 month to increase distribution and reduce stock outs at pharmacies; and
3. The re-establishment of the CDAP Steering Committee to ensure greater accountability and value for money spent.

Some of the diseases covered by CDAP include, inter alia: Arthritis, Asthma, Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (Enlarged Prostate), Cardiac Diseases, Diabetes, Hypertension, Mental Depression and Parkinson's disease.

Sources: Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, Social Sector Investment Programme (2019 and 2020) and TTCConnect.

Communicable Diseases

Communicable or Infectious Diseases are those that can be spread directly or indirectly from one person to another, from insect bites or by ingesting contaminated food or water. Through Trinidad and Tobago’s immunisation programme, several communicable diseases have been addressed and significantly reduced. For example, immunisation coverage was 94 per cent in 2019, steadily moving toward the target of 97 per cent in 2020. Overall, the Communicable Disease Mortality Rate decreased from 32.4 per 100,000 persons in 2018, to 31.2 per 100,000 persons in 2019 (SDG 3.3).

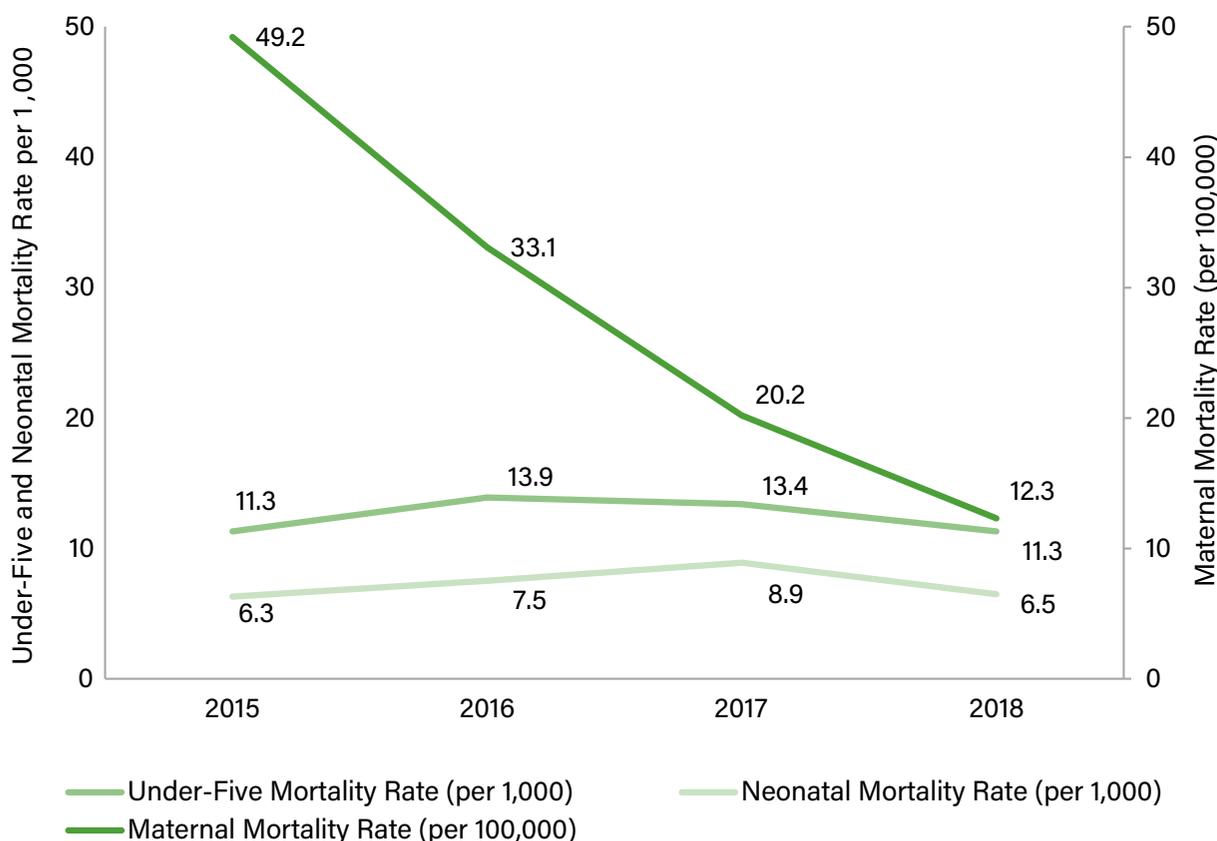
Nonetheless, communicable diseases such as, Insect Vector Diseases, HIV/AIDS, the seasonal flu and the Common Cold continue to affect the population. In the case of HIV/AIDS, the multi-sectoral National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) coordinates the national response, including awareness campaigns and free HIV testing. The impact of the work done is reflected in the country having an Adult HIV Prevalence Rate of only 1.1 per cent (SDG 3.3.1).

Strengthening Healthcare Infrastructure

Trinidad and Tobago has a two-tiered healthcare system, encompassing a free-of-charge public system, alongside services provided by private facilities. The public healthcare system offers primary, secondary and tertiary level care through a decentralised system of hospitals, health centres and district health facilities (SDG 3.8).

Significant achievements have also been seen in the area of women’s health, following the establishment of the Women’s Health Directorate within the Ministry of Health, in 2017. This body is charged with the responsibility of implementing policies that specifically target and bring about improvements to women’s healthcare. Since its establishment, the Ministry of Health has worked with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to implement a Perinatal Information System, to improve evidence-informed clinical decision-making, and programme development for maternal and new-born health services.

These interventions played a key role as the Maternal Mortality Rate in public institutions fell dramatically from 49.2 per 100,000



in 2015, to 12.3 per 100,000 in 2018, well below the target of 70 per 100,000 live births, set out in SDG 3.1. Unfortunately, from 2015 to 2017, the Neonatal Mortality Rate increased, however there was a subsequent improvement during 2017–2018 (SDG 3.2). The Under-Five Mortality Rate marginally declined but remained at a steady rate of 11.3 during the same period (see Figure 10).

Figure 10: Maternal, Under-Five and Neonatal Mortality Rates (2015–2018)
Source: Ministry of Health

GOAL 3

Civil Society Interventions

Giving every woman access to a safe, respectful and natural childbirth experience – Mamatoto Resource and Birth Centre (SDG 3.2)

Mamatoto Resource and Birth Centre is a community-based, accessible, equitable and innovative childbirth centre that offers family-centred, and individualised care to women and their families. Its services include comprehensive counselling, education, and support during pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period. It has been recognised locally for its work, including advocating for healthy birthing alternatives, provision of education to the public, and healthcare professionals, and collaboration with other community groups around women and childbirth issues.

Source: Mamatoto Resource and Birth Centre

Empowering Citizens to Live Healthy Lifestyles

Stakeholders across Trinidad and Tobago have sought to empower and encourage citizens to lead healthier lifestyles by introducing programmes, facilities, products and services, geared towards healthy eating, diet and exercise. These efforts include the development and refurbishment of community playgrounds, indoor and outdoor sporting facilities, and swimming pools. In 2017, Government worked in collaboration with the private sector and other stakeholders to implement a ban on the sale of sugary drinks in public schools. Despite the above efforts, Trinidad and Tobago's Obesity Rate increased from 25.7 per cent to 27.4 per cent over the period 2015-2019.

The Government continues to run a health and wellness sensitisation project - *Your Wellness is Our Wellness* – to raise awareness and disseminate information on mental health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, drug and alcohol abuse, and other risky behaviours. The objective of this programme is to enable young people to serve as active change agents towards promoting youth health and wellbeing, and to emphasise the importance and benefits of living a healthy lifestyle. To date, almost 1,000 youths have benefitted from the programme.

Leaving No One Behind

Making Healthcare available to Non-Nationals – Ministry of Health

The Government is cognisant of the medical needs of non-nationals, a vulnerable group that has grown in recent years, mainly as a result of the influx of immigrants from Venezuela and other neighbouring countries. The Government has developed a Policy for Treating with Non-Nationals with respect to the Provision of Public Healthcare. These include:

- Emergency medical services including: initial treatment, stabilisation and discharge for acute medical conditions such as accidents, injuries, asthma, heart attacks, stroke, diabetic coma; and relevant diagnostics for acute care.
- All Population and Public Health Services, including immunisation and treatment of communicable diseases, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), and other high-risk infectious diseases.

Source: Ministry of Health

Challenges

Trinidad and Tobago continues to face challenges in implementing SDG 3 and the health-related targets of Vision 2030. These include a growing demand for healthcare services as a result of a growing population and recent increase in immigration. The country requires additional, fully trained healthcare professionals in specialist areas and additional modern facilities. In particular, the shortage of resources and expertise impacts on the healthcare system's ability to serve, for example, persons in rural communities, and those with disabilities. Further, the COVID-19 pandemic also tested the healthcare system's ability to scale up its service in response to emergencies. Consequently, work on new healthcare facilities has been accelerated to ensure sufficient capacity is available.

The availability and sharing of data, including historic trend data covering five- to ten-year periods also pose a challenge. This can be attributed to, the lack of data collation and analysis processes, a paucity of locally relevant, peer-reviewed, policy-related research, and the absence of national communicable disease and NCD surveillance systems. However, the Government is cognisant of these challenges faced by the health sector and is working assiduously towards improving the availability and access to health data.

Goal 4:
*Ensure inclusive and
equitable quality education
and promote lifelong learning
opportunities for all.*



GOAL 4

Trinidad and Tobago recognises the immeasurable role that education plays in ensuring future prosperity and economic growth. Therefore, both primary and secondary education are compulsory and free access to public schools is available to girls and boys (SDG 4.1). Vision 2030 highlights the need for 'a modern, relevant and accessible education and training system' which requires the support of all stakeholders. This provides access for all citizens to education, while ensuring the curriculum keeps pace with improvements in technology, and meets the needs of the changing world of work.

Over the period 2015–2019, numerous initiatives were implemented to improve Trinidad and Tobago's education and training system. The Education Policy Paper 2017–2022 guides the Ministry of Education's efforts to advance educational development and mitigate the education system's challenges. The Education Policy provides strategic direction to projects and programmes, together with action plans for the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Primary, Secondary, Technical and Vocational, and Tertiary sub-sectors. Three areas of focus for the policy are:

- Effective governance and administration of the education system;
- Access to educational opportunities by all learners; and
- Quality education provided at all levels.

Effective Governance and Administration

The Government launched several initiatives to improve the administration and governance of the education and training system. These encompass amendments to the Education Act, and leadership training programmes for school Principals, Vice Principals and School Supervisors. Further, the implementation of management systems to improve education outcomes included:

- **School Learning Management System (SLMS):** The SLMS is a holistic online platform to manage schools and students. It allows the Ministry of Education to document, track, grade, report and deliver electronic learning to students.
- **School-Based Management/School Development Plan:** This entails the institutionalisation of School-Based Management Standards and school development/improvement planning, as a means of empowering, re-culturing and restructuring schools, to facilitate student achievement and well-being. By 2019, all primary and secondary schools had begun to implement their own School Development Plans.

Access to Educational Opportunities for All Learners

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has taken a number of steps to provide adequate funding and financial support to underprivileged students, to meet the needs of the full spectrum of learners, and provide a safe, secure and conducive learning environment for all. Examples of the students targeted and the respective initiatives include:

Students with learning disabilities: The Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Initiative identifies students with ADHD and ensures their unique needs are met. By 2019, assessments were completed in 238 schools and 76 Student Aides were assigned to diagnose students. Government also continues to provide screening for children entering public Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), to ensure early identification and intervention.

Students and families in need of financial assistance: Apart from the Government, numerous private sector and civil society organisations, along with members of the public, regularly provide financial assistance to students and their families who are in need. By 2019, more than 125,000 students and their families benefitted from Government programmes. Additionally, over 1,500 persons benefitted from the annual scholarship programme from 2015–2018.

Ex-prisoners: The national education system caters for all citizens, including prison inmates. The Government's Rehabilitating Inmates Through Training and Retraining (RITTR) project provides participants with the opportunity to become trained and certified, thus increasing the likelihood of their successful reintegration into society and reducing recidivism. In fiscal 2019, 90 trainees, including three women, enrolled in the programme (Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, 2020). The Cipriani College of Labour and Cooperative Studies (CCLCS) has also partnered with the Prisons Service in providing scholarship opportunities, as part of the effort to support rehabilitation of those inmates who are inclined to make positive changes.

Vocational students: The Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI) is an example of a vocational school established and managed by the Government. The Institute's training programmes include maritime, fisheries and seafood technology courses, which play an important role in supporting local fishing communities. However, the CFTDI faces challenges such as low attendance from fisherfolk in remote and rural communities, together with low literacy and numeracy rates.

E-Learning Platforms

The integration of technology into the education system has been catalysed by COVID-19 since schools nationally have shifted to online learning almost overnight. Moreover, to enable the education system to adapt to the rapidly changing world, the country is developing standardised strategies to transition students from early childhood education, through to tertiary education and the world of work.

Leaving No One Behind

Private Sector Interventions - Atlantic LNG's Point Fortin's Finest Scholarship Programme (SDG 4.b)

Education is one of the focus areas of Atlantic LNG's community investment activities. The programme was established in 2000 to provide scholarships to the top ten students graduating from primary schools in Point Fortin-Atlantic LNG's home community in south-west Trinidad. The students selected were the highest scoring in the Secondary Entrance Assessment examination.

Over the years, many of the scholarship winners came from poor, rural families who experienced difficulty in covering education expenses. In 2018, Atlantic LNG invested over US\$200,000 to further support education initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago which impacted over 9,000 students.

Source: Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago

Quality Education Provided at All Levels

Providing quality education, at all levels, requires effective curriculum planning and delivery, and improved teacher training, to ensure that programmes equip students with 21st-century skills. This is being achieved through initiatives such as:

National Literacy Plan (2016-2020): The Government's National Literacy Plan targets improvement in students' literacy levels across primary and secondary schools. During fiscal 2019, Oral Reading Fluency exercises were conducted at 104 primary schools and engaged 10,940 students. Going forward, the Literacy Project Plan (2019-2022), will build on and replace the National Literacy Plan, to drive improvement in students' attainment of minimum literacy and numeracy proficiency levels (SDG 4.6) (See Figure 11).

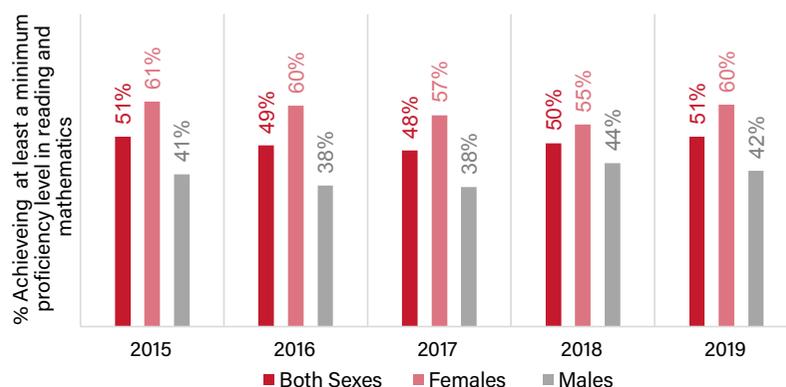


Figure 11: Proportion of children at the end of lower secondary school achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics
Source: Ministry of Education

Leaving No One Behind

Civil Society Interventions-Tobago Institute of Literacy (SDG 4.6)

The Tobago Institute of Literacy has been providing learning support to vulnerable groups in Tobago for the last 25 years. Annually, its Literacy Programme targets up to 500 young persons and adults with basic, intermediate and advanced levels of literacy. All levels of the programme focus on at-risk groups, such as young people who are not functionally literate, and therefore are vulnerable of being left behind, with respect to education and employment. The Institute has also conducted over 500 assessments of students' literacy levels, in collaboration with a number of high schools in Tobago.

Source: Tobago Institute of Literacy

Let's Read

Let's Read is a literacy-focused organisation based in Trinidad. Its mission is to promote literacy in primary schools by encouraging the love of reading, through partnerships with schools, to create functioning school libraries with access to high-quality books. By early 2020, with support from the Government, Let's Read had partnered with 28 primary schools to establish libraries and provide ongoing support. Furthermore, numerous teachers were trained in library skills and library management. As a result, thousands of children now experience to the joy of reading.

Source: : Let's Read

GOAL 4

Student Transition and Remediation Support Project: This project identifies vulnerable students and proactively addresses threats to their development and ability to transition from primary to secondary school. Over the period 2018-2019, a series of assessments were conducted for 1,244 students, who are now receiving additional learning support.

Military-Led Academic Training Programme: This two-year, full time residential programme was designed for young men between 16-20 years of age. It gives them the opportunity to fulfil the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and the Caribbean Certificate of Secondary Level Competence (CCSLC), and bridges the gap for those who may wish to pursue academic disciplines, as well as transform their social behaviours in a highly structured and regulated environment.

Coding Fundamentals for Secondary Schools Programme: The Government, along with a communications solutions provider, partnered to administer the Coding Fundamentals for Secondary Schools Programme. The programme assists pupils, developers, Information Technology professionals, entrepreneurs, start-ups and academic researchers to develop the skills to create innovative software solutions. The first edition of the programme, in 2018, involved 20 secondary schools and over 400 students. The second edition involves 26 secondary schools and aims to double the number of students trained (SDG 4.4).

On-the-Job Training Programme (OJT): The OJT Programme is a pre-employment programme which offers nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, ages 16–35 years, an induction into the world of work. The Programme focuses on developing practical occupational skills in either the public or private sectors. Figure 12 illustrates the number of OJT trainees by gender, for the period 2015-March 2020 (SDG 4.3; 4.4) (Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, Social Sector Investment Programme 2015-2020).

Challenges

Although Trinidad and Tobago has largely invested in the area of education over the years, the country still faces challenges in relation to education and lifelong learning. The most prominent of these challenges, is ensuring sufficient teachers and staff are available, at all levels, particularly in Special Education. Additionally, there exists the issue within the education system of effectively adapting education and learning to the future of work and 21st-century skills. This includes greater integration of information and communications technology (ICT) and technological innovations throughout the education system.

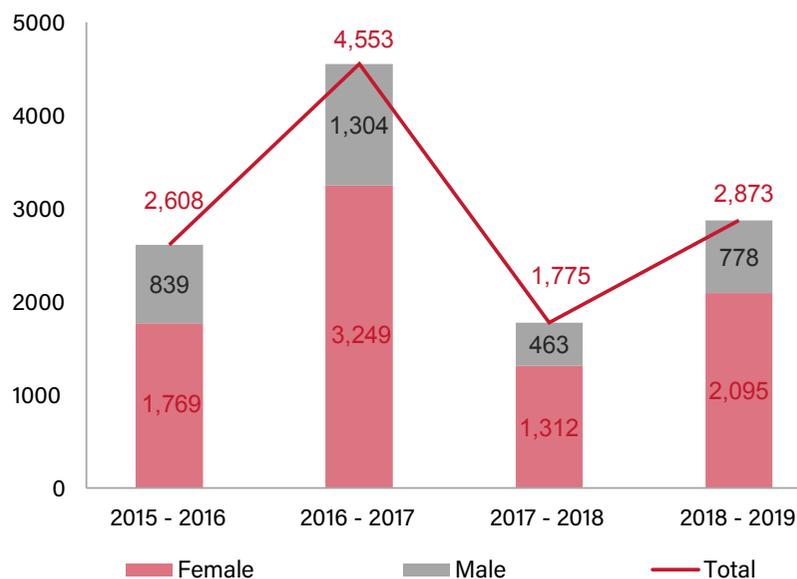


Figure 12: OJT Trainees by year and gender
Source: *On the Job Training Programme, Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development*

Post COVID-19, online education has become the norm and while there may still be access challenges with respect to persons without technology, it can improve access to lifelong learners, persons in more rural communities and persons with specific physical disabilities.

Social issues such as poverty, crime, and drug and alcohol abuse, continue to impact on young learners and their families, thus minimising their chances of obtaining a quality education. However, the Government is committed to its ongoing implementation of social policies and programmes that are targeted towards addressing these issues.

Goal 5:
*Achieve gender equality
and empower all women
and girls*



GOAL 5

Trinidad and Tobago sees gender as a cross-cutting issue and is committed to building a nation that is free of gender discrimination particularly toward women and girls. The Government promotes the full participation of women, men, girls and boys in society by involving the public and private sectors and civil society as agents of development.



Empowering women and girls drives the goal of 'leaving no one behind.'

Leaving No One Behind

Private Sector Interventions: Girls First - First Citizens Bank

The First Citizens Bank (FCB) of Trinidad and Tobago has invested heavily in empowering the women and girls of Trinidad and Tobago to fulfil their potential at home, at work, and in wider society. For the last seven years, FCB has hosted an annual women's conference across the Caribbean, with the aim of inspiring, motivating and teaching women to live a more purpose-driven life. In recent years, FCB has created a healthy space for conversations on domestic violence, and gender messaging in popular culture.

In 2017, FCB launched the Girls First Festival Series, targeting issues faced by adolescent females.

Source: *First Citizens Bank, Corporate Social Responsibility*

The Government is tasked with mainstreaming the equitable advancement of women, men, girls and boys in all areas of national development, and ensuring the protection, development and participation of all children in preparation for meaningful adult life. However, a measure of discrimination and gender stereotyping still persists in some laws, traditions, customs and religious practices in Trinidad and Tobago.

The National Policy on Gender and Development was developed to eliminate such barriers and advance measures to promote

gender equality. It is consistent with the Government's obligations under international instruments including, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Conference on Population Development Plan of Action, and the Beijing Platform for Action. The following sections outline key objectives of the Policy, examples of how they are being implemented and aligned to the SDGs.

Leaving No One Behind

Civil Society Interventions: Women of Substance

Registered in 2017, the Women of Substance NGO aims to provide support to survivors of domestic abuse in Tobago. The organisation's education and awareness programmes in secondary schools is two-fold. Firstly, it targets boys and young men and provides them with information on the dangers of domestic violence. Secondly, the Secondary Schools Girl's symposium aims to empower girls and create awareness on domestic violence. The provision of a women's shelter and livelihood skills training for survivors are two future activities of the organisation.

Source: *Women of Substance*

Incorporate Gender and Development Measures in all Policies, Programmes and Projects

Gender Focal Points have been established across all Government and public sector activities to advance the consideration of gender-related issues. These Focal Points play an important role in ensuring a supportive policy environment, and the creation of innovative and integrated approaches to closing gender gaps. Critically, the National Policy on Gender and Development also includes measures on the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting and gender audits in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national budgetary process. These measures help to ensure equitable allocation of financial and human resources to address gender imbalances in all sectors, and at all levels (5.c.1).

One example of a gender-focused programme is the Pink Reign Programme, which was launched in 2019 to facilitate the development of women and girls, and to raise awareness about the opportunities and benefits associated with participation in sports and physical activities.

Strengthen Institutional Capacity to Reduce Gender Vulnerabilities

The Government intends to conduct Trinidad and Tobago's sixth Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), to collect high-quality, internationally comparable data on the situation of women, children, adolescents, and households. The MICS is the largest source of household survey data of its kind, covering a wide range of topics on women and children. The disaggregated data collected by the MICS, will identify inequities and disparities that will enable evidence-based policy-making, aimed at social inclusion. This data will also help monitor Trinidad and Tobago's progress in achieving the SDGs and Vision 2030.

Foster Networking and Collaboration to Advance Gender Equality

To foster an atmosphere of collaboration and ensure the optimum outcome, the National Policy on Gender and Development was developed following extensive stakeholder consultation, research and analysis. This process brought together organisations and individuals from Government, civil society and the private sector.

In terms of on-the-ground activity, the Government has localised the Barbershop concept promoted by UN HeForShe, a solidarity campaign for the advancement of gender equality. The programme brings together males aged 14 years and older, from within a given community, to discuss, deconstruct and positively reconstruct issues affecting men. Topics include male/female relationships, attitudes and stereotypes, masculinity, male responsibility to family and community, and domestic violence. Similar sessions and training workshops have been conducted with the TTPS.

Civil Society Interventions

The Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women

The Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women is a national umbrella organisation, comprised of approximately 100 affiliates, that facilitates social transformations by focusing on activities that improve the lives of women and their families. The Network aims to restructure existing gender imbalances, towards more equitable gender relations. One of the Network's key activities is the Trinidad and Tobago Institute for Women in Leadership. The Institute's mission is to advance women's leadership for social change, by empowering women to serve in appointed and elected public positions, as well as developing leadership skills for the private sector and civil society.

Source: Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women

Legislative Review and Reform

To date, the most overt forms of discrimination against women have, to a large extent, been eliminated from the law. Reforms aimed at the advancement of women have resulted in significant legislative changes, over the last three decades, in areas such as property rights, divorce, custody of children, sexual offences, domestic violence, cohabitational relationships, and maternity protection (SDG 5.a; 5.c). Examples of achievements in the areas of legislation and policy include:

- The Children's Authority Act, 2000, and formation of the Children's Authority, the National Children's Registry and the Child Protection Unit;
- The Children Act, 2012, which relates to the protection of children, puts into effect several of Trinidad and Tobago's obligations under the Convention of the Rights of the Child;
- In 2012, the Maternity Protection Act was amended to extend maternity leave to 14 weeks;
- The Family and Children Division Act, 2016, created a new Division of the High Court called the Family and Children Division, with authority over all family and children matters;
- The abolition of child marriage through the Miscellaneous Provisions (Marriage) Act, 2017 (SDG 5.3);
- The National Workplace Policy on Sexual Harassment, 2019 (SDG 5.2);
- In early 2020, the National Child Policy was laid in Parliament as a Green Paper in early 2020. The Policy's vision is for all children to be happy, healthy and confident that their rights are respected, protected and promoted to facilitate their holistic development; and
- Ongoing Amendments to the Domestic Violence Act (ongoing) (SDG 5.2).

With respect to the review of all labour legislation, the Government has made a concerted effort to ensure that the language used in revised and new legislation is gender neutral. In addition, through the labour legislation reform project, the Employment Standards Bill is being developed. This Bill will establish minimum standards for workers, thereby creating the framework for equal treatment of genders.

According to a study in the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2020, that tracked how the law affects women, Trinidad and Tobago was ranked 114th out of 190 countries. Although

GOAL 5

significant legislative and policy changes have been achieved in the promotion of gender equality, Trinidad and Tobago is still faced with challenges as it relates to the legislative agenda and its impact on women. However, the Government is committed to addressing these barriers and promoting gender equality throughout all facets of society.

Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Gender-Based Violence

Physical, sexual and psychological abuse inflicted upon women and girls, as well as men and boys, cuts across class, ethnicity, age, and cultural divides. The resultant fear and insecurity constrain survivors' participation in society and the social stigma, associated with gender-based violence (GBV), remains a problem in Trinidad and Tobago.

Despite the Government's efforts to tackle GBV, reports of domestic violence remain high with a slight upward trend in the incidence of sexual violence against women and girls (See Figure 13). Other forms of GBV such as child sexual abuse, rape, sexual harassment, forced prostitution, human trafficking and incest persist, and are believed to be under-reported. Adequate disaggregated data are not available to demonstrate the true extent to which GBV affects the population (Office of the Prime Minister, 2018).

The National Policy on Gender and Development seeks to create an expanded, coordinated approach to addressing GBV. Trinidad and Tobago's efforts in these areas continue, as evidenced by the launch of the Central Registry on Domestic Violence in 2016; the development of a National Workplace Policy on Sexual Harassment in 2019; the existence of the Victims and Witnesses Support Unit; the Gender Based Violence Unit in the TTPS; and the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-SAVE). Many women's shelters and safe houses have also been renovated, as a result of interventions from the Government, civil society and the private sector (SDG 5.2).

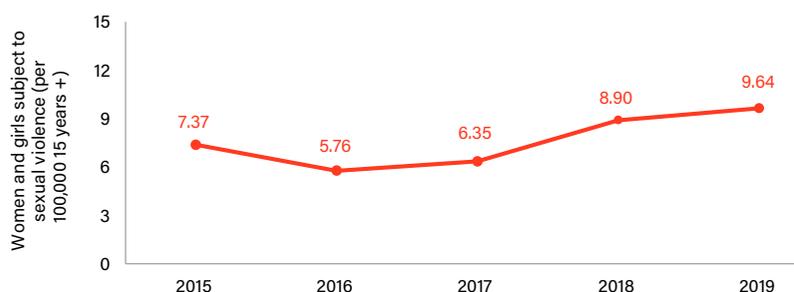


Figure 13: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence

Source: Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Crime and Problem Analysis Branch

Leaving No One Behind

Civil Society Interventions: Empowering Survivors of Domestic Violence – Conflict Women

Founded in 2014, Conflict Women is a social enterprise that helps survivors of sexual and domestic abuse rebuild their lives through entrepreneurship.

Specifically, it helps women achieve financial independence by providing free training in jewellery-making and business development, thus enabling them to start their own businesses. To date, Conflict Women has trained over 70 women, 25 of whom now earn a regular monthly income with their handcrafted jewellery.

In 2018, Conflict Women launched MULTIPLY, a micro-finance loan programme, with the support of the British High Commission of Trinidad and Tobago. MULTIPLY provides executive coaching and access to capital for survivors' businesses in Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Source: Conflict Women

Challenges

The Government is cognisant of the need to improve collaboration and information-sharing amongst stakeholders, and to increase technology utilisation to support detection and service delivery.

Also, the lack of evidence-based research on gender equality and GBV, and a lack of disaggregated data on instances of gender-based violence, continue to pose data challenges in the country. Moreover, the availability of sufficiently trained personnel, particularly in the area of monitoring and evaluation, needs to be bolstered, along with greater allocation of financial resources to address gender issues.

To this end, Trinidad and Tobago's National Policy on Gender and Development seeks to address these gender-based issues, through the implementation of a coordinated approach.

Goal 8:
*Promote sustained,
inclusive and sustainable
economic growth, full and
productive employment
and decent work for all*



GOAL 8



Providing decent work for all contributes to sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Given the sluggish global economic growth over the last decade and its consequential negative impact on the local economy, Government recognised the need to modify the country's economic model.

This would facilitate the maximisation of benefits from oil and gas resources, while simultaneously creating a more diversified and sustainable economy. This has been well documented in Government's economic statements and country strategy documents.

Economic Performance

Until the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Trinidad and Tobago's economy had made steady progress following the collapse of global oil prices in 2014-2015. This was largely due to the Government's macro-economic adjustments and reforms, and the support of a vibrant private sector. The recent GDP growth trend indicated a stabilising domestic economy. The growth rate for annual per capita GDP for 2018 was -0.2 per cent; a significant improvement following contractions of -6.7 per cent and -2.4 per cent in 2016 and 2017, respectively (See Table 5). The Ministry of Finance is estimating a contraction of 0.5 per cent in real growth due to the underperformance of the energy sector in the second half of 2019.

Table 5: Economic Indicators 2015-2018

| Economic Indicators | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP* Per Capita (%) | 1.8% | -6.7% | -2.4% | -0.2% |
| Debt to GDP (%) | 46.6% | 57.8% | 61.8% | 60.1% |

Sources: GDP (2015 -2018) - Central Statistical Office; GDP (2019) and Debt to GDP - Ministry of Finance, Review of the Economy 2019

The Government has responded to substantial reductions in revenue by decreasing expenditure, which peaked in 2014 at TT\$61.94 billion. From this time, however, revenues began to decrease as a result of a collapse in oil and gas prices and declining local production. This decline in revenues continued until 2017, to a low of TT\$36.2 billion. Revenues for 2019 were expected to reach TT\$47.4 billion (Figure 14). Faced with this reality, Government reduced expenditure by 19.3 per cent from 2014 to 2019 (Ministry of Finance, 2019), through the curtailment of unproductive spending and continual improvement in public sector efficiency.

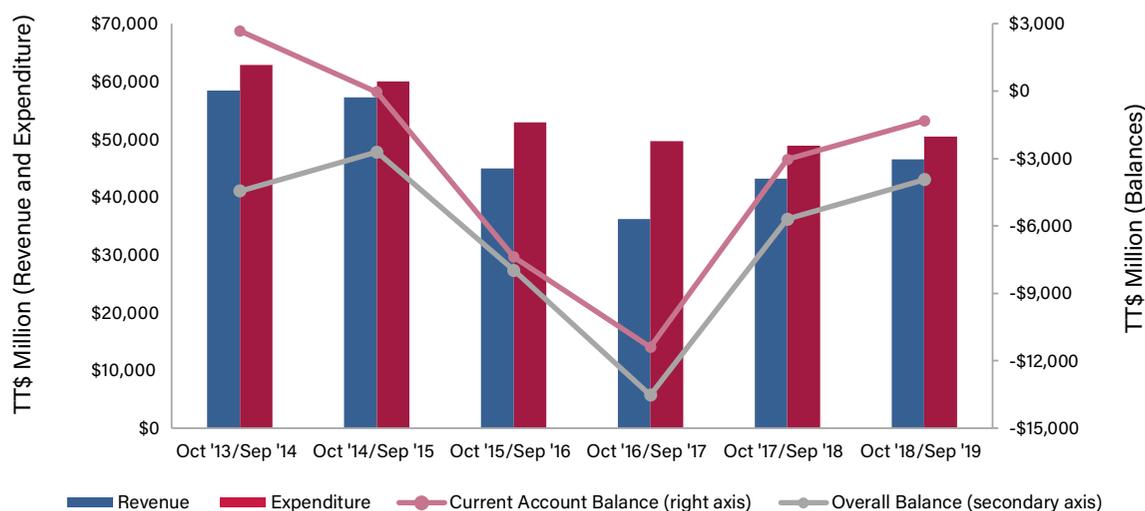


Figure 14: Central Government fiscal operations
Source: Ministry of Finance, Review of the Economy 2020

The following are examples of key macroeconomic achievements over the period 2015–2020 (Ministry of Finance, 2020):

- A long period of exchange rate stability as well as stable, low-interest rates, with regular injections of foreign exchange through the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, which facilitated private sector investment, development and growth;
- Stabilisation of public sector debt levels within internationally recognised benchmarks, though these levels have risen since 2015;
- Recovery in the current account of the balance of payments, from a deficit in 2016 to surpluses in 2017 and 2018, and an expected surplus for 2019;
- Increase in the value of the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund (HSF), despite three withdrawals to support the economic adjustment programme;
- Maintenance of significant financial buffers, with the country's foreign reserves and assets in the HSF at US\$13.25 billion, at the end of September 2019;
- Expansion of private sector credit, from TT\$51.99 billion, in September 2015 to TT\$59.57 billion in September 2018 - an increase of almost 15 per cent;
- Rally of the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange, which posted a substantial improvement over the financial year ending September 2019. The Composite Price Index increased by 14.9 per cent, while the total stock market capitalisation gained 14.8 per cent ;
- Control of headline inflation, which reached 0.9 per cent in 2018 - its lowest level since 1964 - down from 1.9 per cent in 2017. Headline inflation stood at 0.5 per cent in February 2020; and

- Productivity increased by 6.3 per cent in fiscal 2018, from 1.8 per cent in fiscal 2017. From January to March 2019, productivity expanded by 7.0 per cent.

Full and Productive Employment

Over the last five years, Trinidad and Tobago's unemployment rate has remained low (See Figure 15), helping to maintain socio-economic stability and inclusiveness.

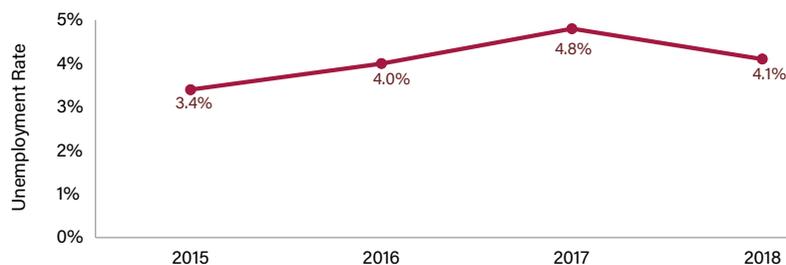


Figure 15: National Unemployment Rate
Note: 2018 unemployment data for Q1 - Q3 only

In addition to job creation, contraction of the labour force has been a factor in keeping rates at these low levels. Over the period 2015–2018, there was a marked gender difference in labour force participation, with male participation consistently about 20 percentage points higher than female, as illustrated in Figure 16 (SDG 8.5) (Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, Multiple years).

As further seen in Figure 17, the proportion of youths aged 15–24 not in education or employment as of 2017 is 60 per cent, which highlights the challenges for young people to secure jobs, with young women particularly affected (SDG 8.6).

GOAL 8

Leaving No One Behind

Youth Development - Division of Community Development, Enterprise Development and Labour (SDG 8.3)

The Tobago House of Assembly's Division of Community Development, Enterprise and Labour, works to transform the quality of lives of all Tobagonians by mobilising and empowering communities and promoting culture for the benefit of society. The Division collaborates with community-based groups and other stakeholders in its outreach projects, many of which focus on employment and entrepreneurship for young people. These include:

- An Entrepreneurship Training Programme, in collaboration with the Division of Finance, provides training and support for young persons, and access to grants of TT\$25,000 and loans of up to TT\$250,000 for young entrepreneurs.
- The 'Y-Zone' Programme provides access to computer training and other computer services for young persons, who would not be able to access this technology in their homes.
 - The Multi-faceted Assertive, Caring, Healthy, Outstanding (MACHO) Programme targets young men and boys through a 'street theatre' approach. This Programme also covers men's health through the provision of health screenings, as well as literacy support where needed.

source: THA Division of Community Development

The Government has implemented the Junior Co-operative Enterprise Programme (JCEP) which targets young persons in secondary schools and introduces them to the Co-operative Business model and entrepreneurial principles. Globally, Co-operatives are viewed as vehicles of socio-economic and national development, because they provide an avenue for economically vulnerable persons to pool resources and skills, to achieve a common goal.

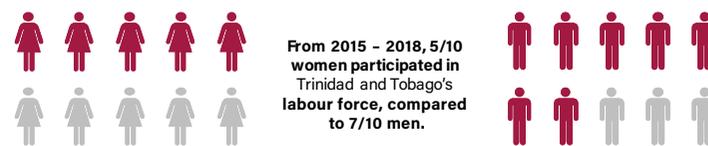


Figure 16: Labour force participation by gender 2015-2018

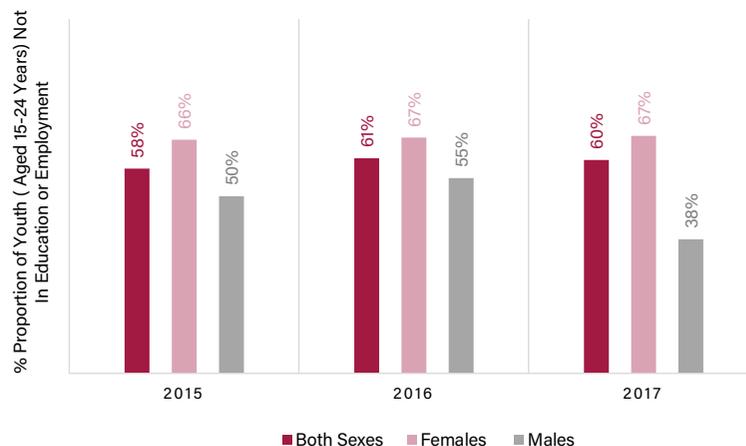


Figure 17: Proportion of youth aged 15-24 not in education or employment

source: Continuous Sample Survey of Population, CSO

Economic Diversification

For many years, Trinidad and Tobago has pursued the enhancement of its non-energy sectors in order to diversify the economy away from the reliance on the volatile energy sector (SDG 8.2). For example, the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) has set a goal of doubling manufacturing output over the period 2019- 2024. The manufacturing sector has also been streamlining its costs, seeking out new markets and building its profile through initiatives such as the 'Proudly T&T Programme', which aims to reignite pride in locally produced goods.

To support these efforts, Government has led strategic trade missions; identified countries for new trade agreements, such as Chile and the United Kingdom; facilitated access to foreign exchange through the EximBank Foreign Exchange Facility; and provided capacity building programmes for exporters. The Government is also replacing the existing Free Zones with Special Economic Zones that will be aligned with relevant international standards and appeal to a broader range of industries.

In 2017, significant effort was made to enhance Trinidad and Tobago's tourism sector. The Tobago Tourism Agency has been actively marketing Tobago as a leisure destination, while Trinidad has been marketed as a destination for meetings, conferences and exhibitions. Beautification works have also been completed

at sites throughout the country. A revised National Tourism Policy is currently being developed to provide a long-term development framework for the tourism sector, in order to mitigate the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic (SDG 8.9).

As of 2019, Trinidad and Tobago's diversification efforts had begun to bear fruit, as was demonstrated by an increase in non-energy exports from TT\$4.3 billion in 2017 to TT\$5.2 billion in July 2019.



Jobs in the agriculture sector are quite diverse. Here, a cocoa researcher tests the quality of Trinidad and Tobago chocolate.

BP Trinidad and Tobago: Mayaro Initiative for Private Enterprise Development (MIPED) (SDG 8.3)

Launched in 2002, BP Trinidad and Tobago's MIPED, programme, has operated with the mission to develop Mayaro and environs into a model community, creating self-sustaining employment, improving training and business opportunities, to help build self-esteem and improve the quality of life. MIPED has helped small businesses and individuals achieve their goals by providing the financial and technical support required to start new businesses and/or expand existing ones. Over the past 10 years, MIPED has provided over 2,000 loans at a value in excess of TT\$40 million to entrepreneurs in a wide variety of businesses.

Source: BP Trinidad and Tobago

Decent Work

Trinidad and Tobago continues to actively implement the Decent Work Agenda through close collaboration among Government, Employers and Trade Unions. As a member state of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) since 1963, Trinidad and Tobago has ratified 22 ILO Conventions of which 19 are in force. These include all eight fundamental ILO Conventions which promote freedom of association and protection of the right to organise and collective bargaining; abolition of forced labour or compulsory; child labour; and elimination of discrimination in employment. The establishment of an ILO 144 Tripartite Consultative Committee in 1996 has served as an effective means for tripartite engagement on examination of ILO standards, and recommending action for their effective implementation.

The Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development (MOLSED) is at the forefront of the promotion of decent work and implementation of the Decent Work Agenda. With the assistance and support of the ILO and the social partners, such as employers' and workers' organisations, the MOLSED has, over the period 2015-2020, undertaken a number of key initiatives focused on promoting decent work. These include the review of labour legislation in Trinidad and Tobago; strengthening of the labour inspection function for effective enforcement of labour laws; development of policies on HIV/AIDS in the world of work; sexual harassment in the workplace; and raising public awareness of rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

Leaving No One Behind

Atlantic LNG: Local Economic Development (LED) Programme

Atlantic LNG, in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Point Fortin Borough Corporation, has championed the development of a Local Economic Development Programme. The LED Programme focuses on building capacity and creating development opportunities in areas outside of the traditional oil and gas sector, in the south-west peninsula of Trinidad. The project provides a sustainable framework to improve livelihoods and diversify economic capabilities, focused on micro, small and medium enterprises. The programme issued its first loan in December 2014, and over the period 2016 - 2018 it issued 350 loans with a value of US\$1.5 million.

source: Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago

GOAL 8

In addition, the national minimum wage was increased from TT\$15 per hour, to TT\$17.50 per hour, with effect from December 1st, 2019. Further, Government's ongoing efforts to improve the development of the nation's human capital and living conditions of the poor and disadvantaged, the wages of employees under two of the social programmes, namely, the Community-Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme, and the Unemployment Relief Programme (URP), were raised by 15 per cent from the same date (SDG 8.5).

The MOLSED has also continued to strengthen its framework for social dialogue among Government, and employers' and workers' organisations, through the establishment of the National Tripartite Advisory Council (NTAC) in 2016. The operations of a number of tripartite Boards and Committees on specialised labour issues, such as occupational safety and health, productivity, industrial relations and minimum wage were also established.

Other activities relevant to the Decent Work Agenda which are being pursued by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago include the development of a labour migration policy; the development of a national policy on the prevention and elimination of child labour; continued review/modernisation of labour laws in areas such as occupational safety and health, and the establishment of employment standards legislation; and strengthening of the labour inspection function.

Leaving No One Behind

Unemployment Relief in Tobago - Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment, THA

The Tobago House of Assembly's Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment manages policy and planning for the sustainable development of Tobago's infrastructural network and natural resources.

The beneficiaries of the URP are exposed to certified skills training in agriculture and construction, thus contributing towards economic independence.

Source: THA Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment

Challenges

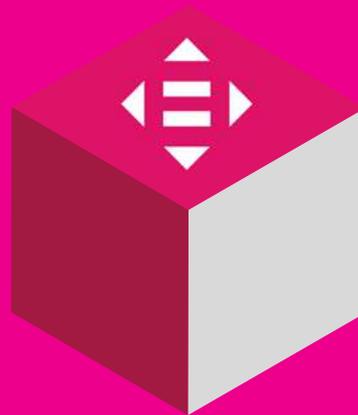
The COVID-19 pandemic struck at a time when Trinidad and Tobago's economy was slowly overcoming the hurdles posed by sluggish global economic growth and low oil prices. The impact of the economic fallout is uncertain, given the country's dependency on oil- and gas-related industries for a large proportion of its GDP.

In terms of labour, there is the ongoing challenge of effective management of labour relations between the executive level and workers. Going forward, these challenges may be exacerbated by the challenges posed by COVID-19, and some degree of incongruence between the current skills of the labour force and the needs of the future. Thus, a priority for Government is ensuring that the country's education system is preparing young people for the future world of work. To this end, Trinidad and Tobago will be conducting a Vacancy Survey, with the intention of collecting data with respect to the sectors in which vacancies exist, which would serve to inform and guide decisions in filling the skills gaps.

Productivity and economic performance are also negatively impacted by instances of crime, corruption, tax avoidance and tax evasion (Conrad and Ali, 2019) and (IDB, 2017). Challenges that disrupt the ease of doing business continue to affect the economy, and this is particularly true in areas such as dealing with construction permits, registering property, trading across borders and enforcing contracts. Trinidad and Tobago's fall in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Ranking from 93 in 2016 to 105 in 2019 highlights this point.

As such, in 2016, the Government, with the support of the IDB, embarked on a project to strengthen the Single Electronic Window for trade and business facilitation. The project aimed to improve Trinidad and Tobago's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report, especially as it relates to dealing with construction permits, property registration, trading across borders and contract enforcement.

Goal 10:
*Reduce inequalities within
and among countries*



GOAL 10

Article 25 of the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights states that everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for his or her health and well-being. These rights include access to social services and facilities that would allow persons to improve their living conditions. In Trinidad and Tobago's recovering economy, a comprehensive, cost-efficient and effective social protection system, operating on a rights-based approach, is critical to ensuring all citizens enjoy a standard of living that meets or exceeds UN standards. Trinidad and Tobago is committed to providing continuous support for the initiatives of the social sector and ensuring that all citizens, especially vulnerable groups, have equitable access to social services and amenities. In this regard, the Government addresses the social challenges of poverty, social



The national Policy for Persons with Disabilities was approved by the Cabinet of Trinidad & Tobago as a white paper in 2019.

inequality and social exclusion. Particular emphasis is placed on programmes and services that protect and assist those who are classified as vulnerable or marginalised groups. The focus is tied to seven key action areas:

- Unemployment Relief/Basic Needs Provision (SDG 8);
- Health and Wellness (SDG 3);
- Education, Skills Training and Re-tooling (SDG 4);
- Employment and Productivity, and Innovation and Enterprise Development (SDG 8);
- Safety and Security (SDG 16);
- Poverty Prevention through Financial Security Awareness (SDG 1); and
- Community and Civil Society Action (SDG 17).

Two major plans, designed by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS), to enhance the social safety net and strengthen human capital development are the Ministry's Strategic Plan (2018–2023) and the National Social Mitigation Plan (2017–2022). In light of current socio-economic challenges, the Government also emphasises resilience building.

Improved Access to Social Protection

Trinidad and Tobago's social protection system comprises more than 200 programmes. The system includes contributory and non-contributory schemes, as well as universal healthcare through public health facilities. These public initiatives are complemented by the work of many civil society organisations, companies and members of the public.

Examples of areas covered by the social protection system include school meals, education and school supplies, economic rehabilitation, old-age grant, subsidised housing, agriculture incentives, hardship relief, legal aid, access to selected pharmaceuticals, disability assistance and the Special Child Grant. (SDG 10.2).

To improve the efficiency and efficacy of the social protection system, and enhance collaboration across the social sector, the Government is developing an Integrated Social Enterprise Management System to replace its current Social Services Client Management System. The intention is to establish a technological framework for the integration of social services across stakeholder Ministries. The Government also sought to initiate and conduct a 'Diagnostic Assessment and Service Improvement' Project for the Social Welfare Division, which included an examination of current policies, processes and operational procedures, to identify deficiencies and make recommendations to increase responsiveness.

Trinidad and Tobago has worked assiduously to ensure all citizens, particularly those belonging to vulnerable groups, have access to social protection programmes. For example, significant progress has been made in reducing the number of socially displaced elderly persons through the Community Care Programme. This helps to deinstitutionalise elderly persons who previously resided at mental health facilities, placing them in geriatric homes across the country.



Supporting citizens' education is one means by which T&T's Government ensures everyone's right to an adequate standard of living.

Over the period 2015–2019 Government continued, and in some cases expanded, initiatives designed to ensure the elderly, differently-abled, and poor and vulnerable receive subsidies to supplement their income. This included the Public Assistance Grant for persons whose household income is deemed inadequate, the Food Support Programme—operationalised through a Food Card system, the Senior Citizens' Pension, and the General Assistance Grant, which supports families affected by man-made or natural disasters, such as severe flooding.



government and civil society organisations collaborate in some cases to ensure low income members of society can improve their standard of living through access to housing.

In terms of housing, the Government and civil society organisations, such as Habitat for Humanity, work to ensure low-income members of society can improve their standard of living. This includes the provision of access to grants and low/no interest loans to undertake infrastructural repairs to homes in need of sanitation, plumbing and electrical works.

Progress has also been made to support persons with disabilities. For example, the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities was approved by the Cabinet as a white paper in 2019. Furthermore, Cabinet subsequently approved the appointment of an Inter-Agency Committee, including two persons with disabilities, to oversee the implementation of the Policy and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In addition, the National Enrichment Centre for Persons with Disabilities was recommissioned to provide rehabilitation and therapeutic services, including speech, occupational, physical, and aqua therapies.

Leaving No One Behind

Civil Society Interventions - Caribbean Kids and Families Therapy Organisation (CKFTO)

The Caribbean Kids and Families Therapy Organisation (CKFTO) was formed in 2008, with a goal to provide therapy and support services to all children in need. Some of CKFTO's activities include:

- Collaboration with the Ministry of MSDFS to create a Rehabilitation Centre at the National Enrichment Centre for Persons with Disabilities.
- The Count Me In® Puppet Show disability awareness programme, which travels around the country to educate children about their peers with disabilities.
- The Motor Programme provides occupational therapy to children with Cerebral Palsy, Spasticity concerns, and acquired brain injuries, who suffer from joint / muscle weaknesses and control / neurologic disorders.
- The HOPE Support Group for parents and caregivers to children with special needs.

Source: CKFTO

Education, Skills Training and Re-tooling

Trinidad and Tobago provides vulnerable groups with skills training and certification to improve their employability, income levels and resilience. Examples of key empowerment programmes include (SDG 10.2):

- *Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development (SEED)*: The SEED programme provides funding for citizens who are considered poor and vulnerable, and want to start or improve their own businesses. Beneficiaries are given the opportunity to start micro-enterprises in order to become more independent and self-sufficient. In fiscal 2019, 27 grants were distributed which benefitted 95 persons (Social Sector Investment Programme 2020).

GOAL 10

- *Adult Education Programme:* The programme targets citizens aged 15 years and over who are seeking a second chance to be equipped with better skills, to become self-employed and retooled for a career change. Opportunities are available in 30 courses, in areas such as skills development, literacy, numeracy, and leisure programmes. The programme enrolls over 3900 persons on average each year, and now collaborates with the University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus to deliver content and certify participants. As at 2019, there have been over 16,000 adults who have participated in the programme.
- *Craft Training Programme for Women:* This programme, promotes employment through training in craft disciplines aimed at revitalising the handicraft industry. It helps single, unskilled or unemployed mothers develop the craft, business and life skills needed to create successful, home-based businesses.
- *Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centres (YDAC):* The YDAC Youth Camps, provide residential vocational training to young men from 15–18 years of age who are deemed to be “at-risk”.

Leaving No One Behind

A Whole-of-Society Approach to Supporting Migrants and Refugees

Across Trinidad and Tobago, the Government, civil society and private sector are working to support migrants from neighbouring countries, such as Venezuela. The Government allowed qualifying Venezuelan migrants to register and be authorised to work legally in Trinidad and Tobago for one year. The Government has developed a Policy for Treating with Non-Nationals.

The Living Water Community, a Catholic Lay Ecclesial Community, has partnered with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, to provide services for the immigrant community in Trinidad and Tobago. Similarly, NGOs and religious organisations have provided financial and non-financial support, including basic education and other training.

Challenges

Although significant investments in social protection programmes have been made, Government acknowledges that an effective monitoring and evaluation framework is required to ensure Trinidad and Tobago’s social protection systems have an impact.

An effective framework is required to:

- Increase the application of research to target beneficiaries and adopt a proactive and preventative approach to stay ahead of evolving demand;
- Improve the data management and ICT systems to facilitate data collection and sharing across different locations and stakeholders; and
- Amplify coordination of policies and integrated management systems, which affect policymakers’ ability to make evidence-based decisions.

While the Government is actively working toward ensuring that no one is left behind, there are structural issues that inadvertently prevent some groups from gaining access to social protection services. Furthermore, greater coordination and collaboration are required among the stakeholders who provide social programmes, in order to avoid duplication of effort and inefficiencies.

The quality of social service delivery has been impacted by a shortage of social workers and welfare officers. While Government and civil society are continuously working to fill these gaps, adequate human resource capacity remains a challenge. Despite these challenges, work is progressing to boost the number of facilities for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, street dwellers, domestic violence survivors, and children in difficult circumstances.

Goal 13:
*Take urgent action to
combat climate change and
its impacts.*



GOAL 13

Trinidad and Tobago sees climate change as a developmental and cross-cutting issue inextricably linked to the implementation of all other SDGs. As a SIDS, the country is vulnerable to, among others: extreme weather events, temperature increases, changes in precipitation patterns, sea-level rise, inland and coastal flooding, increasingly intense hurricanes, and the loss of coastal habitats.

Through the adoption of the Paris Agreement and other multilateral environmental agreements, the country has begun to place the environment at the heart of its development. This is particularly important as Trinidad and Tobago is the region's leading producer of oil and gas. While the country's share of total global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions is low, less than one per cent (World Bank, 2018), Trinidad and Tobago acknowledges its relatively high GHG emissions compared to other countries of the region. Thus, there is cognisance of the need for increased efforts to reduce these emissions, consistent with the targets in SDG 13 and the Paris Agreement.

Every citizen and every sector is reliant on nature's resources. Therefore, unsustainable exploitation of the country's natural resources will severely impact society and the economy by threatening food and energy security, exacerbating gender inequality and water scarcity, threatening livelihoods and compromising public health. As such, Trinidad and Tobago advocates a multi-faceted approach to the challenges posed by climate change.

Policy and Planning Framework



Trinidad and Tobago's climate change policy framework is defined by Vision 2030 (Theme V), the National Climate Change Policy (2011), the Carbon Reduction Strategy (2015), the NDC under the Paris Agreement and its Implementation Plan (SDG 13.2). Trinidad and Tobago's NDC commits the country to:

- A 15 per cent reduction in overall cumulative emissions from the three main emitting sectors – electricity generation, industry and transportation – by 2030 from a BAU scenario, to 103 Metric tonnes of Carbon Dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e); and
- An unconditional reduction in public transportation emissions by 30 per cent or 1.7 MtCO₂e compared to 2013 levels by 2030.

The estimated cost of implementation of the NDC is US\$ 2 billion, which is expected to be met partly through domestic funding, and is conditional on international climate financing, such as the Green Climate Fund.

Mitigation Actions

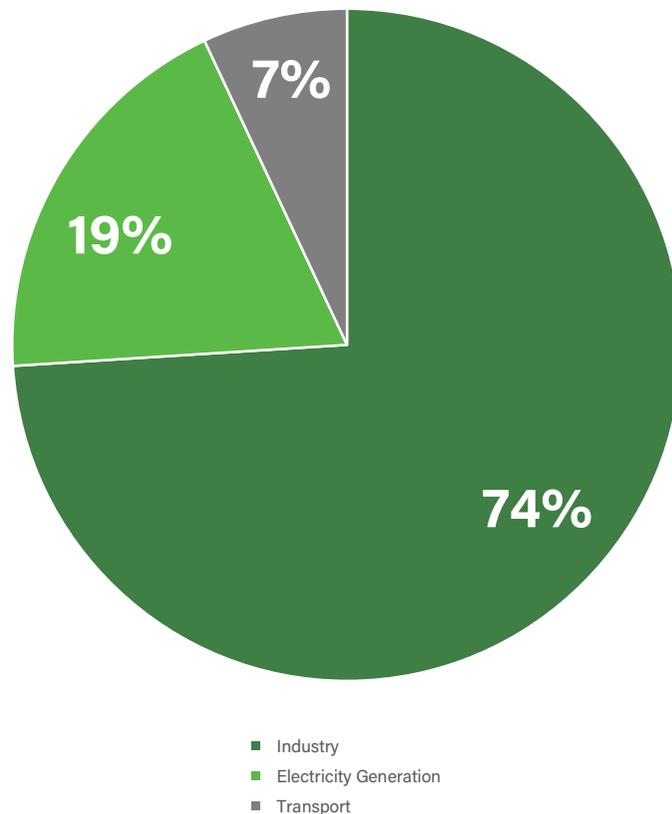


Figure 18: Sources of Trinidad and Tobago's GHG emissions
Source: Strategy for the Reduction of Carbon Emissions in Trinidad and Tobago

Over the period 2016–2020, Trinidad and Tobago embarked on a low-emissions, climate-resilient, developmental pathway, while improving the management of natural resources, in line with NDC commitments. The NDC Support Programme of the UNDP has helped facilitate the development of an enabling framework for reducing GHG emissions, for example, by launching a Knowledge Management System in support of the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System, as a first step. This will allow for the collection, analysis and reporting of accurate data on GHG emissions, the identification and reporting of mitigation initiatives, and the resources allocated to these efforts (SDG 13.2).

Multi-Sectoral Collaboration

The CO₂ Emission Reduction Mobilisation Project (CERM)

The CERM Project is a collaboration among the UWI, the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, the Heritage Petroleum Company Limited and the National Gas Company (NGC), to reduce GHG emissions in the energy sector.

In 2019, the Project partners hosted a symposium entitled 'Developing of a Carbon Capture and Storage Programme in Trinidad and Tobago' to discuss local options for carbon capture and storage of GHGs underground and mitigation of Trinidad and Tobago's contribution to human-induced climate change.

Source: *The CERM Project*

Reforestation and Carbon Sequestration

In 2005, NGC began the reforestation of land equivalent to the area cleared for the creation of its pipelines.

Over 100,000 trees were planted on 348 hectares. In

2018, NGC contracted the UWI to conduct a carbon sequestration study on these reforested lands. The study found that as of 2018, the trees have sequestered 2,243 tonnes of carbon. Carbon sequestration was projected to increase to 5,228 tonnes by 2030. This equates to roughly one per cent of the GHG emissions Trinidad and Tobago aims to cut from the transportation sector by the same date. The UWI is now partnering with the Institute of Marine Affairs and the British High Commission

to conduct a study of blue carbon sequestration in mangrove forests (UWI, 2020). Source: National Gas Company

Fuel Switching



The Government has begun a sweeping change from gasoline and diesel to compressed natural gas (CNG) in the public transportation sector. *photo courtesy MOWT*

Trinidad and Tobago has embarked on a significant exercise to switch transportation fuel from gasoline and diesel, to compressed natural gas (CNG), a cheaper, greener, and more efficient alternative that emits about 30 per cent less carbon dioxide.

To this effect, the conversion of state-owned vehicle fleets and the procurement of new CNG vehicles, began in 2017. The following year, the Government purchased 18 CNG-powered buses, all of which were accessible to differently-abled persons. In parallel, the fuel subsidies on gasoline and diesel, which existed for over four decades, have been reduced.

Notwithstanding, Trinidad and Tobago recognises that CNG is a fossil fuel and is therefore transitional. Accordingly, the phased introduction of electric vehicles charged with renewable energy, is expected as the country aligns with global policy paradigm shifts to e-mobility, and towards a policy of sustainable, emissions-free transportation.

GOAL 13

Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency

Trinidad and Tobago is committed to energy conservation and energy efficiency in all sectors of the economy, and in all segments of society. In 2019, a Draft Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency Policy and Action Plan was developed, which is fully aligned with Trinidad and Tobago's commitments under the Paris Agreement and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Currently, all of Trinidad and Tobago's electricity is generated from fossil fuels. As a result, a concerted effort is underway to increase the fuel efficiency of electricity generation. This includes minimising spinning reserves in the generation process, and phased replacement of ageing electricity transmission infrastructure. Steps are also being taken in the area of demand side management, especially as it relates to electricity consumption in Government-occupied buildings. Specifically, energy audits and retrofitting exercises have commenced and are expected to include building management systems for lighting and air-condition systems. In Tobago, the THA is leading its own energy conservation and energy efficiency initiatives.

In terms of residential energy consumption, the Government has offered tax incentives for the installation of solar water heaters and has embarked on a programme to distribute 400,000 Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs to households across the country (SDG 13.2). In addition, residential customers benefit from a 25 per cent rebate on electricity consumption once their electricity bills fall under TT\$300 per billing period. A tax incentive has also been offered to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles with a motor size of 179 kilowatt hours or less. These actions are being augmented by a comprehensive energy conservation awareness programme, and simultaneous measures to promote energy efficiency at the residential, commercial and industrial levels. These initiatives are expected to contribute to an overall reduction in electricity consumption. Trinidad and Tobago is also exploring the opportunities related to the hydrogen economy and is currently engaged in the development of an Integrated Resource and Resilience Plan for the Electricity Sector for the next 25 years.

Private Sector Interventions

Energy Chamber Energy Efficiency Pledge

Recognising the positive impact that energy efficiency can have on both the economy and the environment, companies in the energy sector have committed to optimising the use of Trinidad and Tobago's finite natural resources, and to reducing GHG emissions. Signatories to the Energy Chamber's Efficiency Pledge have agreed to increase energy efficiency and conservation in their facilities, energy fuel and electricity consumption and transportation.

All signatories are expected to report annually to the Energy Chamber, on the actions taken to improve energy efficiency and decrease GHG emissions from their activities.

Source: *The Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago*

Renewable Energy

Adoption and utilisation of renewable and clean energy technologies, mainly within the power generation and industrial sectors, are a priority for Trinidad and Tobago. However, for the country to generate renewable energy, important supportive instruments are required in the areas of policy, legislation, fiscal mechanisms, education and awareness. In this regard, a technical review of the approved Feed in Tariff Policy has commenced and is expected to inform legislative amendments to the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) Act and the Regulated Industries Commission (RIC) Act. These amendments will allow smaller producers of renewable energy, such as residential and commercial customers, to utilise renewable energy technologies, to connect and provide power into the national grid.

In 2019, the Government and the European Union (EU) agreed to the installation of a commercial-scale solar park at the Piarco International Airport in Trinidad, with an annual generation capacity of 1.4 MW as well as installing renewable energy capacity at the community level. The Government continues to explore the provision of power via wind and solar, in an effort to advance the country's renewable energy efforts.

As a SIDS, Trinidad and Tobago and other Caribbean counterparts have also been allocated funding from development partners for renewable energy projects. This will include investment in renewable energy equipment, as well as training and capacity development.

In an effort to educate the public on the uses and benefits of renewable energy, the Government and civil society have conducted a number of outreach programmes from 2016 and is ongoing (SDG 13.3).

Civil Society Interventions

Energy Efficiency Pledge have agreed to increase energy efficiency and conservation in their facilities, energy fuel and electricity consumption, and transportation.

IAMovement - REthinking Energy Video Series (SDG 13.3)

IAMovement is a non-profit organisation, which was founded in 2014 by a group of young people who felt a strong common need to effect positive environmental and social change. The group’s REthinking Energy video series, created in collaboration with the Energy Chamber and NGC, is an educational tool that helps the average citizen to understand key aspects of Trinidad and Tobago’s energy system. These videos were made available online and presented in schools as part of IAMovement’s Climate Talk Initiative. Throughout 2018, 20 events took place in schools, and 10 events in organisations and public forums.

Source: *IAMovement*

Reduction of Ozone Depleting Substances

By acceding to the Vienna Convention in 1987, as well as being party to the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments, Trinidad and Tobago became part of a global movement toward the phasing-out of the production and use of ozone-depleting substances. In response, Trinidad and Tobago pursued a number of initiatives targeted at the refrigeration and air-conditioning sectors. These included the provision of technical support to the service industry; legal, policy and institutional support; and education and awareness campaigns. The nexus between ozone-depleting substances, such as GHGs, and the impact on global warming and climate change is also recognized. To this end, projects aimed at maximising energy efficiency in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sectors are underway. Additionally, Trinidad and Tobago ratified the Kigali Amendment in November 2017, which provides for the phasing out of hydrofluorocarbons which, while not being an ozone-depleting substance, is also a GHG.

Adaptation Actions

Climate change adaptation is essential to provide protection and enhance Trinidad and Tobago’s resilience to negative climate impacts. In this regard, climate vulnerability risk and capacity assessments were completed for several sectors, including agriculture and food security, water resources, human health, biodiversity, infrastructure and human settlements, and finance. The assessments also included a practical component to strengthen Local Government and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), by including them in a two-day Community Climate Change Vulnerability Mapping Exercise. In accordance with the National Climate Change Policy (2011), the results of these assessments are being used to inform decision making, by mainstreaming climate change policy into

national development plans, and the development of geospatial tools (SDG 13.1). The updating and revision of the National Climate Change Policy is currently underway and will incorporate further guiding principles of leaving no one behind. This will ensure consideration of the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups and identification of appropriate adaptation actions (SDG 13.2).

Trinidad and Tobago recognises the negative impacts that climate change has on the nation’s food security. In this regard, the Government has initiated climate adaptation measures such as, providing members of the farming and fishing community with twice-daily SMS weather forecasts, including severe weather warnings. The Meteorological Services Division also issues a ten-day and three-month agro-meteorological weather forecasts and agro-meteorological bulletins. These allow farmers to make informed decisions regarding their activities, including their planting, harvesting and marketing strategies.

Coastal Zone Management – THA’s Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment (SDG 13.1)

In Tobago, the THA’s Department of Environment is responsible for environmental protection, and promotes the sustainable use and management of air, land and water resources. Tobago’s coastal zones are both ecologically and economically important areas and, as such, policies, projects and activities have been developed to address issues like coastal erosion and beach management. Some completed projects include:

- Improvement in coastal defence infrastructure that provides protection for municipal, residential and commercial properties;
- Coastal tree-planting projects to combat coastal erosion, in partnership with environmental NGOs and communities;
- The Sargassum Management Plan, to manage the socioeconomic impacts of Sargassum on the island; and
 - The Draft Coastal Zone Management Plan.

GOAL 13

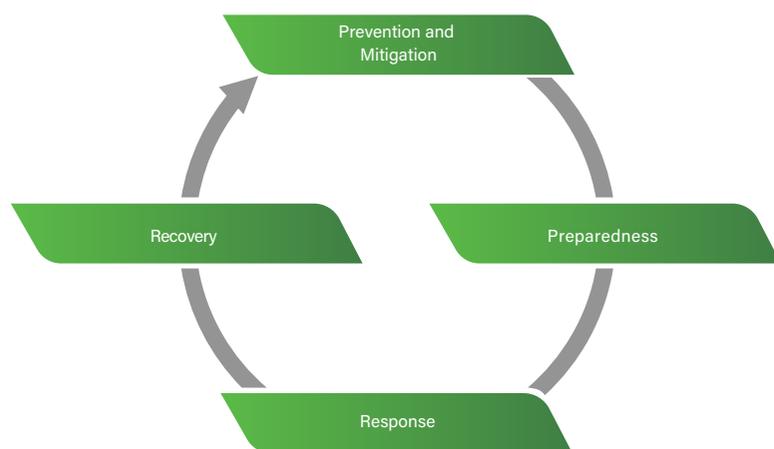


Figure 19: *The Disaster Management Cycle*

The ODPM, under the Ministry of National Security, leads the implementation of an integrated approach to disaster management in Trinidad and Tobago. A Comprehensive Disaster Management approach enables the ODPM to manage hazards through all phases of the disaster management cycle (See Figure 19) (SDG 13.1).

To guide disaster response, the ODPM has developed the National Response Framework that provides a unified approach for response and support agencies to successfully manage catastrophes. The ODPM has also taken a number of steps to enhance the country's adaptability to the effects of climate change. For example:

- Ongoing work with the Pacific Disaster Centre to conduct a National Disaster Preparedness Baseline Assessment;
- Developed an Inter-Sectoral Statement on Drought Risk Management for Trinidad and Tobago; and
- Contributed to the revised Regional Climate Change Strategy - the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change.

Several practical adaptation actions are also being pursued, for example, the Government partnered with the EU to develop the country's first climate-resilient healthcare facility in Toco, North-East Trinidad. In 2019, the Toco Health Facility became more climate-resilient by installing a rainwater harvesting system and upgrading its sewer system, with plans to install a solar photovoltaic system. The Government is also undertaking projects to reduce the risk of flooding in low-lying areas and protect vulnerable communities, having put in place a comprehensive strategy to manage drainage and flooding. This includes the desilting of waterways and rehabilitation of existing embankments. (SDG 13.1)

Challenges

Trinidad and Tobago's continued economic reliance on the oil and gas sector poses challenges for the decarbonisation of the economy. In response, the Government and private sector are actively working to diversify the economy, for example, by supporting industries such as manufacturing, food processing, creative industries and tourism which produce less GHGs.

There is need for increased levels of financial and human resources, within both the public and private sectors, which are dedicated to GHG mitigation and adaptation. This, in part, stems from the need for a greater understanding and awareness of the importance of climate change across all segments of society.

In terms of energy efficiency, low fuel and electricity prices have hindered energy conservation across society. In an effort to rectify this, fuel subsidies have been removed on gasoline and reduced on diesel, and Government is pursuing a review of electricity rates, though this activity has met substantial delays. In relation to price signals, the ecosystem services provided by the natural environment are considered in national and private sector budgeting. These services require further evaluation regarding pricing and value.

While progress has been made, the Government is aware that more work is critical to facilitate the adoption of renewable energy. Priority areas for all stakeholders include supportive instruments in the areas of legislation, fiscal mechanisms, education and public awareness. As a result, Government is taking the lead to adopt and implement a sustainable energy road map for Trinidad and Tobago, as the country integrates energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy as key pillars of a sustainable energy transition.

Finally, greater enforcement of environmental legislation is needed, since compliance with the laws continues to pose significant challenges. Environmental issues such as pollution and illegal clearing of forested land for farming and mining, continue to negatively impact the country's natural environment and GHG footprint.



Educational outreach activities are one of the methods being used to educate citizens about the impacts of climate change.

Goal 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.



GOAL 16

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is constantly working to improve public sector performance and improve the quality of life for all citizens. These efforts are guided by Vision 2030 Theme II - Good Governance and Service Excellence, which aligns with SDG 16.



Government is constantly working to improve public sector performance. A member of the public is awarded a certificate after receiving training from a staff member of the Ministry of Planning and Development.



Maintaining law and order is critical to peaceful, inclusive societies and sustainable development.

Peaceful, Inclusive and Just Societies

Though maintaining law and order is critical to peaceful, inclusive societies and sustainable development, Trinidad and Tobago continues to be challenged by serious crime rates. While the majority of these crimes are related to gang violence and the drug trade, levels of domestic and gender-based violence are also high. The response of policing has not had the expected impact despite significant expenditure on the police service and private security. Additionally, the criminal justice system has struggled to keep pace with rising crime rates, due to inadequacies in both resources and systems which inhibit the efficiency and effectiveness of key institutions such as, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Judiciary, the Forensic Science Centre and the Prison Service.

Crime Prevention

Trinidad and Tobago has worked assiduously to reduce the rates of crime and recidivism. Most recently, several initiatives were implemented with a strategic focus on the treatment of juveniles in the criminal system and improving national security infrastructure and services. For example, the TTPS has sought to improve police response times through the establishment of divisional command centres and other location-specific improvements. This strategy and other initiatives are expected to bring the average police response time to approximately ten minutes. Three new police stations have also been constructed, as well as the completion of several infrastructure and equipment upgrades of existing police stations across the country.

Trinidad and Tobago's cumulative efforts have led to some improvements in the overall crime rate (SDG 16.1):

- In 2019, the Violent Crime Rate fell to 368.4 per 100,000 from 400.5 per 100,000 in 2018 (2020 target 340.4 per 100);
- The 2019 Serious Crime Rate fell to 938.8 per 100,000 from 1,012.4 per 100,000 in 2018 (2020 target 845.0);
- In 2019, the White-Collar Crime Rate rose to 50.6 per 100,000 from 41.0 per 100,000 in 2018, an increase of 23 per cent;
- Improving crime detection rates is critical to crime prevention and public safety. As of June 2019, the Violent Crime Detection Rate stood at 20.6 per cent, the Serious Crime Detection Rate at 29.7 per cent (up by 6.7 per cent from 2015) and the White-Collar Crime Detection Rate was 26.2 per cent (with a 2020 target of 30 per cent); and

- With regards to the issue of repeat offenders, law enforcement agencies have made a concerted effort to reduce recidivism. As of March 2018, the Recidivism Rate was 61 per cent, down from 69 per cent in 2015.

Despite these improvements, Trinidad and Tobago is still challenged with successfully addressing the root causes of crime.

Public Safety

Trinidad and Tobago’s approach to road safety remains focused on prevention, with a ‘Towards Zero’ policy - zero road traffic deaths and injuries (see Figure 20). Several initiatives were implemented in line with this ‘Towards Zero’ policy, including:

- Enhancements to transport infrastructure, including pedestrian zoning;
- Expansion of the TTPS’ CCTV network and the introduction of speed cameras at key locations;
- Establishment of a new Traffic Warden Unit to enforce traffic laws;
- Introduction of a Demerit Point System to monitor and improve the road behaviour of drivers; and
- The TTPS iRoadsafe National Road Safety Awareness Campaign.

Consultations continue to be held with relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of these and other initiatives geared towards road safety (SDG 3.6).

Civil Society Interventions

Arrive Alive (SDG 3.6)

Founded in 2004, Arrive Alive’s mission is to save lives and preserve lifestyles. It achieves this by advocating for better road traffic management systems, supporting and educating the various stakeholders on the complex issues of road safety through inter-agency collaboration and intervention.

Arrive Alive’s key initiatives include road safety awareness projects such as the Road Wise Art & Essay competition in primary and secondary schools. Defensive driving educational sessions are also conducted at public and private sector offices across the country. Annual activities include the UN WHO World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, and the Road Traffic Safety Awards that acknowledge the contributions of first responders.

Other opportunities to interact with the general public come through involvement in the TTPS Community Outreach Programme, serving rural communities not typically served by the educational services available in major urban areas.

Source: Arrive Alive

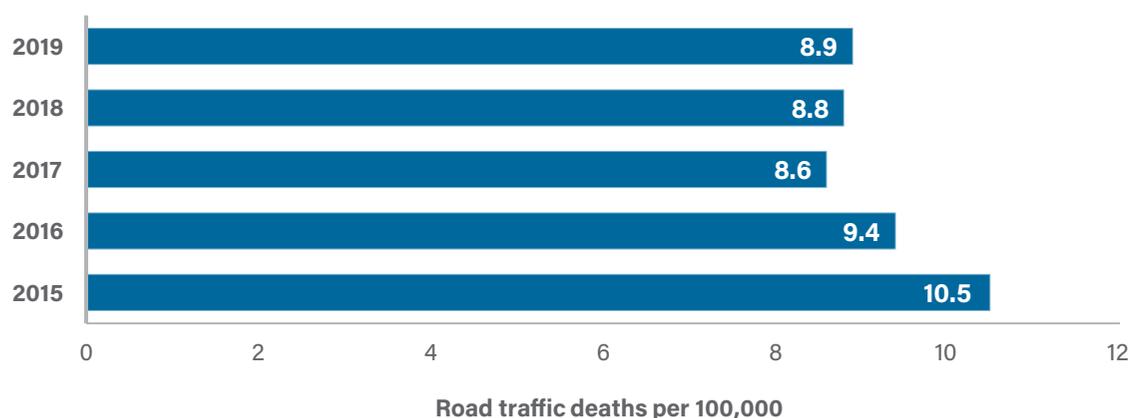


Figure 20: Death rate due to road traffic injuries
Source: Trinidad and Tobago Police Service

GOAL 16

Effective, Accountable and Inclusive Institutions

The Government continues to focus on improving public systems and structures to ensure strengthened service delivery, effective implementation of policies and better management of resources. These efforts have included the streamlining of institutional mandates, structural reform and updating regulatory frameworks. In addition to those related to law enforcement, several key institutions have received attention. These include law enforcement and justice institutions, Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs), and the Central Statistical Office (SDG 16.6).

Law Enforcement and Justice

The institutional framework for dealing with crime and violence in Trinidad and Tobago includes a wide range of state and non-state agencies. There are ongoing efforts to increase collaboration among these agencies, and to integrate crime and violence prevention and reduction into other sectoral programmes and initiatives. A 2017 report by Trinidad and Tobago's Police Manpower Audit Committee provided a blueprint for the transformation of the police service. This was based on an assessment of several areas including processes and systems, manpower strength and use, governance, positive partnerships and public confidence.

Several much-needed improvements to the criminal justice system have been implemented. In 2016, new Criminal Procedure Rules were implemented to improve case management, by penalising those who fail to make timely submissions to the court. An amendment to the Legal Aid and Advice Act that will work in tandem with the Criminal Procedure Rules, was also introduced. This new law stipulates the mandatory assignment of a public defender to an accused person, should their chosen attorney repeatedly fail to appear (SDG 16.3).

Non-Profit Organisations

The Non-Profit Organisations Act, 2019 provides for the registration of NPOs, the establishment and maintenance of a register of NPOs and identifies the obligations of NPOs. Under the Act, religious organisations and NGOs have been placed under the jurisdiction of the Financial Intelligence Unit and must register with the Registrar General Department. On registering, organisations must state their purpose and activities, as well as the names, occupations and contact information of each of their controllers. They are also required to complete risk assessments on anti-money laundering and terrorism-related activities (SDG 16.4).

Central Statistical Office

The integral statistical institution in Trinidad and Tobago's governance structure is the country's official producer of statistics and the primary repository for national statistical data. Plans are underway to transform this entity into an independent body, the National Statistical Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (NSITT). The Government-approved task force submitted recommendations, which formed the basis of a policy and legislative brief to the Cabinet. Once approved by Parliament, the NSITT will replace the existing entity as Trinidad and Tobago's National Statistical Office.

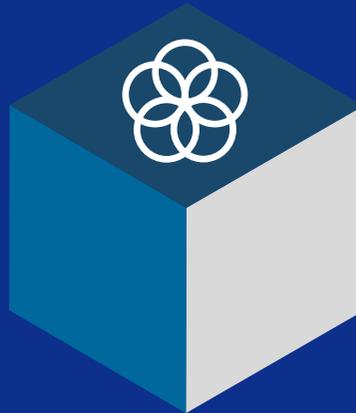
Challenges

Crime and violence is one of the most critical issues affecting Caribbean societies and could potentially have a significant impact on achieving development goals. For several years, Trinidad and Tobago has been one such country and has continued to be plagued by persistently high levels of serious and violent crimes, including GBV over the years. Consequently, the justice system is overwhelmed with caseloads that exceed the processing capacity of the criminal justice system which results in the slow administration of justice and problems such as overcrowding in the remand prison. The Judiciary is working towards justice system modernisation and reform initiatives, through improving the courts' productivity and efficiency. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, in collaboration with key stakeholders, continue to work assiduously to address issues of crime and GBV through policies, programmes, public education and legislation. However, there is still a need for greater coordination between state and non-state actors.

As a result of an under-resourced criminal justice system, challenges, such as the slow administration of justice and overcrowding in the remand prison, continue to persist. The recidivism rate of prisoners in the country also remains high, above 50 per cent. However, the Government has been making efforts at providing rehabilitative initiatives to the inmate population, to prevent repeat offenders. In addition to violent crime, there have also been steps towards restorative justice programmes, such as the Trinidad and Tobago Judiciary's Juvenile Court Project.

Another challenge faced by Trinidad and Tobago is the frequent instances of corruption, as evidenced by Trinidad and Tobago's Corruption Perceptions Index score which fell from 41/100 in 2018 to 40/100 in 2019. Institutional strengthening and collaboration with key stakeholders will remain a critical area of action as Trinidad and Tobago strives to implement Vision 2030 and the SDGs over the coming decade.

Goal 17:
*Strengthen the means
of implementation and
revitalise the Global
Partnership for Sustainable
Development.*



GOAL 17

The SDGs lay out a transformative and ambitious agenda requiring an 'all-of-government' and 'all-of-society' approach to sustainable development. Though the Government plays a central and catalytic role, implementation of the SDGs cannot be done in isolation. Therefore, outreach efforts that inspire and ignite countrywide action on the SDGs, particularly from civil society, the private sector and labour, would be accelerated.

Finance



An all-of-government and all-of-society approach to achieving the SDGs require outreach efforts that inspire and ignite countrywide action on the SDGs.

Achieving the SDGs alongside national development priorities require significant financial investments. This was especially difficult for a SIDS vulnerable to economic shocks that cause national financial instability. This difficulty is now amplified by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which establishes a strong foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Given the country's ineligibility for Official Development Assistance, the primary source of funding and resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Trinidad and Tobago is the Government, with support from other sources such as International Financial Institutions, bilateral donors and the private sector (SDG 17.3). The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is working to identify innovative solutions, ensure better targeting of public investment, increase the accountability of public spending and make tax administration more efficient, for example, through the proposed Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority (SDG 17.1).

The annual national budgeting process is aligned to the five thematic areas of Vision 2030, and establishes the requirements that must be followed in the preparation of the draft estimates and the PSIP. The budgeting process requires that every effort must be made across the public sector to ensure that requests for resources to fund projects and programmes are consistent with Vision 2030's development themes.

The Government also emphasises the importance of redirecting hydrocarbon revenues into the transformation of the national economic base and using strategies that emphasise the SDGs and collaboration across the public sector, in an attempt to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in implementing national development objectives.

Trade

Sustained economic growth is a prerequisite for sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago. It ensures access to the resources required to reduce poverty, improve healthcare, invest in education, fund social protection programmes and protect the environment. Likewise, competitive businesses and a thriving private sector are integral to sustained economic growth.

Competitive businesses innovate, create employment, provide products and services, and generate revenue, especially foreign exchange earnings, which are of critical importance. As a result, the Government will continue to foster an enabling environment that is conducive to business growth.

A vibrant trade industry is one component of the enabling environment. In this regard, the Government has worked to increase international business opportunities and enhance the earning potential of local exporters. Some of the initiatives implemented include a diagnostic review of the institutional framework for trade and business in Trinidad and Tobago, a gap analysis of the legislative framework for trade and business and the re-engineering of business processes for government agencies. The Customs and Excise Division has also improved business operations through the implementation of non-intrusive inspections that allow for faster cargo clearances, limit unnecessary damages to cargo, enable faster delivery times and reduce the manpower required. The system also aims to reduce occurrences of duty and tax fraud and the flow of illegal goods.

In addition, the Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy was approved by Cabinet in 2018–2019. The implementation of this policy is expected to increase the value and volume of non-energy exports; create an enabling environment for trade, business and investment; grow the production and export of high value-added goods and services; and increase the country's share of CARICOM trade (See Figure 21) (SDG 17.11).

As previous financial crises and the current COVID-19 pandemic have shown, economies are more interconnected than ever before, meaning that vulnerabilities can spread more easily across sectors, borders and oceans, and be more impactful than many expected. Trinidad and Tobago intends to maintain economic stability through sound monetary and fiscal policy, promote healthy trade and payments balances, and take steps to contain inflationary pressures.

Civil Society Collaboration

There are numerous examples of partnerships in support of the SDGs across civil society in Trinidad and Tobago (SDG 17.17).

CSOs for Good Governance (CSOs4GoodGov) is an EU-funded project that empowers civil society to become effective and active advocates of an inclusive and holistic approach to national development. The project is aimed at catalysing transformation to a more environmentally sustainable, socially just, inclusive, accountable and resilient model of development and governance, through supporting the effective involvement of CSOs in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago.

Under the CSOs4GoodGov project, the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI) and other project partners launched the SDGs Catalysts Network. The Network consists of leading civil society organisations, working across sectors to address the SDGs. It serves as a mechanism for civil society to more effectively participate and engage with the Government and other development actors in implementing the SDGs in Trinidad and Tobago.



Figure 21: Trinidad and Tobago's Balance of Trade with CARICOM countries
Source: Central Statistical Office

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships

UN Support

In 2017, a UN MAPS Mission was conducted by the United Nations Country Team, in collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The aim was to develop the Roadmap for SDG Implementation in Trinidad and Tobago and understand levels of alignment between the government's planning documents and the SDGs. The Roadmap that was developed outlines critical steps towards the achievement of Vision 2030 and the 2030 Agenda, acting as a bridge between the implementation of nationally-defined development priorities and the SDGs. The Roadmap identifies five accelerators, each of which is directly associated with one of the five thematic areas of Vision 2030 and deliberately designed to impact on the entire development agenda and to reinforce the other accelerators (SDG 17.16).

Civil society has also facilitated local and regional knowledge sharing and collaboration through the Caribbean Civil Society SDGs Knowledge Platform. By showcasing SDG case studies from across the Caribbean region, the online Knowledge Platform connects people and organisations involved in implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Also, the Tobago Environmental Partnership conference, hosted in 2019, was developed by Environment Tobago and supported by environmental NGOs, the THA and the German Embassy. The aim was to promote and enhance environmental protection, and the conference resulted in the signing of the first Environmental Partnership declaration between the THA and Environmental NGOs.

GOAL 17

Private Sector Collaboration

While there are numerous examples of private sector collaboration on topics related to the SDGs in Trinidad and Tobago, the SDGs are rarely the driver of these initiatives. However, events such as the American Chamber of Commerce's Annual HSSE Conference and Exhibition, the Energy Chamber's Annual Awards, the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce's Champions of Business Awards, and the TTMA's Manufacturer of the Year Awards, all incorporate elements of the 2030 Agenda. Many of the same organisations also have environmental, health and safety or corporate responsibility committees which provide a forum to share best practices.

The Energy Chamber's Energy Efficiency Declaration goes a step further by asking companies to publicly commit to energy and emissions reductions (SDG 17.17).

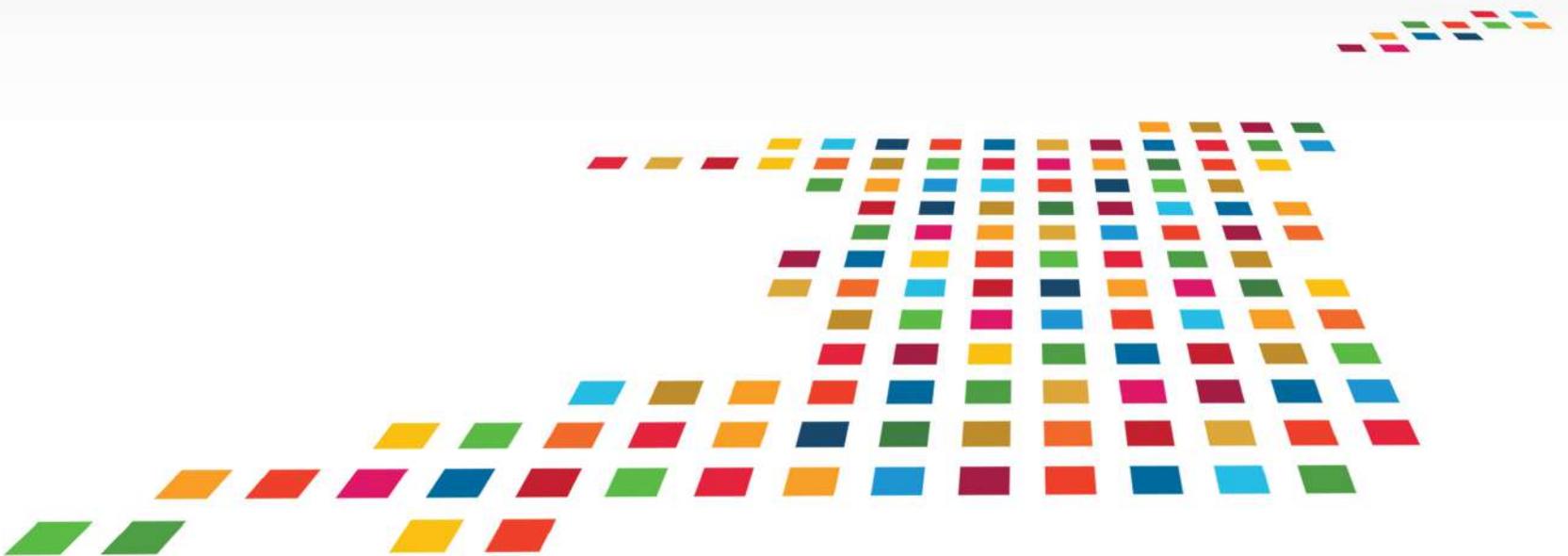
Challenges

Partnerships for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs remain sub-optimal in Trinidad and Tobago. Civil society has made some progress to collaborate in an effort to solve some of the country's social and environmental challenges. In the private sector, companies tend to act independently, resulting in duplication of effort and inefficiency. In addition, the sector generally adopts a philanthropic approach to supporting social and environmental issues, rather than identifying strategic issues with direct relevance and impact on their operations. More partnerships and information sharing across these sectors, and with Government, will be critical to the successful implementation of the SDGs. The VNR is part of Government's efforts to address these challenges and foster greater partnerships and collaboration for the acceleration of the SDGs in the coming decade.



The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is focused on achieving the SDGs through inclusive stakeholder participation and leaving no one behind.

7. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION



MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Budgeting for Sustainable Development

Trinidad and Tobago's strategic approach to the funding of national development priorities includes:

- Refocusing the PSIP to comprise mainly high priority projects for achieving Vision 2030 and the SDGs;
- Reprioritising the expenditure to curb unproductive spending and allow greater support for productive areas; and
- Increasing investment in growth-enhancing infrastructure, along with public transport; research infrastructure; green infrastructure (solar, water and wastewater facilities); climate-resilient infrastructure; and social infrastructure such as affordable (greener) housing.

The formal integration of Vision 2030 into the public sector's annual budgetary process was first introduced in the Call Circular for Fiscal 2018. This document states that public entities are expected to make every effort to ensure that requests for projects and programmes are consistent with the five thematic areas of Vision 2030. The document also emphasised the importance of redirecting hydrocarbon revenues into transforming the economic base, and using strategies that emphasise the SDGs and collaboration among MDAs. This redirection will attempt to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in implementing national development objectives.

The redirection will attempt to achieve greater coherence and effectiveness in implementing national development objectives.

Implementation Challenges and Opportunities for Support

Economic challenges

Trinidad and Tobago is not only impacted by the economic consequences of COVID-19, but as an oil-and-gas exporting country, the economic, financial and social consequences have been further compounded by the significant drop in oil and gas prices. It is against this backdrop that positive, continuous action in the social, economic and environmental spheres will be needed to drive progress across multiple goals and targets. The COVID-19 pandemic has also presented an opportunity to further assess the gaps in social and economic initiatives, which would allow for the implementation of changes and the development of strategies to overcome these gaps. Adaptability, flexibility and innovation in processes and systems will aid in the delivery of goods and services to those most impacted by the pandemic.

Institutional challenges

While the Government has established roles and responsibilities for the implementation of Vision 2030 and the SDGs, work is ongoing to enhance institutional capacity and capabilities in areas such as data and statistics. The VNR data assessment and mapping exercise identified several issues which, if not addressed, could affect Trinidad and Tobago's ability to realise the SDG targets and indicators. Plans to establish a national statistical institute are expected to improve data flows across key members within the national statistical system, and allow timely, relevant and accurate data to inform decision making. Building the capacity of civil society and the private sector to also collect SDG-related data is equally critical. A common area of concern, raised by stakeholders in the public sector and civil society, is the shortage of monitoring and evaluation expertise within their organisations. In cases where there are monitoring and evaluation teams, they are often understaffed and under-resourced. Efforts are underway to increase capacity building in the public sector in this area."

Collaboration challenges

Achieving the goals of Vision 2030 and the SDGs require inputs and contribution from government and society. There is considerable scope for improving the consistency, frequency and quality of collaboration within and across Government, civil society, labour and the private sector.

In assessing the level of awareness of Vision 2030 and the SDGs, the online SDG survey found that only civil society had a relatively high level of knowledge about the SDGs, in both Trinidad and Tobago. Companies on both islands had low levels of SDG knowledge. Consequently, it is considered necessary to improve the familiarity with both policy commitments, particularly among the general public and the private sector, in anticipation of deeper collaboration (See Figure 22).

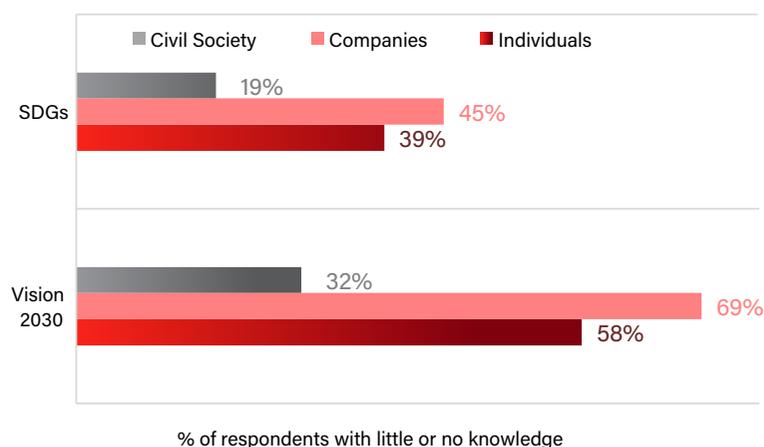


Figure 22: *Proportion of survey respondents with little or no knowledge of the SDGs and Vision 2030*
Source: *Trinidad and Tobago's online SDG survey*

Communicating progress on SDG implementation

While overall survey results showed that Trinidad and Tobago had achieved encouraging levels of progress in respect of SDGs 3, 4 and 5, the results were less favourable concerning the progress made on SDGs 1, 2, 11 and 13 (See Figure 23). In Tobago, respondents believed that good progress had also been made on SDGs 7 and 8, but were dissatisfied with progress made on SDGs 14 and 15. This demonstrates the importance of the natural marine and terrestrial environments as tourist attractions in Tobago.

SDGs with the most progress



SDGs with the least progress



Figure 23: Which of the SDGs do you think Trinidad and Tobago is making the most/least progress in? (Aggregated general public, private sector and civil society results)

Source: Trinidad and Tobago's online SDG survey

Further analysis of the findings shows that substantial proportions of participants are either unsatisfied with the Government's response to date, or lack the information to make an informed decision (See Figure 24). These findings demonstrate the need for more visible and impactful SDG implementation activities, and better communication of the Government's efforts to stakeholders

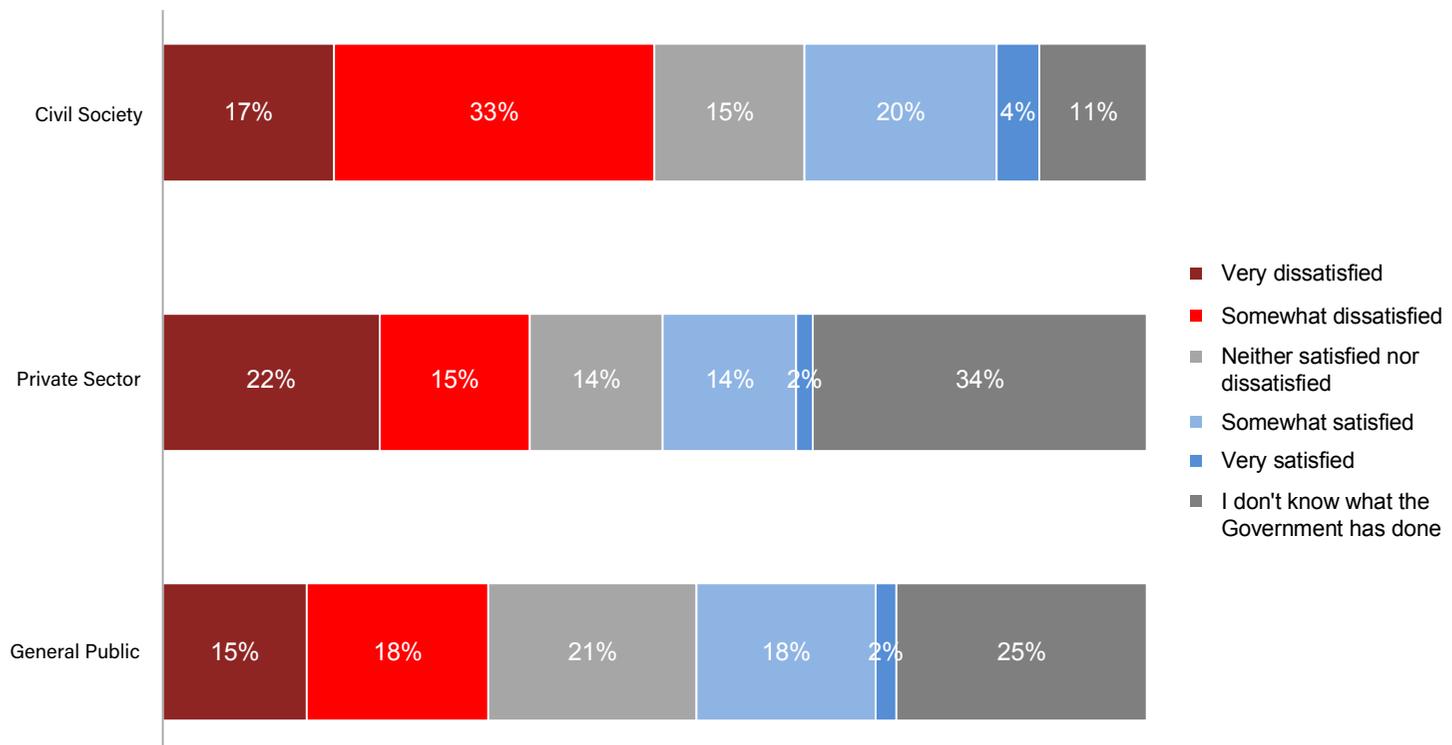
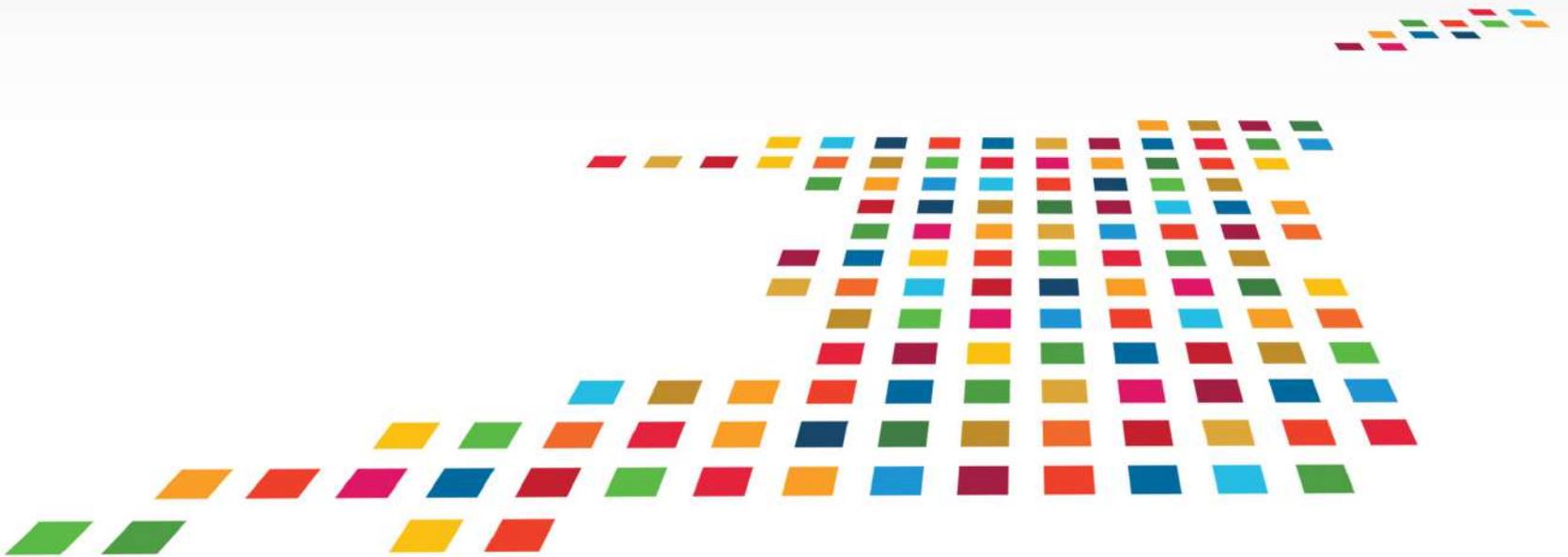


Figure 24: SDG Online Survey: How satisfied are you with the Government's efforts to implement the SDGs?
Source: Trinidad and Tobago's online SDG survey

8. NEXT STEPS



Trinidad and Tobago's VNR underscores the Government's commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda. The preparation of this VNR has enabled Trinidad and Tobago to identify the main areas where continued work on the SDGs is required. Trinidad and Tobago's Roadmap for SDG Implementation was adopted by Cabinet in late 2019. The Roadmap proposes five such actions, referred to as accelerators. Each of these accelerators is directly associated with one of the five focus areas of Vision 2030, but they are conceived to affect the entire development agenda and to reinforce each other (See Figure 25). Considering the high level of inclusion of the fundamental principles and goals of the

2030 Agenda in Vision 2030, efforts will also be focused on the five accelerators identified in Trinidad and Tobago's Roadmap for SDG Implementation that can catalyse progress across multiple goals and targets. These accelerators are improved performance of social protection system; increased access to justice; greening infrastructure for sustainable development; strengthening competitiveness and productivity for inclusive growth; and integrated land and coastal management. Government has already begun pursuing the implementation of some of the interventions associated with the five accelerators, as outlined in Table 6.



Figure 25: Trinidad and Tobago's SDG Accelerators
Source: Trinidad and Tobago Roadmap for SDG Implementation

NEXT STEPS

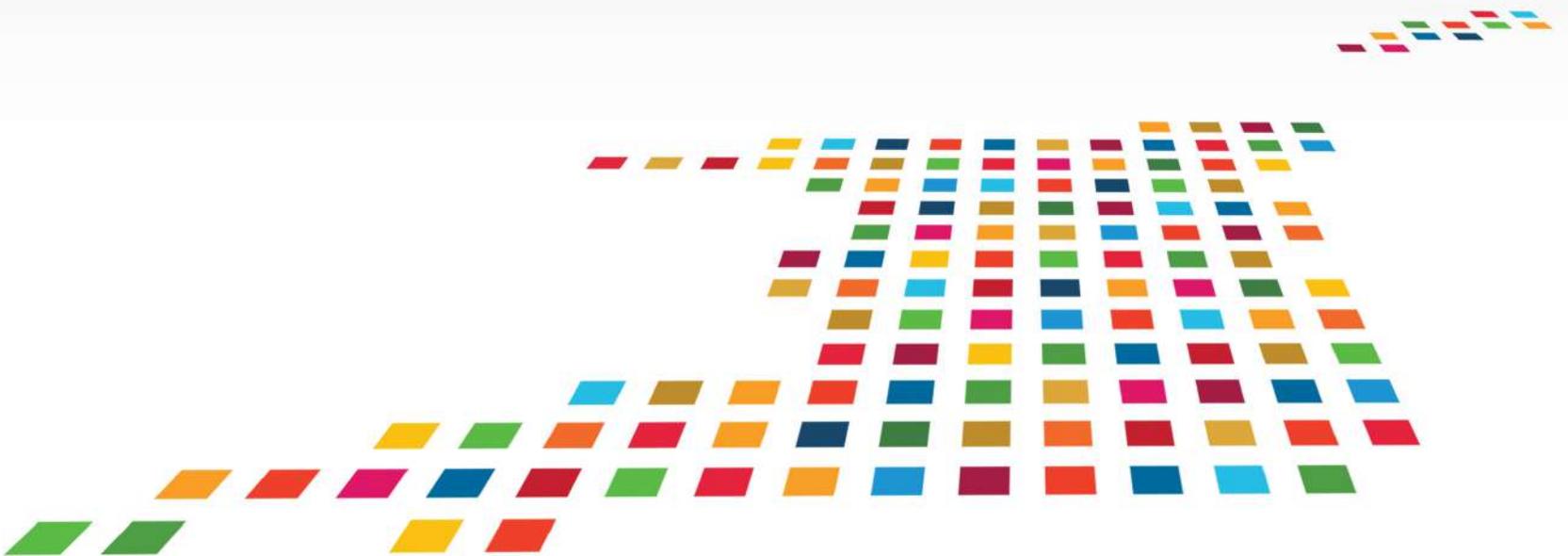
Table 6: Trinidad and Tobago's SDG Accelerator Interventions and Impacts

| SDG Accelerator | Interventions | SDG Impact |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Improved performance of social protection system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consolidation of social programmes. ▪ Creation of a unified social registry. ▪ Mobilise the social worker force to conduct active searches to enrol poor households that have not applied for social programmes. ▪ Integrate training and skills development into the social protection system and programme delivery. ▪ Incentivise healthier lifestyle choices. ▪ Strengthen the Inter-ministerial Social Policy Committee. | SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10 |
| Increased access to justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue with reform of relevant legislation. ▪ Facilitate community dialogue that frames positive public narratives and stimulates social non-acceptance of negative social factors. ▪ Further enhance the criminal justice system's capacity for prosecutions and effective legal defences. ▪ Continue criminal justice reform and enhance coordination between the state and non-state agencies that deal with crime and violence. | SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 16 |
| Greening infrastructure for sustainable development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance service delivery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streamline institutional mandates to reduce overlap or gaps - Update and strengthen regulatory frameworks and enforcement - Utilise public-private partnerships for service delivery ▪ Modernise infrastructure and promote investment through innovative financial instruments. ▪ Reform service pricing of utilities that have historically been subsidised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technological advancements. | SDGs 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 |
| Strengthening competitiveness and productivity for inclusive growth | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accelerate and upscale economic diversification efforts. ▪ Create a stable and strong macroeconomic environment. ▪ Review of state-owned enterprises. ▪ Increase productive capacity through a human capital development action plan targeted at key public and private sector needs. ▪ Collaboratively reform the labour administration system. ▪ Create a supporting ecosystem for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a Small Business Development Council with stakeholders from the private and public sector. - Virtual Support Systems for SMEs - Set up a business innovations platform - SME Financing - Incentives for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. | SDGs 1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 |
| Integrated land and coastal management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen and expand the system of Protected Areas. ▪ Enhanced land planning system ▪ Ensure regulatory enforcement. ▪ Promote sustainable land-use practices. | SDGs 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 |

Trinidad and Tobago, in addressing the implementation of the SDGs, has the added advantage of being able to build upon the progress made in key areas within the framework of the MDGs. Further, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will be reviewing the medium-term national goals (2021-2025) to reinforce

alignment with SDG targets and indicators. In addition, the accelerators identified in Trinidad and Tobago's Roadmap for SDG Implementation, in conjunction with the findings of the VNR, will receive further focus for integration in national policies and plans.

9. CONCLUSION



CONCLUSION

Trinidad and Tobago is committed to simultaneously implementing its National Development Strategy - Vision 2030 and the 2030 Agenda, through close collaboration with relevant national, regional and international partners. SDG-related activities will continue concurrently, with the execution of Vision 2030 initiatives which have already gathered significant momentum. Globally, the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that working together is the only path to a sustainable future for all.

Trinidad and Tobago's first VNR is a key landmark on its journey to sustainable development. It presents the country's experience and progress with respect to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while highlighting major achievements, challenges and lessons learned. As has been emphasised throughout this report, Trinidad and Tobago is dedicated to the implementation and achievement of the SDGs and is eager to engage in the sharing of knowledge, experiences and best practices. To this end, Trinidad and Tobago values the High-Level Political Forum as a platform for reviewing the implementation of the SDGs and sharing experiences, while strengthening opportunities for international cooperation, particularly as a small island developing state.

Despite the significant achievements highlighted in the report, there are major challenges that can hinder progress in the achievement of the SDGs. They are related to the availability of data and the capacity of the statistical body to collect and disseminate disaggregated statistics; achieving more effective coordination among government and non-government institutions to ensure synergies; and ensuring the requisite human and financial resources are made available and promoting the SDGs at the sub-national level.

As demonstrated in the report, while considerable work is being done by the various actors, more work is needed to coordinate our efforts to ensure that the SDGs are being implemented at all Government levels, and by all stakeholders to maximise impact. Greater collaboration will be required amongst the various stakeholders, including Government, to ensure the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. In recent times, Trinidad and Tobago has made progress in addressing economic, social and environmental challenges, through the mechanism of 'whole-of-government' approaches and strategies. In addressing the SDGs, this holistic approach to policy and programmes will be further integrated in Trinidad and Tobago's medium-term (2021–2025) plan.

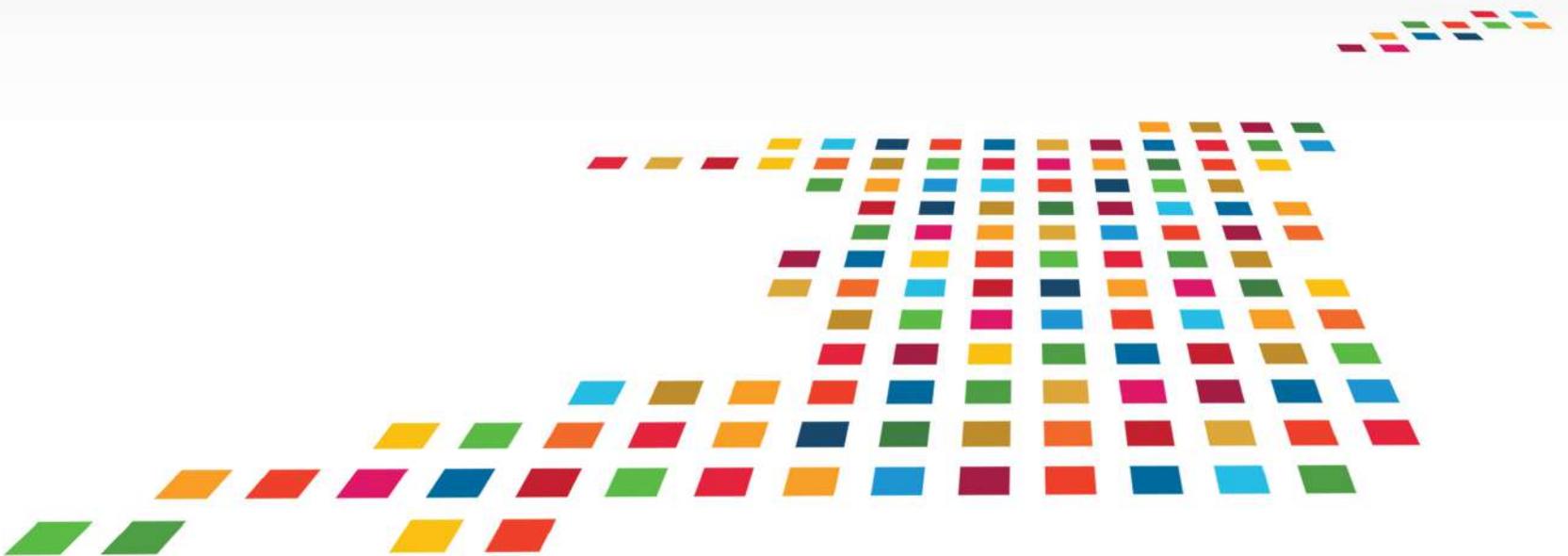
The Government will continue to play a pivotal role in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs. It will scale up its efforts to ensure that stakeholders in the public sector, civil society, private sector and the general public have the opportunities and information they need to make meaningful contributions. Trinidad and Tobago's central statistical office will continue to work with

stakeholders to improve access to reliable, timely, disaggregated data which will be vital for measuring progress on the SDGs.

Individual Ministries will continue to incorporate the SDGs into public policies and plans, through close collaboration between all relevant stakeholders. Efforts are underway to strengthen the institutional framework underpinning the SDGs and to enhance cooperation within and between relevant governmental and non-governmental actors.

Trinidad and Tobago remains unreservedly committed to ensuring that no one is left behind, while continuing to promote inclusive participation for the implementation of and reporting on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, the Government wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the many stakeholders who contributed to the preparation of Trinidad and Tobago's first VNR, and anticipates continued collaboration toward connecting the dots to the SDGs.

APPENDICES



APPENDICES

Appendix I: SDG Data Tables

Goal 3 - Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for All at All Ages

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|-------|--|------|-------------|------------|------|------|------|------|---|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 3.1.1 | Maternal Mortality Rate | I | per 100,000 | 49.2 | 33.1 | 20.2 | 12.3 | ... | Ministry of Legal Affairs: Registrar General Division, Vital Records |
| 3.1.2 | Proportion of Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel | | % | 2015 - 100 | | | | | World Bank Development Indicators Database |
| 3.2.1 | Under-5 Mortality Rate | I | per 1,000 | 11.3 | 13.9 | 13.4 | 11.3 | ... | Ministry of Legal Affairs: Registrar General Division, Vital Records |
| 3.2.2 | Neonatal Mortality Rate | I | per 1,000 | 6.3 | 7.5 | 8.9 | 6.5 | ... | Ministry of Legal Affairs: Registrar General Division, Vital Records |
| 3.3.1 | Number of New HIV infections per 1,000 Uninfected Population | I | per 1,000 | 0.04 | 0.04 | 0.04 | ... | ... | World Bank Development Indicators |
| 3.3.2 | Tuberculosis Incidence per 100,000 Population | I | per 100,000 | 16 | 18 | 17 | 21 | ... | World Health Organisation |
| 3.3.3 | Malaria Incidence per 1,000 Population | I | per 1,000 | ... | ... | 0.01 | 0.03 | ... | Ministry of Health |
| 3.3.4 | Hepatitis B Incidence per 100,000 Population | I | per 100,000 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Ministry of Health |
| | Suicides per 100,000 Population | | | | | | | | |
| 3.4.2 | Male | I | per 100,000 | 16.7 | 18.1 | 17.9 | 17.7 | ... | Ministry of Legal Affairs: Registrar General Division |
| | Female | | | 4.2 | 4.6 | 3.7 | 3.5 | ... | Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Crime and Problem Analysis Branch |
| | Both Sexes | I | | 10.4 | 11.4 | 10.8 | 10.7 | ... | |
| 3.6.1 | Death Rate Due to Road Traffic Injuries | | per 100,000 | 10.5 | 9.4 | 8.6 | 8.8 | 8.9 | |

Goal 3 - Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for All at All Ages

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|-------|---|------|-------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|---|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 3.71 | Women of Reproductive Age (15–49 Years) Who Have Their Need for Family Planning Satisfied with Modern Methods | I | % | 2011 - 37.6 | | | | | Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2011 |
| 3.7.2 | Adolescent Birth Rate (10–19 Years) Per 1,000 Women in That Age Group | I | per 1,000 | 6.8 | 6.3 | 4.9 | 4.8 | - | Ministry of Legal Affairs: Registrar General Division, Vital Records (All data provisional) |
| 3.9.2 | By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination | I | per 100,000 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.8 | - | Ministry of Legal Affairs: Registrar General Division |
| | Health Worker Density | | | | | | | | Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago, National Register of Medical Practitioners |
| | Medical Doctors | | | 2020 - 38 | | | | | |
| 3.c.1 | Nurses & Midwives | I | per 10,000 | 2015 - 35.4 | | | | | WHO Global Health Observatory Database |
| | Dentists | | | 2020 - 3.6 | | | | | WHO Global Health Observatory Database |
| | Pharmacists | | | 2015 - 5.1 | | | | | WHO Global Health Observatory Database |

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Goal 4 - Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|------------|---|---|-------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 4.1.1 | Proportion of students scoring higher than 30 percent in Entrance Assessment (SEA) | Proxy | % | | | | | | Ministry of Education |
| | Males | | | 98.4 | 99.1 | 83.1 | 81.4 | 81.5 | |
| | Females | | | 99.5 | 99.8 | 93.1 | 91.6 | 91.3 | |
| | Both Sexes | | | 98.9 | 99.4 | 88.1 | 86.4 | 86.3 | |
| | Proportion of children at the end of lower secondary school achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics | Proxy | % | | | | | | Ministry of Education |
| | Males | | | 41.2 | 38.1 | 37.8 | 44.2 | 42.2 | |
| | Females | | | 60.9 | 59.7 | 57.2 | 54.7 | 60.0 | |
| | Both Sexes | | | 51.3 | 49.0 | 47.6 | 49.6 | 51.3 | |
| | 4.2.2 | Participation Rate In Organised Learning (one year before the official primary entry age) | Proxy | % | | | | | |
| Males | | ... | | | ... | ... | 59.4 | ... | |
| Females | | ... | | | ... | ... | 61.1 | ... | |
| Both Sexes | | ... | | | ... | ... | 60.2 | ... | |
| 4.3.1 | Participation Rate of Adults In Formal and Non-Formal Education and Training in the Previous 12 Months | Proxy | % | | | | | | Central Statistical Office, Continuous |
| | Males | | | 43.9 | 46.0 | 45.2 | ... | ... | |
| | Females | | | 50.7 | 49.1 | 51.1 | ... | ... | |

Goal 4 - Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|-------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| | Both Sexes | | | 46.3 | 47.5 | 48.1 | ... | ... | |
| 4.4.1 | Proportion of Youth and Adults With ICT Skills | I | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 4.6.1 | Proportion of population 15-24 years achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional literacy and numeracy skills | I | % | | | | | | Sample Survey of Population (CSSP) |
| | Males | | | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.0 | ... | ... | |
| | Females | | | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.9 | ... | ... | |
| | Both Sexes | | | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.4 | ... | ... | |
| 4.6.1 | Proportion of population 15+ achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional literacy and numeracy skills | | % | | | | | | Central Statistical Office, Continuous Sample Survey of Population (CSSP) |
| | Males | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Females | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Both Sexes | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 4.b.1 | Volume of Official Development Assistance Flows For Scholarships | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 4.c.1 | Proportion of teachers who have received at least the minimum organised teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level | | % | | | | | | Ministry of Education |
| | a. Pre-Primary | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 75.5 | |
| | b. Primary | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 81.6 | |
| | c. Secondary | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 86.7 | |
| | d. Tertiary | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |

For academic year 2018/2019.

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Goal 5 - Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|-------|---|-------|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 5.2.1 | Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to different forms of violence by a current or former intimate partner in the pervious 12 months | I | % | | | | | | National Women's Health Survey for Trinidad and Tobago, 2017 |
| | Physical Violence | | | ... | ... | 5.1 | ... | ... | |
| | Sexual Violence | | | ... | ... | 0.9 | ... | ... | |
| | Psychological Violence | | | ... | ... | 10.2 | ... | ... | |
| 5.2.2 | Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence | Proxy | per 10,000 women 15+ | 7.37 | 5.76 | 6.35 | 8.9 | 9.64 | Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Crime and Problem Analysis Branch |
| 5.4.1 | Proportion of Time Spent on Unpaid Domestic and Care Work | I | % | | | | | | |
| | Male | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Female | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Both Sexes | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 5.5.1 | Proportion of Seats Head by Women in: | I | % | | | | | | Elections and Boundaries Commission |
| | a. National Parliaments | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33.3 | |
| | Lower House | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 38.7 | |
| | Senate | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 29.3 | |
| | b. Local Governments | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36.7 | |
| 5.5.2 | Proportion of Women in Managerial Positions | I | % | | | | | | Central Statistical Office, Continous Sample Survey of Population (CSSP) |
| | Management | | | 43.6 | 45.9 | 47.1 | ... | ... | |
| | Senior and Middle Management | | | 48.6 | 47.0 | 43.3 | ... | ... | |
| 5.6.1 | Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care | I | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |

*135 of the cases had no reported age and were excluded from the computation.

— Goal 8 - Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All —

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|--------|--|--------|---------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|---|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 8.1.1 | Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP Per Capita | Tier 1 | % | 1.8 | -6.7 | -2.4 | -0.2 | | CSO, Trinidad and Tobago System of National Accounts |
| 8.2.1 | Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP Per Employed Person | | % | 4.0 | -4.8 | 11.0 | ... | ... | CSO Trinidad and Tobago System of National Accounts |
| 8.3.1 | Proportion of Informal Employment in Non-Agriculture Employment | | % | | | | | | CSO, Continuous Sample Survey of Population |
| | Male | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Female | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Both Sexes | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 8.5.1 | Average Hourly Earnings of Employees | | % | | | | | | CSO, Continuous Sample Survey of Population |
| | Male | | | | | | | | |
| | Female | | | | | | | | |
| | Both Sexes | | | | | | | | |
| 8.5.2 | Unemployment Rate | Tier 1 | % | | | | | | CSO, Continuous Sample Survey of Population |
| | Male | | | 2.9 | 3.9 | 4.2 | ... | ... | |
| | Female | | | 4.2 | 4 | 5.6 | ... | ... | |
| | Both Sexes | | | 3.4 | 4 | 4.8 | ... | ... | |
| | 15-24 | Proxy | % | 8.5 | 10.6 | 10.1 | ... | ... | |
| 25+ | 2.7 | | | 3.1 | 4.2 | ... | ... | | |
| 8.6.1 | Proportion of Youth (Aged 15-24 Years) Not In Education or Employment (NEE) | Proxy | % | | | | | | CSO, Continuous Sample Survey of Population |
| | Males | | per 100,000 workers | 50.0 | 55.1 | 53.7 | ... | ... | |
| | Females | | 66.0 | 66.6 | 67.0 | ... | ... | | |
| | Both Sexes | | 57.8 | 60.7 | 60.2 | ... | ... | | |
| 8.8.1 | Fatal and Non-Fatal Occupational Injuries | | % | | | | | | Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development, Industrial Accident Register |
| | Fatal | | | 2.0 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 2.1 | ... | |
| | Non Fatal | | | 139.0 | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 8.9.1 | Tourism Direct GDP As A Proportion of Total GDP and In Growth Rate | | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Central Statistical Office |
| 8.9.2 | Proportion of Jobs in Sustainable Tourism Industries Out of Total Tourism Jobs | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.4 | Central Statistical Office |
| 8.10.1 | a. Number of Commercial Bank Branches | | per 100,000 adults | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23.4 | Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago |
| | b. Number of Automated Teller Machines | | | | | | | | |

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Goal 10 - Reduce inequalities within and among countries.

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|--------|---|-------|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 16.1.1 | Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age | I | % | | | | | | Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Crime and Problem Analysis Branch |
| | Males | | | 57.7 | 61.1 | 65.2 | 68.8 | 69.6 | |
| | Females | | | 4.3 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 6.9 | 9.3 | |
| | Both Sexes | | | 31.1 | 34.3 | 36.6 | 38 | 39.5 | |
| 16.1.3 | Proportion of population subjected to violence in the previous 12 months | I | % | | | | | | |
| | Physical Violence | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Sexual Violence | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Psychological Violence | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.1.4 | Proportion of Population not fearful of crime | Proxy | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Survey of Living conditions 2014 |
| 16.2.1 | Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/ or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month | I | % | ... | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | ... | Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Annual Reports |
| 16.2.2 | Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation | I | per 100,000 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.2.3 | Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 | I | % | | | | | | |
| | Male | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Female | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Both Sexes | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | | I | % | | | | | | |
| | | I | % | | | | | | |

Goal 10 - Reduce inequalities within and among countries.

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|--------|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 16.3.1 | Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimisation to competent authorities or other officially recognised conflict resolution mechanisms | | | | | | | | Survey of Living conditions 2014 |
| | Male | I | | | | | | | |
| | Female | | | | | | | | |
| | Both Sexes | | | | | | | | |
| 16.3.2 | Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population | I | % | ... | ... | ... | 59.7 | ... | World Prison Brief Database |
| 16.4.2 | Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments | I | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.5.1 | Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months | I | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.5.2 | Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months | | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.6.1 | Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar) | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.9.1 | Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age | | % | 99.2 | 97.8 | 97.2 | 94.7 | ... | |

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Goal 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|--------|--|------|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 13.1.1 | Persons impacted by natural disasters | I | per 100,000 | | | | | | WHO |
| | Deaths | | | 0 | 0 | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.9.1 | Missing | | | | | | | | |
| | Directly Affected | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 | I | | | | | | | In January 2020, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago ratified the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. |

Goal 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.

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|--------|--|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 16.1.1 | Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age | I | % | | | | | | Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Crime and Problem Analysis Branch |
| | Males | | | 57.7 | 61.1 | 65.2 | 68.8 | 69.6 | |
| | Females | | | 4.3 | 7.3 | 7.7 | 6.9 | 9.3 | |
| | Both Sexes | | | 31.1 | 34.3 | 36.6 | 38 | 39.5 | |
| 16.1.3 | Proportion of population subjected to violence in the previous 12 months | I | % | | | | | | |
| | Physical Violence | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Sexual Violence | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Psychological Violence | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.1.4 | Proportion of Population not fearful of crime | Proxy | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Survey of Living conditions 2014 |
| 16.2.1 | Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month | I | % | ... | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | ... | Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Annual Reports |

Goal 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.

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|--------|---|------|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 16.2.2 | Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation | I | per 100,000 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.2.3 | Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 | I | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Survey of Living conditions 2014 |
| | Male | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Female | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Both Sexes | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.3.1 | Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimisation to competent authorities or other officially recognised conflict resolution mechanisms | I | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Male | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Female | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Both Sexes | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.3.2 | Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population | I | % | ... | ... | ... | 59.7 | ... | World Prison Brief Database |
| 16.4.2 | Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments | I | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.5.1 | Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months | I | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.5.2 | Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months | I | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.6.1 | Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar) | I | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 16.9.1 | Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age | I | % | 99.2 | 97.8 | 97.2 | 94.7 | ... | |

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Goal 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development..

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|--------|---|--------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 17.1.1 | Total Government Revenue as a Proportion of GDP | Tier I | % | 26.3 | 22.6 | 27.6 | ... | ... | Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago |
| 17.1.2 | Proportion of Domestic Budget Funded by Domestic Taxes | Tier I | % | 56.2 | 53.4 | 65.8 | ... | ... | Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago |
| 17.2.1 | Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI) | | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 17.3.1 | Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Official Development Assistance and South-South Cooperation as a Proportion of Total Domestic Budget | | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 17.3.2 | Volume of Remittances (Inflows) as a proportion of Total GDP (TT\$) | Tier I | % | 0.62 | 0.65 | 0.6 | 0.58 | ... | World Bank Development Indicators |
| 17.4.1 | Debt Service as a Proportion of Exports of Goods and Services | Tier I | % | 109.4 | 151.6 | 135.2 | 135.4 | ... | World Development Indicators/Ministry of Finance |
| 17.6.2 | Fixed Internet Broadband | | | 20.3 | 18.6 | 23.6 | 24.5 | ... | Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Annual Market Report |
| | Subscriptions | Tier I | per 100 | 4.4 | 2.0 | 0.7 | 0.6 | ... | |
| | 256K-2MB | | | 5.7 | 6.0 | 7.0 | 6.0 | ... | |
| | 2MB-10MB | | | 9.3 | 12.0 | 16.0 | 17.0 | ... | |
| | 10+ MB | | | | | | | | |
| 17.8.1 | Proportion of Individuals Using the Internet | Tier I | % | 65.1 | 69.2 | 73.3 | 77.3 | ... | International Telecommunication Union |
| 17.9.1 | Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries | | % | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |

Goal 17 - *Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.*

| No. | Indicator | Tier | Unit | Year | | | | | Source |
|---------|---|--------|------|------|--------|--------|--------|------|---|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | |
| 17.11.1 | Developing Countries' and Least Developed Countries' Share of Global Exports | Tier I | % | 0.01 | 0.0001 | 0.0004 | 0.0001 | ... | Central Statistical Office, Trade Section/ World Trade Statistical Review, World Trade Organisation |
| 17.12.1 | Average Tariffs Faced by Developing Countries, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States | Tier I | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 17.15.1 | Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation | Tier I | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 17.16.1 | Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals | Tier I | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 17.18.3 | Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 17.19.1 | Dollar Value of All Resources Made Available to Strengthen Statistical Capacity in Developing Countries | Tier I | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| 17.19.2 | Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration | Tier I | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | Conducted at Least one Census in The Last 10 Years | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |
| | 100 Percent Proportion Birth Registration | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Qualitative - 2011 Last opulation & Housing Census |
| | 80 Percent Death Registration | | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | |

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Appendix II: List of Stakeholders Engaged

Civil Society Organisations

Adult Literacy Tutors Association
Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business
Autism Spirit
Autism Tobago
Buccoo Reef Trust (Tobago)
Caribbean Kids and Families Therapy Organisation
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
Caribbean Youth Environmental Network
Collective Impact Literacy Network
Consortium of Disability Organisations
Council of Presidents for the Environment
Cropper Foundation
Environment Tobago
Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville (Tobago)
Families in Action
Fishermen and Friends of the Sea
Flying Tree Environmental Management
Gentle Giants Foundation (Tobago)
Habitat for Humanity
Healing with Horses (Tobago)
IAMovement
Ideas Foundation
Immortelle Centre for Special Education
IWECO
Let's Read
Living Water Community
Mamatoto Resource and Birth Centre
National Centre for Persons with Disabilities
Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women
Persons with Visual Impairment
Red Initiatives
Roxborough Police Youth Council (Tobago)
The Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation
Three Monkeys Environmental Conservation Project
Tobago Institute of Literacy
Tobago Trash to Treasure
Tobago Youth Council
Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association
Trinidad and Tobago Nurses Association
Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute
Trinidad and Tobago United Fisher Folk
Trinidad Youth Council
TT ALGA
UN Conference on Trade and Development Youth Action Hub
Trinidad and Tobago
United Way Trinidad and Tobago
University of the West Indies Office of Global Partnerships
and Sustainable Futures
University of the West Indies Institute of Gender and
Development Studies
Veni Apwann

Vision on Mission
Yahweh Foundation (Tobago)

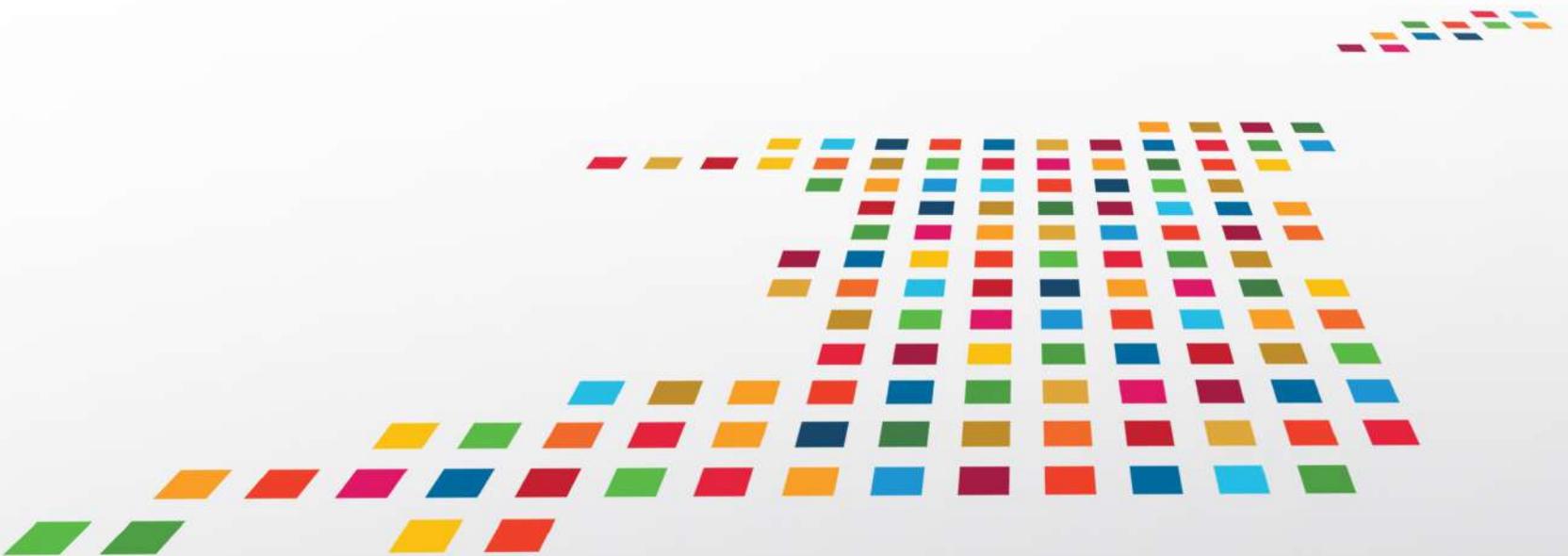
Private Sector

All Tobago Dive Association
CSR Solutions Ltd.
Employers' Consultative Association of Trinidad and Tobago
Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago
Green Alternatives in Action Ltd.
Imani bet Kneset Consulting / Foundation (Tobago)
Tobago Division of Trinidad & Tobago Chamber of Industry and
Commerce
Tobago Hotel and Tourism Association
Tobago Unique Bed and Breakfast Association
Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Trinidad and Tobago Confederation of Service Industries
Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association
Trinidad and Tobago Medical Association
Virtually Yours Trinidad and Tobago

Public Sector

Anti-Corruption Bureau
Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
Environmental Management Authority
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries
Ministry of Communications
Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development
Ministry of National Security
Ministry of Planning and Development
Ministry of Public Administration
Ministry of Public Utilities
Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs
Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs
Ministry of Tourism
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Multilateral Environmental Agreements Unit
Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management
Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs Unit)
THA Division of Community Development, Enterprise
Development and Labour
THA Division of Education, Innovation and Energy
THA Division of Finance and the Economy
THA Division of Food Production, Forestry and Fisheries
THA Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment
THA Division of Sport and Youth Affairs

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