

UNITED NATIONS  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



# 2024 ANNUAL Results Report

Trinidad and Tobago





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The Results Report is issued annually by the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Trinidad and Tobago. It collates contributions by the United Nations Country Team and Resident Coordinator Office and is based on updates to the UNINFO platform by agencies, funds and programmes, as well as relevant supplementary information related to collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to advance sustainable development.

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# FOREWORD

by the United Nations  
Resident Coordinator



**T**he year 2024 was a test of resilience, partnerships, and innovation in an evolving development landscape. While we were part of a collective effort in advancing economic transformation, social inclusion, and environmental resilience, persistent challenges underscored the need for enhanced cooperation and systemic solutions.

As an active member of the UN and global community, Trinidad and Tobago has demonstrated resilience and commitment to advancing sustainable development, in line with national priorities and Vision 2030 and the new commitments expressed in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS).

The UN system agencies were privileged to join these efforts and support numerous initiatives across a broad range of sectors and cooperation initiatives.

Supporting economic transformation and digital transition, we supported the launch of the first National E-Commerce Strategy which paves the way for a more competitive digital economy. We were pleased to engage with the Government, private investors and international partners in various efforts in support of digitalization agenda and diversification of the economy, as well as expansion of clean energy and green transition goals.

A big part of our work focused on social inclusion, health and human rights. We were pleased to witness as the first cohort of Venezuelan refugee children enrolled in public schools, marking a historic step toward inclusive education. Efforts to prevent and address human trafficking led to Trinidad and Tobago's improved ranking in the U.S. Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, reflecting strengthened

institutional capacity. Most importantly, the launch of the National Strategic Action Plan on GBV and Sexual Violence and preparation of the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security provided a robust framework for long-term violence prevention and response.

In the area of environmental and climate resilience, the Government outlined its willingness to raise the ambition of carbon reduction targets and advanced the preparation of a just energy transition plan ahead of the COP30 in 2025. The Disaster Risk Information Management System (DRIMS) was launched, improving national preparedness for environmental hazards.

We were happy to support global and regional cooperation by hosting high-level visits as well regional and national strategic dialogues, including the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee and the Joint National Steering Committee for implementation of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF).

The challenges of 2024 highlight the urgency of collective action in Trinidad and Tobago to accelerate progress. Moving forward, the UN system in Trinidad and Tobago is ready to engage with the Government, civil society and international partners on a range of remaining priorities.

Expanding access to justice through justice sector reform and crime prevention strategies, the UN will continue to promote a new model of prevention of violence emphasizing the importance of coordinating the work of police and other law enforcement actors with targeted interventions at community level, investments in local initiatives, working with families and teachers to promote mental health as well as social services and job opportunities for the most vulnerable youth.

Strengthening climate action through support to implementation of updated Nationally Determined Contribution to Climate Change Adaptation version 3.0 to be presented at COP 30 in Belem, Brazil will be an important point of reference for future programming and partnership development.

Enhancing digital transformation to foster economic growth, financial inclusion and public service modernization will remain a shared UN system priority. We will also use the technical expertise available in the UN globally to support modernization of trade and diversification of the economic model of Trinidad and Tobago.

The UN will continue to be the champion of equal rights of men and women, building on the incredible gains of the last 30 years since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action.

At the heart of our efforts lies a shared commitment to leaving no one behind. Whether empowering children and young people, working with Venezuelan migrants and refugees, strengthening national institutions, or responding to crises, the UN will remain a steadfast supporter of Trinidad and Tobago's development aspirations.

As we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Organization and reach the midpoint of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) 2022–2026, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to accelerating progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supporting inclusive, sustainable development for all.

Together with over 200 staff of United Nations based in Trinidad and Tobago, and over 20 agencies cooperating with national institutions and organisations across the different sectors, I extend our gratitude to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, development partners, civil society, the private sector, and communities across the country. The achievements in this report are a result of our collective determination to build a future where all people—regardless of background or circumstance—can thrive.

We move forward together, with bold vision and unwavering resolve.

## Joanna Kazana

United Nations Resident Coordinator  
Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten



 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	 International Labour Organization	 IOM UN MIGRATION	 International Telecommunication Union	 UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
 Pan American Health Organization	 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	 United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	 United Nations Human Settlements Programme	 Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
 United Nations Capital Development Fund	 United Nations Trade and Development	 United Nations Development Programme	 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction	 United Nations Department of Safety and Security
 United Nations Environment Programme	 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	 United Nations Population Fund	 United Nations Refugee Agency	 United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean Area
 United Nations Children's Fund	 United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean	 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	 United Nations Office for Project Services	 World Food Programme

## Key development partners



Donor governments and development partners



International financial institutions



Leaving No One Behind





# CHAPTER 1

Key Developments in  
the Country and Regional  
context

In 2024, Trinidad and Tobago continued to navigate a rapidly changing world where advances in renewable energy and digital innovation have created new pathways for economic growth. Strengthened multilateral commitments under new frameworks like the Pact for the Future and the New Agenda for Peace, adopted during the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2024, aim to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improve access to development financing for vulnerable countries like Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Antigua and Barbuda

Agenda (ABAS), for SIDS adopted in May 2024, set a decisive workplan in pursuit of resilient growth and sustainable development with the support of the international community. ABAS underscores the importance of tailored approaches to meet the needs of SIDS, namely: concessional financing, climate adaptation and sustainable ocean economies. However, persistent global challenges, including the impacts of climate change, shifting geopolitical dynamics and the lingering socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, mean that Trinidad and Tobago, and the Caribbean, need to build resilience.



# National landscape



1 Budget Statement 2025, 30 September 2024.  
2 CSO, Continuous Sample Survey of Population, accessed 18 February 2025.  
3 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2022.  
4 FAO, FAOSTAT Country Profile for Trinidad and Tobago, accessed 20 February 2025.  
5 EMA Annual Report 2023.  
6 Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Total Crime by Month Reports 2024.  
7 Based on UNHCR registration statistics.

# People



The Government of Trinidad and Tobago strengthened its commitment to inclusive education by allowing a first cohort of 60 Venezuelan children to enter government-funded schools in the first academic term, collapsing a systemic barrier that limited access to formal learning for refugee and migrant children. However, over 8,000 refugee and migrant children are currently excluded from national education as the Government continues working with international and local partners to ensure these children meet the eligibility requirements for school enrollment.

Other notable developments in Trinidad and Tobago’s education sector include the National Budget allocation of US\$ 7.69 million to tackle adult literacy challenges and improve educational opportunities

for disadvantaged groups. In Tobago, there was a marked improvement in student performance in the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA). Infrastructure issues in schools remain a significant concern, however, as highlighted by the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association (TTUTA).

In the health sector, the country recorded a 94 per cent inoculation rate for primary vaccines. This impressive achievement underscores innovative strategies to overcome challenges, including COVID-19 pandemic-induced vaccine hesitancy. Additionally, the country initiated its second STEPS survey, a World Health Organization-backed tool to improve surveillance of non-communicable diseases, which account for 62 per cent of deaths in the country.





## Planet

In February 2024, an oil leak from a barge off Tobago's coast triggered urgent environmental response efforts as authorities raced to contain the spill, protect local marine ecosystems and safeguard coastal communities and livelihoods. The incident highlighted critical gaps in disaster risk resilience, emphasizing the need for integrated, sustainable development strategies that safeguard both environmental and community well-being. The Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries was able to engage the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, an independent intergovernmental organization established by the United Nation's International Maritime Organization, to access compensation for this incident.

Trinidad and Tobago outlined more ambitious carbon reduction commitments in 2024 by completing the next generation of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), known as NDC 3.0, as part of its preparation for stocktaking country efforts to meet the obligations in the Paris Agreement. This next generation of NDCs will be presented at the Conference of the Parties (COP) 30 in November 2025.

The country's strategic approach to expanding clean energy production gained significant momentum in 2024. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago neared completion on construction of the country's first solar power production plant, which is set to meet 10 per cent of national electricity needs by 2026. The Government also began implementation of its first National Adaptation Plan to manage climate change risks, indicating a structured approach to Climate Change Adaptation. The Government also made good progress exploring the potential for wind power by commencing its Wind Resource Assessment Program, alongside an evaluation and feasibility study for a utility-scale wind farm on the east coast of Trinidad.

## Peace

Trinidad and Tobago faced a difficult year of violence with a record-breaking murder toll of 625, surpassing the previous high of 605 in 2022. More than 40 women and 13 children are among the victims. Trinidad saw a tragic surge in mass killings, including 33 double homicides, and multiple incidents involving three or more victims. Tobago, too, recorded an unprecedented 26 murders. Despite initiatives like the Call to Order anti-crime campaign which targeted young people to take a stand against violence and crime, the homicide detection rate fell below 15 per cent, underscoring public fear and systemic challenges. On 30 December 2024, the Government announced a State of Emergency in response to intelligence indicating threats of retaliation from criminal elements. Overall, no significant advancement in combatting corruption was made in 2024, and it continued to be a pervasive problem affecting governance and public trust. Trinidad and Tobago dropped one place in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Score from its 2023 position.

## Visit of the President of the United Nations General Assembly

As the longest-serving diplomat in Trinidad and Tobago's history, Ambassador Dennis Francis brought a wealth of respected experience to his tenure as President of UNGA. His commitment to advocating for the needs of SIDS and creating spaces for youth leadership on sustainable development were hallmarks of a historic year.

In the final days of his tenure, Ambassador Francis held a series of inspirational engagements during a visit to his homeland in August 2024. The United Nations Country Team had the privilege of meeting the Ambassador and discussing his reflections on the

Fourth International Conference on SIDS, including opportunities for Trinidad and Tobago to build on the priorities outlined in ABAS. He also championed the vital importance of United Nations efforts to reduce consumption of single-use plastics, noting that ocean habitats and marine wildlife in the Caribbean are at grave risk from plastic pollution.



“ If we do nothing or if we continue on the present trajectory, by 2050, there will be more plastic in the sea than fish. So, consider what it would be like going to the market and buying a five-pound plastic rather than buying a five-pound Kingfish. ”

Ambassador Dennis Francis, Former UNGA President, and Trinidad and Tobago's Permanent Representative to the United Nations



## Prosperity

According to the International Monetary Fund, Trinidad and Tobago's economic recovery from COVID-19 continued in 2024 with moderate growth, supported by a rebound in the energy sector and diversification efforts. Initiatives to improve the business environment, including digitalization of public services and financial support for small and medium enterprises, continued. Food insecurity – measured year on year by reduced food consumption rates – decreased by 10 per cent between 2023 and 2024 according to the April 2024 World Food Programme (WFP)-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey data for Trinidad and Tobago. However, vulnerabilities such as dependence on energy exports and exposure to external shocks underscore the need for sustained reforms to ensure inclusive and stable growth. Government investments in digital infrastructure resulted in ICT Access Centers opening their doors in marginalized communities, however, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) ranking of Trinidad and Tobago at 93rd for innovation inputs and 119th for outputs reflects a decline from previous years. This suggests challenges in translating technological investments into tangible innovations.





## CHAPTER 2

United Nations  
development system  
support



### 2.1

Overview of Cooperation Framework  
results

The 17 SDGs are a global roadmap to deliver on the promise of Agenda 2030: peace and prosperity For People and For Planet. In the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, the United Nations and national governments partner on development cooperation to achieve progress on the SDGs.

This collaboration is strategically guided by the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNMSDCF) for the Caribbean 2022–2026, a planning instrument that organizes United Nations-Government programming into four priority areas.







With 2024 marking the critical midpoint of the five-year cycle for UNMSDCF, as well as the start of a new bi-annual CIP, this juncture presented a valuable opportunity to review the successes and challenges of current UNMSDCF programming in Trinidad and Tobago, and crystalize shared priorities for the 2024–2026 CIP.

and senior representatives from 23 ministries participated alongside the United Nations Trinidad and Tobago to assess the results of cooperation in 2023 and plan programming for 2024–2026.

Consequently, a Joint National Steering Committee meeting was held in July 2024, co-chaired by the Ministry of Planning and Development, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator. Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries



Being regional in scope, UNMSDCF was designed for the needs and challenges of the Caribbean SIDS. There is robust complementarity between the ABAS plan to achieve the SDGs in all global SIDS, and the Caribbean-centric approach for United Nations development cooperation in UNMSDCF.

In 2024, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, the United Nations Trinidad and Tobago partnered with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and key development stakeholders to implement UNMSDCF through

country-specific programming detailed in a Country Implementation Plan (CIP). The Plan aligns with the five themes in Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Strategy, Vision 2030, to ensure the United Nations' collaboration with national partners contributes to the country's development priorities. Overall, 69% of the United Nations' implementation support in response to the local development and cooperation environment was capacity development and technical assistance.

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# 2.2

## Achieving Cooperation Framework Priorities, outcomes and outputs



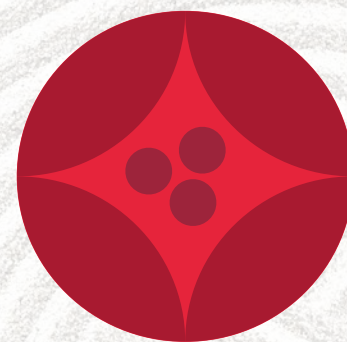
### Priority Area 1

### Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience



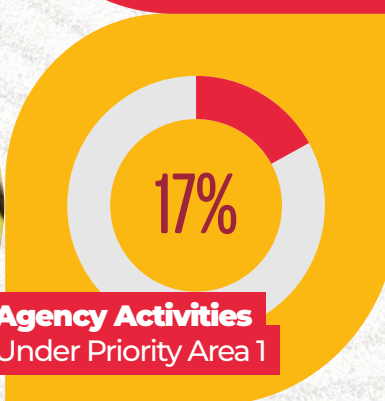
In 2024, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago collaborated with the United Nations and its partners to strengthen economic resilience and shared prosperity by delivering progress on critical engine room actions designed to turbo charge SDG progress. These actions include strengthening policymaking and regulatory frameworks, convening broad cross-sectoral partnerships and increasing national capacity. Digital transformation, data generation and analysis, the just energy transition and an inclusive, resilient economy were key areas of focus in 2024, all characterized by a commitment to strengthening inclusion of Leave No

One Behind groups and fortifying economic sectors with the potential to accelerate diversification. Under Priority Area 1, the United Nations and its partners shaped a strategic direction for e-commerce, generated data-driven insights to underpin sustainable development policymaking, expanded the uptake of renewable energy and improved the ease of doing business. Skills training remained a priority, as part of the Leave No One Behind mandate to empower vulnerable groups with access to sustainable livelihoods. This portfolio of work contributed to Trinidad and Tobago's progress on seven SDGs.



#### Outcome 1

More productive and competitive business ecosystem designed to improve people's standards of living and well-being.



**VISION 2030 THEME**

**Theme III:** Improving productivity through quality infrastructure and transportation.

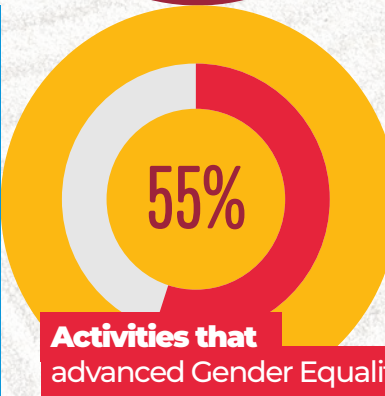
**Theme IV:** Building globally competitive businesses.

**Theme V:** Placing the environment at the center of social and economic development.



#### Outcome 2

The Caribbean has fully transitioned to a more diversified and sustainable economy that supports inclusive and resilient economic growth.



**ABAS ACTION CLUSTERS**

- Build economic resilience.
- Science, technology, innovation and digitalization.
- Productive populations.



### In Numbers



**1 national e-commerce strategy, the first of its kind in the Caribbean.**



**1 National Youth Employment Policy in progress.**



**4 innovations to modernize food systems, from production to plate.**



**1 national survey to shape a financial inclusion strategy.**



**18 sites harnessing solar power.**



**200,000 people reached through clean energy information campaign.**







## Flagship results

Shared Prosperity and Economic Resilience

### 1 Building an inclusive financial system to reduce poverty and drive growth

In support of the Ministry of Finance's efforts to create a more inclusive financial system, the United Nations generated data-driven insights to shape national strategies that widen access to financial services for vulnerable groups. The National Financial Inclusion Survey Report was produced through a collaboration between the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the European Union and the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Center (TTIFC). Released in August 2024, the survey revealed that:

- 1 in 4 adults does not have access to a basic transaction account.
- 3 out of every 4 adults have saved money, most of which is kept at home.
- 3 out of 4 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) operated within households do not have a business bank account.

These findings lay the groundwork for a National Financial Inclusion Strategy that can remove barriers to financial access, foster entrepreneurship and improve financial literacy for the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, youth and marginalized groups. In direct support of SDG 1, this initiative contributes to a financial system that empowers individuals, strengthens small businesses and fuels economic development.



“Access to finance, especially e-money is often a hurdle confronting SIDS, and the UN is proud to have worked with the EU, the Ministry of Finance and the TTIFC to overcome this hurdle so that vulnerable groups – including women and persons with disabilities – can benefit from better access to financial services.”

Joanna Kazana,  
United Nations Resident Coordinator

“Financial inclusion is essential for driving economic growth. The National Financial Inclusion Survey represents a significant milestone in advancing economic development and inclusivity through digital financial inclusion.”

His Excellency Peter Cavendish,  
Ambassador of the European Union  
Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago



### 2 Expanding the digital economy through a national e-commerce strategy

Trinidad and Tobago is harnessing the power of e-commerce and digital trade to drive economic diversification, expand financial inclusion and create new opportunities for businesses and underserved communities. In partnership with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) developed the Trinidad and Tobago eTrade Readiness Assessment, the first of its kind in the Caribbean and only the second in the Latin America and Caribbean region. On the basis of the findings of the assessment, UNCTAD is supporting the Government with developing the National E-commerce Strategy 2025–2030. This blueprint for strengthening the country's digital economy and e-commerce ecosystem was the outcome of an evidence-driven and consultative process that engaged more than 200 people in the public and private sectors, civil society, Tobago and Leave No One Behind groups. Once finalized, the strategy will shape a robust

legal and regulatory framework, investments in digital skills, streamlined trade facilitation and financial access which are all critical factors for a more competitive, resilient and inclusive digital economy. Notably, the strategy incorporates targeted measures to empower women, youth, people in rural areas and persons with disabilities. By formulating a business environment where e-commerce and digital trade can thrive, this initiative is poised to position Trinidad and Tobago as a leader in the Caribbean's digital economy. By equipping businesses and individuals with the tools to capitalize on e-commerce and build a more inclusive, sustainable future, UNCTAD's work delivers progress on Vision 2030's commitment to creating globally competitive businesses and accelerates achievement of SDGs 8, 9 and 10.





“The Ministry of Trade and Industry recognizes UNCTAD’s unwavering dedication, efficiency and professionalism, all of which were essential in developing a consultative, comprehensive and high-quality strategy in record time, demonstrating the strength of our partnership”

### 3 Harnessing digital payments to drive growth and inclusion

Businesses can tap into new market opportunities and drive the country’s economic growth using a stronger digital payments framework made possible through a partnership between the United Nations, the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, and the European Union. In support of Vision 2030’s commitment to developing globally competitive businesses, UNCDF improved the regulations of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago to support a more robust e-money framework that unlocks the economic stimulus potential of digital payments. The revised guidelines enable the Bank to issue e-money, safeguard virtual assets, and license and regulate e-money payment services providers. These advancements empower micro, small and medium enterprises to integrate mobile wallets and digital payment solutions, allowing them to reach new customers and expand market share. Crucially, women, youth, the elderly and unbanked populations can now have greater access to secure, digital financial services

– fostering economic resilience and reducing barriers to financial participation. This initiative catalyzes progress on SDG 1 by ensuring more people and businesses can engage in the digital economy, stimulating growth and strengthening financial security.



### 4 Leveraging digital innovation for a more competitive, resilient agriculture sector

Trinidad and Tobago’s agriculture sector is undergoing a digital transformation, improving produce traceability, reducing costs and increasing market access for farmers. Through complementary initiatives led by UNCDF and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in partnership with the government, new technologies are modernizing value chain management and connecting farmers directly to buyers, advancing Vision 2030’s goals under Themes Three and Four, as well as SDG 2.

To enhance produce traceability and optimize supply chain efficiency, FAO collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries to equip the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) with a Crop Production and Monitoring App, enabling real-time farm-level data collection on production volumes. This ensures precise tracking of produce and market pricing trends, while a digital packhouse management system with barcode scanning further strengthens traceability, aligning Trinidad and Tobago’s agriculture sector with international Codex standards for food safety. These technologies generate insights that improve access to value chain information and help farmers align production

timelines with consumer demand, reducing waste and post-harvest losses. They also advance progress on the country’s Digital Transformation Strategy by deploying information and communication technology (ICT) tools to bolster economic activity.

In a related effort, UNCDF partnered with the European Union, NAMDEVCO and TTIFC to launch AgriConnect, an e-commerce platform which links smallholder farmers to buyers to facilitate direct sales. During the pilot phase, 22 farmers and 8 buyers conducted more than US \$ 35,000 in transactions, guaranteeing an available, on-demand supply of 19 crops to supermarkets, vegetable marts, catering services and hospitals. By January 2025, the project had expanded to include 67 caterers under the National School Feeding Program. The platform saves farmers time and money by providing a ready-made pool of buyers. It also enables buyers to purchase from farmers whose crop yields are typically too small to supply retailers, since the platform allows yields from multiple farms to be pooled for bulk buying. By driving competitiveness and reducing post-harvest losses, the United Nations and its partners are modernizing Trinidad and Tobago’s digital agro-economy.

US \$35,000  
in sales during pilot phase for AgriConnect e-commerce platform.



Every week, Cunupia-based farmer, **Laura Persad**, checks her phone to coordinate orders from bottled seasoning producers and supermarkets. These are regular customers she did not have before November 2024 when she joined the AgriConnect platform.

“To get customers you normally have to go to the wholesale market, but it’s pretty inconvenient as a farmer to work all day and then go to the wholesale market. With the AgriConnect platform, you get the customer to come to you to collect their produce, so I don’t even need to leave my farm. You save diesel money and you save time. The customers can also pay online. I prefer online because of security reasons, and so they transfer the money online and you get the money almost instantly. It saves a lot of time for a farmer.”

For the portion of sales she now receives through AgriConnect, Laura has been able to cut out the middlemen who typically charge customers higher prices. “You’re offering a better price than the wholesale market so the person buying from you is cutting out the mark-up from the middleman and so are you as the farmer. You can get consistent orders as long as you meet the quality the customer expects. I’ve told a lot of farmers about this app. It’s really convenient and a win-win for the customer and the farmer.”







5

## Bio-technology poised to strengthen food systems resilience and sustainability

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries and the United Nations are pioneering innovative farming technologies to advance progress on the CARICOM '25 by 25' plan for boosting regional food security and achieving a 25 per cent reduction in the food import bill. To expand national livestock production to meet these targets, the Ministry collaborated with FAO and the University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine to lay the groundwork for a supply of cost-effective domestic feedstock. Together, they operationalized a black soldier fly insect rearing facility that produces fly larvae capable of converting organic waste into nutrient-rich feed and fertilizer. By combining a scientific approach

with practical applications, this facility can generate sustainable and affordable protein for poultry and aquaculture, reducing reliance on imported feed and lowering the cost of inputs for farmers. This innovation strengthens resilience in the agriculture sector while delivering an environmentally sustainable waste management solution for food waste and agricultural residues. With approximately one million chickens consumed weekly in Trinidad and Tobago, this initiative can be scaled up to revolutionize the agricultural sector. The FAO partnership with the government underscores how small, natural solutions can drive systemic change, supporting SDG 2 and advancing the country's long-term agricultural sustainability goals.

## 6 Innovating for sustainability: United Nations - facilitated solutions for Tobago's agriculture

Tobago's agriculture sector is evolving to meet the challenges of climate change, food security and economic resilience with United Nations agencies playing a pivotal role in supporting innovative and inclusive farming solutions. From regional knowledge exchange on resilient food systems to climate-smart farming techniques, FAO and WFP are partnering with the Tobago House of Assembly to enhance agricultural sustainability and rural livelihoods.

In June 2024, WFP facilitated a learning exchange at Liberty Lodge Farm in Saint Vincent, where Assemblyman Ian Pollard – Secretary for Settlements, Public Utilities and Rural Development, explored

strategies for integrating agriculture with life skills training to foster self-reliance. Inspired by this model, Tobago aims to replicate similar programs to empower local farmers and entrepreneurs.

"What struck me most was how this program is transforming lives – moving parents and caregivers from being housewives to entrepreneurs and helping them transition off social programs," Pollard shared. "It's an inspiring model that we hope to adapt in Tobago to empower our citizens in similar ways."

Kendal and Louis D'or, drip irrigation systems are helping farmers reduce water loss from evaporation, while a bamboo shade house protects crops from heat stress and pests. These nature-based solutions not only enhance food production but also advance SDGs 2 and 13 by promoting water-efficient, adaptive farming practices.

Together, these initiatives reflect a comprehensive United Nations approach to strengthening Tobago's agricultural landscape. By fostering regional collaboration, investing in climate-resilient infrastructure and equipping farmers with essential skills, the United Nations is ensuring that Tobago's agriculture sector remains sustainable, productive and resilient in the face of future challenges.



## 7 Reducing carbon emissions through the clean energy transition

At the JC Mac Donald Home for the Aged in San Fernando, 14 senior citizens now have a zero-carbon, more affordable source of electricity thanks to the installation of a 10kW solar photovoltaic system. The clean energy upgrade, made possible by the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Initiative – a partnership between the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Planning and Development – is reducing the Home's electricity bill and carbon footprint.

"We thank this project for thinking of the needs of the elderly, who are often forgotten" said Secretary for the Board of Directors at Home, Joan Awardy.

The seniors care facility is one of 18 sites across Trinidad and Tobago contributing to the country's low carbon thrust and clean energy transition through the use of solar photovoltaic systems

installed by the GCCA+ project. In 2024 alone, 6 sites were commissioned following 12 installations in 2023, advancing the country's commitment to reducing carbon emissions under its NDCs in line with the Paris Agreement.

Beyond installations, GCCA+ is driving a nationwide shift toward renewable energy. A multimedia communications campaign engaged over 200,000 people in 2024, raising awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of clean energy. By expanding access to solar power and public education, the GCCA+ project is accelerating Trinidad and Tobago's transition to a low-carbon future, directly supporting SDGs 7 and 13.







## 8 Building brighter futures for youth: a national strategy for youth employment

In Trinidad and Tobago, the youth unemployment rate is more than double the national average, reflecting systemic barriers that prevent young people from securing stable and meaningful employment. To empower young people with the skills and opportunities they need to contribute to economic growth and resilience, the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service linked up with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Cipriani Labour College to support

the development of a National Youth Employment Policy. This investment in human capital aims to equip young people with the opportunities, skills and support systems they need to thrive, catalyzing economic resilience and national prosperity.

ILO is playing a pivotal role in shaping this policy by analyzing labor market trends, sharing global best practices and providing a policy toolkit to tackle multiple dimensions of youth unemployment –

including the high percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), gender disparities in labor participation and the challenges of non-standard employment. This support will ensure the National Youth Employment Policy aligns with and complements existing labor market, sectoral and macroeconomic policies.

With a data-driven policy in hand, Trinidad and Tobago can ensure decent, sustainable employment opportunities for young people, propelling progress on SDGs 4 and 8. By fostering collaboration across government ministries, the private sector and civil society, the policy lays the groundwork for economic resilience, reduced inequalities and a stronger, future-ready workforce.



## 9 Opening doors to sustainable livelihoods and economic participation

Through mutually reinforcing initiatives, the United Nations Trinidad and Tobago partnered with civil society and development organizations to strengthen access to decent work opportunities for 145 vulnerable refugees, migrants and members of the host community so they can achieve economic independence and contribute to the national economy.

To strengthen youth employment pathways, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) partnered with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) on the Youth Business Trinidad and Tobago program. Seventy-eight young people – including refugees, migrants and locals – were empowered with accredited skills certification and small business development training and mentorship.





The program also facilitated apprenticeships at local businesses, giving participants practical work experience. Additionally, Spanish-speaking participants improved their communication with English-speaking employers and customers through English as a Second Language training, thereby enhancing their job prospects. In a complementary effort to reduce vulnerability to forced labor and exploitation, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) partnered with Families in Action to equip 67 survivors of human trafficking, exploitation, violence and abuse – many of them women – with vocational and entrepreneurial skills. Together, these efforts are advancing SDGs 1 and 8, ensuring marginalized groups have the tools to build secure, independent futures while contributing to a stronger, more inclusive economy.

“My business, Malurious, is a clothing brand designed to serve as a financial foundation for my other upcoming ventures. Thanks to the support and funding from UNHCR, with PADF as implementers and the YBTT mentorship program, I am now able to turn this idea into reality. While I always had a vision for my business, this program helped me develop a comprehensive understanding of every aspect involved, from start to finish.”

*Malachi Griffith, Youth Business Trinidad and Tobago (YBTT) Graduate*

## 10 Shaping sustainable cultural economies through arts and education

Anchored in the objectives of SDG 8 to foster inclusive, diversified and sustainable cultural economies, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Creative Caribbean program is driving economic, human and social development throughout the region. The initiative stimulates job creation and enhances market access in the cultural sector by integrating creative arts into education, thereby enriching local heritage tourism and modern curricula.

Over a one-year period, the program trained 15 educators in Trinidad and Tobago who work with children aged 8 to 13 to use innovative methods that incorporate the arts into their teaching practices, including festivals, storytelling and folklore, traditional ring games and puppetry. These approaches aim to enhance educational curricula with visual and performing arts focused on local history, equipping educators to engage primary and lower secondary students more effectively.

Anderson La Barrie, a school supervisor at Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Education and project lead at the Secondary Schools' Drama Association, remarked on the transformative impact of the training workshops: "They were able to be interactive, understand and develop the concepts, and experience those a-ha moments. The energy and camaraderie created was remarkable."





# 2.2

## Achieving Cooperation Framework Priorities, outcomes and outputs

### Priority Area 2

Equality, well-being and leaving no one behind



Robust collaborations between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the United Nations, coupled with the trusted convening capacity of the United Nations to create coalitions of cross-sectoral partners, made 2024 another year of robust delivery under Pillar 2: Equality, Well-being and leaving no one behind. Coordinated inter-agency efforts by the United Nations ensured the initiatives programmed under this pillar produced complementary results that advanced progress on policymaking and governance, institutional strengthening, social protection, gender equality, and health and well-being. Digital transformation and data



in USD

**Total Available**  
**\$7,540,297**

**Total Expenditure**  
**\$5,719,049**



### Outcome 3

National governments and regional institutions use relevant data and information to design and adopt laws and policies to eliminate discrimination, address structural inequalities and ensure the advancement of those at risk of being left furthest behind.

### Outcome 4

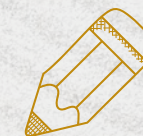
People in the Caribbean equitably access and utilize universal, quality and shock-responsive social protection, education, health and care services.



### In Numbers



**7,561 refugees and migrants empowered through direct support and skills training.**



**1,774 refugee and migrant children accessing alternative learning programs.**



**1,200 children received vision screenings.**



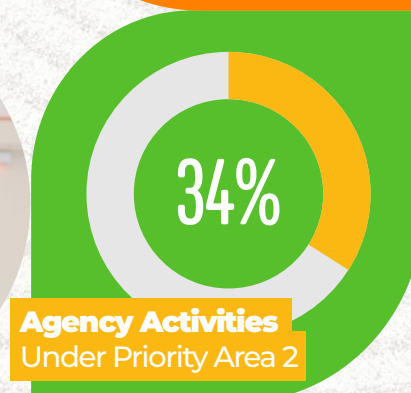
**60 children in the first cohort of refugee and migrant students enrolled in the national education system.**



**30 pharmacies in public health centers using digital inventory management system.**



**8 health service robots delivered to hospitals and health centers.**



**VISION 2030 THEME**

- Theme I: Putting people first.
- Theme II: Delivering good governance and service excellence

### ABAS ACTION CLUSTERS

- Productive populations.
- Safe and healthy societies.
- Partnerships.







## Flagship results

Equality, well-being and leaving no one behind



### Empowering every child: United Nations partnerships expand access to education

Trinidad and Tobago is making historic progress in strengthening inclusive and equitable education, ensuring that every child, regardless of nationality, has access to learning opportunities. With a landmark policy shift in 2024, enabled by a comprehensive package of support from the United Nations and its partners, the Government took concrete steps to begin integrating refugee and migrant students into the national education system.

Following collaboration between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNHCR, IOM, the Ministry of National Security, the Ministry of Education, faith-based organizations and civil society, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago amended immigration regulations to allow children registered under the 2019 Migrant Registration Framework to enroll in the national education system. As a result, 60 refugee and migrant children entered government-funded schools between September and December 2024, supported by a UNICEF-Ministry of Education partnership that developed a streamlined registration system across 22 primary schools. Under the national Response for Venezuela (R4V) platform, the Education Working Group, co-chaired by UNICEF and UNHCR, served as a convening platform to coordinate the expertise of denominational educators, development actors and civil society organizations in supporting the Ministry of Education with administrative preparations for this important step in integration.

The Education Working Group comprises the Pan-American Development Foundation, the Catholic Education Board of Management, the Living Water Community, the Catholic Commission of Social Justice and the Heroes Foundation.

Beyond facilitating access to learning, UNICEF completed a groundbreaking economic analysis which demonstrated that inclusive education policies could boost Trinidad and Tobago's gross domestic product by up to 4.5 per cent by 2030, underscoring the long-term economic benefits of equitable learning.

To further support integration, UNHCR provided school supplies and uniforms to 23 refugee and migrant students, while 100 tablets were provided to the Ministry of Education under its Adopt-A-School program to enhance digital learning. Thirty laptops were donated to Venezuelan migrant students to narrow the digital divide and support access to essential educational resources including virtual lectures and other online material. The United Nations continues partnering with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to widen education access to the more than 2,000 registered refugee and migrant children still awaiting inclusion in national schools. In the interim, UNHCR and UNICEF maintained their collaborative Equal Place program, a temporary alternative learning initiative delivering education to 1,774 refugee and migrant children – 658 at the primary level and 1,116 in secondary

education. Additionally, UNICEF's partnerships with 8 community-based organizations continued providing informal education to refugee and migrant children through 18 child-friendly spaces. With funding from the European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and the United States of America's Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), UNICEF has addressed financial barriers to education through Programa TEEN. This cash program provided critical support to 931 individuals, including 456 children, ensuring access to necessities such as educational materials.

Rounding out this comprehensive package of United Nations support, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Education to offer vision screenings for over 1,200 students leading to 328 children receiving glasses by December 2024.

The United Nations remains a steadfast partner for Trinidad and Tobago's mission to ensure every child can learn, thrive and contribute to a more prosperous society, thereby advancing progress on SDGs 4 and 10, and Vision 2030's commitment to Putting People First.



“The progress we have made together on inclusive education will be life-changing for these children and their families.”

*Candace Bond, Former Ambassador of the United States of America to Trinidad and Tobago*



## Spotlight: United Nations Volunteers from Korea contribute to Trinidad and Tobago's development progress

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) is a cross-cutting program promoting peace and development across the world, including at United Nations agencies in Trinidad and Tobago. With both national and international volunteers, UNVs represent many cultures and backgrounds. For international donors, it is an opportunity for their citizens to have a lasting global impact and create opportunities for personal development and professional experiences for the volunteers. The partnership between UNV and the Republic of Korea, for example, dates back to 1986.

"I am pleased to see Korean Volunteers for the UN here in Port of Spain. They are a good symbol of robust relations between the Republic of Korea and the UN, but also our common commitment to cultivating young generations for the future," says Ambassador of Korea to Trinidad and Tobago, Seijoong Kwon.

One of the Korean volunteers, Seulah Park, is a Child Rights Monitoring Specialist working for UNICEF in Trinidad and Tobago.

"I am particularly interested in utilizing data effectively," Seulah says. "During meetings and campaigns, I share relevant statistics and promote awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and national child policies. Through these efforts, I increase public understanding of children's rights and encourage decision

makers to prioritize and advocate for all of the children in the region. I am proud to serve in UNICEF, for every child."

Another UNV, Yaeun Jin, works as a Program Assistant and Reporting Officer at UNHCR Trinidad and Tobago.

"What I enjoy most about my work as a UNV is the opportunity to work directly with refugees, host community members and partners," she says. "Hearing their stories and witnessing positive changes in the field has broadened my perspective and deepened my understanding of the importance of protecting the rights of displaced populations to ensure their access to rights while living in other countries."



## Trinidad and Tobago improves trafficking in persons ranking

In 2024, Trinidad and Tobago recorded an improved ranking in the United States Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, moving off the Tier 2 Watch List after three years. This achievement signals the country's growing capacity to combat and respond to human trafficking through stronger law enforcement, victim support and protection, and public awareness. The United Nations system and its partners directly contributed to this milestone by strengthening prosecution efforts, enhancing institutional capacity and fostering a multi-sectoral approach to TIP prevention. Spearheaded by UNDP and IOM, these efforts leveraged partnerships with the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the United States Government Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the American Bar Association and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS).

A key catalyst for Trinidad and Tobago's progress in 2024 was the development of a costed implementation framework for the National Action Plan (NAP) to improve prosecution of TIP, as part of the UNDP CARISecure 2.0 initiative. A capacity development report for the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) further reinforced law enforcement's strategic direction for delivering

effective TIP responses. Additionally, an alliance with the American Bar Association provided specialized training for law enforcement and judicial officers, reinforcing the prosecutorial chain against traffickers.

IOM contributed to this holistic approach by enhancing the national response systems which ensure victims of trafficking receive effective care and support. In 2024, 228 people were trained to offer improved victim care, case management, age assessment and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Shelter management training equipped 38 stakeholders with skills to manage shelters for trafficking survivors. This comprehensive approach contributes to empowering survivors, fostering their rehabilitation and enabling them to transition from victims to empowered individuals contributing positively to society.

By combining institutional strengthening and multi-sectoral coordination, UNDP, IOM and their partners laid a strong foundation for sustainable progress on SDG 16 and Vision 2030's commitment to a safer, more just society.



## Enabling inclusive migration and integration in Trinidad and Tobago

The United Nations system's complementary efforts and strategic partnerships enabled Trinidad and Tobago to make progress on its commitment to inclusive migration in 2024. These partnerships ensured that refugees, migrants and human trafficking survivors received access to essential services, economic opportunities and pathways to integration. Through a holistic package of support, the United Nations system and its partners supported 4,007 refugees, migrants and nationals with enhanced access to essential services, economic opportunities and pathways to integration. These initiatives were made possible with financial support from the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the United States Department







of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, USAID and Global Affairs Canada.

A key aspect of dignified migration is safe pathways to resettlement and in 2024, IOM facilitated the resettlement of 194 individuals to Australia, Canada and the United States. Each individual received pre-migration health assessments and tailored pre-departure support.

Recognizing healthcare access as a fundamental right, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) partnered with the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Midwives to increase access to prenatal and postnatal care services for 788 migrant women, improving maternal and child health outcomes. Consultations with midwives and healthcare professionals offered guidance on pregnancy, childcare, breastfeeding, labor and delivery, as well as education on gender-based violence (GBV). By bringing services directly to the community, the initiative addressed barriers to healthcare access such as long travel distances, ensuring residents could receive critical support.

To address economic hardship and food insecurity, IOM provided 2,437 vulnerable migrants and locals with food and non-food support. Bilingual information on public services, labor rights and resources were also provided in curated information kits. These efforts targeted rural and coastal

communities, with a commitment by IOM and its partner, the Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees, to reach underserved areas.

To promote self-sufficiency and economic empowerment, IOM launched a Vocational Skills Training Program for 63 victims of trafficking, providing training in cosmetology, micro-entrepreneurship, English proficiency and job-readiness skills. This initiative equipped women ages 18 to 55 with tools for independent livelihoods. IOM also fostered socioeconomic and cultural integration through a suite of initiatives that benefitted 243 people, including personal safety training and vocational training in culinary arts, sewing and hydroponics.

The United Nations continues to support refugees and migrants in achieving stability, economic independence and social integration, reinforcing Trinidad and Tobago's progress toward inclusive sustainable development.

Amid colorful fabrics and sewing machines in Longdenville, Trinidad and Tobago, Akila carefully smooths the hem of a blue top she is crafting, her movements deliberate and precise.

"I dream of creating clothes for myself and my daughter instead of buying ready-made garments. This could be the start of my own little business!" says Akila, a 30-year-old Trinidadian mother.

Eager to learn sewing, she joined the Flourish Empowering Resilience and Integration program implemented by the Women-Owned Media and Education Network and funded by IOM. The program connects locals and migrants through skills training. It was there Akila met Yusmelis, a 43-year-old mother who left Venezuela in 2019 seeking a better future for her three children. "At first, locals saw us as job

rivals, but through these courses, they've come to know our stories and support us. The training is an icebreaker", Yusmelis says.

Together with 15 other participants, Akila and Yusmelis refine their sewing skills, preparing to complete their creations. Soon, they will bring their handmade tops home, a testament to resilience and hope.



## 4 Championing equality and well-being through robust refugee protection

Advancing equality and well-being is at the heart of UNHCR's transformative work with the Government and partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These partnerships delivered a stronger protection environment in 2024, with improved capacities to enforce humanitarian and international protection law in the national response to refugees and forcibly displaced persons. To achieve this, 500 refugees and asylum-seekers received cash assistance from UNHCR in coordination with its partner, the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago, to meet their basic needs and overcome serious medical issues, GBV, risks of eviction and homelessness. 867 individuals were also supported by the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago

with case management to overcome protection risks and find solutions. Additionally, through the collaboration between UNHCR and the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, 300 refugee and migrant children at risk and their caregivers were supported with case management and educational activities. These initiatives ensured the equality and well-being of all, including the most vulnerable and forcibly displaced persons in need of international protection. By strengthening national case management and complementary support systems, UNHCR, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and partner NGOs are paving the way for a more inclusive, resilient and just Trinidad and Tobago, in alignment with Themes One and Two of Vision 2030.





## 5 South-South Cooperation revolutionizes patient-centered public healthcare



Dr. Ravi Lalla, Medical Chief of Staff at the Couva Hospital and Multi-Training Facility, has seen firsthand the improvement to healthcare service delivery that resulted from the integration of eight robots into the public health system. “They will offer us the ability to be able to offload some of the work that would have normally have a person doing, and now we could have the robot take over the space and free up the people to do more of the human interactions... that could only lead to a richer experience for people entering the healthcare system”, Dr. Lalla said.

This groundbreaking initiative, a collaboration between the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health, introduced two disinfecting robots and six humanoid health service robots into hospitals across east, central and south Trinidad, as well as Tobago. Financed by the India-United Nations Fund and strengthened through South-South Cooperation with

Rwanda, these robots assist with patient registration and communication. The project delivers targeted support for the elderly, persons with disabilities and Spanish-speaking patients, making healthcare more accessible and efficient. In partnership with the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), PAHO/WHO also ensured that local healthcare professionals received training to effectively use the robots, strengthening the technical capacity of the public health system. By leveraging cutting-edge digital health solutions, this initiative is enhancing healthcare service delivery, reducing staff workload and improving patient experience – all while advancing SDG 3 and Theme 1 of Vision 2030: Putting People First.



## 6

## Harnessing evidence-based policymaking for sustainable development



A robust data ecosystem is essential for evidence-based policymaking that drives sustainable development progress, economic resilience and improved public services. In 2024, United Nations agencies continued coalescing around a shared mission to strengthen Trinidad and Tobago’s data ecosystem by strengthening cross-government partnerships to equip the public sector with catalytic data and analysis.

To combat child poverty and enhance child protection, the Government adopted a multidimensional poverty analysis, developed in partnership with UNICEF and the Office of the Prime Minister, as the foundation for a national strategy to improve well-being outcomes for 330,102 children. Data-driven advocacy also secured government endorsement for the deinstitutionalization of childcare, prioritizing family- and community-based solutions over institutional settings. These measures align with SDGs 1, 3 and 10.

Parallel to these social protection efforts, IOM reprised its support for public sector agencies by providing data and analysis on migrant population mobility and socioeconomic needs through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). With nearly 1,400 Venezuelan migrants surveyed, DTM found that food, income generation and information gaps on the availability of labor and health services remain critical needs. This data assists Government entities such as the Ministry of Labour Inspectorate Unit, which has used DTM to assess labor conditions among migrants and implement inspection visits to monitor terms and conditions of work.

In the health sector, PAHO/WHO partnered with the Ministry of Health to conduct Trinidad and Tobago’s second national STEPS survey on non-communicable diseases. Findings from this survey – the first since 2011– highlighted rising obesity rates and increased hypertension levels, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted prevention and policy interventions. The data will directly inform tobacco control measures, nutrition policies and public health programs, strengthening the country’s capacity to deliver shock-resilient healthcare services and advance SDG 3.

In addition to these sector-specific interventions, a public sector geospatial information network, developed through collaboration between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Ministry of Planning and Development, and the Central Statistical Office is transforming national development planning. By training 80 senior decision makers and technical managers in the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), ECLAC directly contributed to the formation of this cross-sectoral network which is set to enhance government coordination and service delivery.

By investing in high-quality data collection and analysis, Trinidad and Tobago is ensuring that policy decisions are grounded in evidence to drive long-term sustainable development.





## 7 Empowering every child: United Nations partnerships expand access to education



“ In Trinidad and Tobago, women play a significant role in shaping the nation, and the Government actively advocates for and supports their involvement and accomplishments in business, politics, the arts, and all facets of our socioeconomic and cultural life. ”

*The Honorable Ayanna Webster-Roy  
– Minister in the Office of the Prime  
Minister - Gender and Child Affairs*

Achieving gender equality in parliamentary representation and national leadership is essential to mainstreaming gender in national policies and programs. To advance this goal, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) forged a multi-stakeholder partnership with The InterAmerican Commission of Women, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the School of Government of the Organization of American States to provide strategic support and professional development for women in leadership. This initiative culminated in November 2024 with the hosting of the first Regional Electoral Course for Women Candidates in Port of Spain. Designed to strengthen political engagement

and leadership capacity, the course provided 24 women electoral candidates from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago with critical knowledge on the local and regional political landscape, helping them make informed decisions about their political careers. The initiative enhanced their political skills, built their leadership capacity and equipped them with practical strategies to combat gender-based discrimination throughout the electoral process. By equipping women candidates with the skills, networks and confidence to lead political processes and shape policy, this initiative directly advances SDG 5 and helps shape a more inclusive, equitable political landscape.

## 8 Bridging divides, empowering voices: ‘We Ting’ Community Caravan

A resilient and cohesive society is essential for sustainable development, inclusive governance and social stability. After the UNDP Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE Caribbean) identified key gaps in social cohesion, governance perception and community engagement, UNDP worked with the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs to bridge social divides and strengthen community trust.



They launched the “We Ting” Community Caravan – a nationwide initiative fostering dialogue, cultural exchange and participatory decision-making. Initiated in September 2024, this series of mobile workshops, cultural events and ‘Have Yuh Say’ dialogue sessions collected community-level information and feedback from Arima, Chaguanas, Diego Martin, Port of Spain, Siparia and Tobago. The Caravan engaged with diverse demographics, with a focus on youth, women and vulnerable populations. The Caravan also confirmed key findings from SCORE Caribbean which will shape UNDP’s 2025 programming. These include:

Bridging this divide is essential for fostering social cohesion and creating sustainable pathways for collaborative community development. The We Ting Community Caravan laid the groundwork for UNDP’s partnership with the Government to accelerate progress on SDGs 5 and 10, in line with Vision 2030’s Putting People First commitment.

- 1) A fragility of trust – in institutions, governance and social systems – is a recurring theme across demographics. For many, governance is not an abstract entity but a relational dynamic that must be rebuilt through tangible acts of accountability and inclusion.
- 2) Gendered and cultural expectations continue to frame perceptions of leadership. Men were often viewed as protectors and providers, while women were identified as nurturers and community caretakers.
- 3) Intergenerational divides reflect broader societal shifts. Elders expressed concerns over perceived declines in traditional values, while youth highlighted barriers to participation and agency.





## 9 Digital supply chain management enhances health service efficiency

A well-functioning health supply chain is essential for ensuring uninterrupted access to medicines and health products, ultimately improving health outcomes and strengthening healthcare resilience. With support from Global Affairs Canada, UNFPA implemented the SALMI Logistics Management Information System in 30 out of 36 pharmacies across Trinidad and Tobago by 2024, significantly enhancing procurement and distribution efficiency in the public health sector.

By digitizing inventory tracking and supply chain processes, SALMI has reduced stock shortages, ensuring that medications and critical supplies remain available to patients when needed. According to the Ministry of Health, the pharmacies utilizing the system have reported improved

inventory management and procurement efficiency, contributing to a more reliable and responsive healthcare system.

To ensure long-term sustainability, UNFPA and the Ministry of Health are working toward full government ownership and management of SALMI. By strengthening health supply chain management, this initiative advances SDGs 3 and 9, ensuring that Trinidad and Tobago's healthcare system remains resilient, efficient and patient-centered.

## 10 Fortifying air quality management to improve public health

A policy reform collaboration between PAHO/WHO and its partners delivered a stronger regulatory framework for long-term air quality improvement in 2024, making good progress towards promoting healthy communities and creating sustainable, resilient urban environments. Working with the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), the Ministry of Planning and Development, and the Swedish International Development Agency, PAHO/WHO updated Trinidad and Tobago's national air pollution rules, laying the groundwork for stronger enforcement to enhance air quality and reduce environmental health risks. In support of this initiative, PAHO/WHO and the Ministry of Health collaborated to reduce air pollution-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and promote cleaner, healthier urban environments.

Over a three-month period, technical staff from civil society, academia and government sectors received specialized training that equipped them with practical strategies for identifying and mitigating air pollution risks. This engagement also fostered stronger collaboration between health authorities and the mayors and chairpersons at the helm of local government to develop community-based solutions for air pollution and urban health challenges. By convening a cross-sectoral network of collaborators to integrate policy reform and capacity-building, PAHO/WHO is working towards a healthier Trinidad and Tobago with a more sustainable urban future. This work aligned with SDGs 3 and 11.



“Together, we aim to reduce health risks and improve the quality of life within the Siparia Borough Municipality. A special thank you to the Ministry of Health Trinidad and Tobago, PAHO/WHO and the EMA for spearheading this important conversation and fostering collaboration for a healthier future.”

*Councillor Doodnath Mayrhoo – Mayor, Siparia Borough Corporation*

## 11 Strengthening advocacy for HIV response

Driven by the imperative to advance health, equity and human rights under SDGs 3 and 10, Trinidad and Tobago made significant progress in strengthening its national response to HIV and AIDS. With support from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Office of the Prime Minister – Gender and Child Affairs, the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) advanced implementation of the National Strategic Plan on HIV and its National HIV and AIDS Policy. In 2024, the formalization of the Coalition of HIV and AIDS NGOs in Trinidad and Tobago (CHANTT) strengthened governance, collaboration and stakeholder engagement, enhancing civil society's role in national HIV/AIDS policy and decision-making. In a related initiative, a cadre of 30 senior government officials and representatives of communities most affected by HIV can now effectively advocate for solutions to health inequalities and discrimination after specialized capacity-building training was delivered in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). These efforts foster a more cohesive, equitable and rights-based national response to HIV.





## 12 Protecting fisherfolk and their livelihoods



Building resilience in the fisheries sector is essential for protecting livelihoods, preserving lives and strengthening disaster preparedness. Recognizing the vital role of communications technology in maritime safety, the Smart Seas Toolkit for Disaster Resilience (“Smart Seas”) Project – a joint initiative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), and the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), supported by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago – is working to bridge critical communication gaps at sea for small-scale fishers. A comprehensive gap analysis of the maritime communications ecosystem identified key weaknesses in compliance with United Nations conventions, policy and regulatory environments, and operational capacity. In response, gap-

filling tools were developed and incorporated into the online Smart Seas Toolkit, which trained agencies across all four beneficiary countries on solutions to improve communications, safety and emergency response at sea. The ITU is procuring radio equipment, critical for maritime search and rescue, for the Coast Guard. To fortify these efforts, an Agenda for Accessible Communications at Sea for Small-Scale Fishers – now in its final stages – outlines priorities for expanding affordable, accessible maritime communications, including the role of emerging technologies. By leveraging ICT solutions to strengthen maritime safety, the Smart Seas Project contributes to SDGs 9 and 14, ensuring that small-scale fishers can operate more safely and sustainably in an increasingly unpredictable environment.





## 2.2

### Achieving Cooperation Framework Priorities, outcomes and outputs

#### Priority Area 3

Resilience to climate change/shocks and sustainable natural resource management

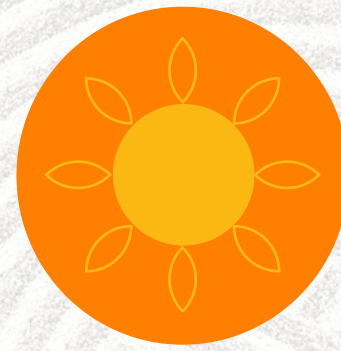


Enhancing Trinidad and Tobago's hazard risk resilience by strengthening the country's capacity for data-driven inter-agency coordination, logistics and humanitarian responses, was a defining feature of the United Nation's work under Pillar 3. Additionally, the nexus between environmental conservation and food systems underpinned key resilience-enhancing initiatives. Important efforts were invested in equipping national authorities with stronger capacities to track and report on climate commitments, particularly with the next edition of NDCs expected for delivery in 2025. Finally, Tobago was the focus of community-level capacity-building for natural resource management.



**Total Available**  
**\$5,695,363**

**Total Expenditure**  
**\$2,854,599**



#### Outcome 5

Caribbean people, communities and institutions have enhanced adaptive capacity for inclusive gender responsive disaster risk management, and climate adaptation and mitigation.

#### Outcome 6

Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems strengthening their resilience and enhancing the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them.



#### In Numbers



**National Disaster Risk Information Management System (DRIMS) launched.**



**40 hectares of land sustainably cultivated, yielding 98,800 lbs (44,815 kg) of rice.**



**24 disaster management personnel across 11 institutions trained**



**6 youth-focused caravans and expos supported to position agriculture as a sustainable career path for young people.**



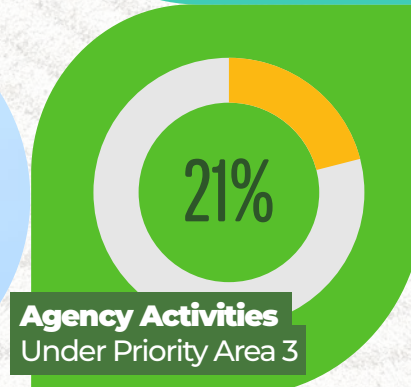
**Over 1080 stakeholders convened to promote a greener circular economy and sustainable waste management.**



**60,000 beneficiaries in Tobago.**

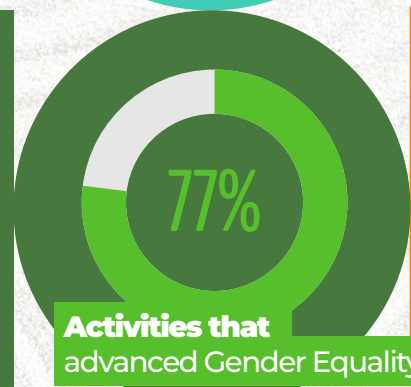


**10.5 km of riverbank reforested.**



#### VISION 2030 THEME

- Theme III: Improving productivity through quality infrastructure and transportation.
- Theme IV: Building globally competitive businesses.
- Theme V: Placing the environment at the center of social and economic development.

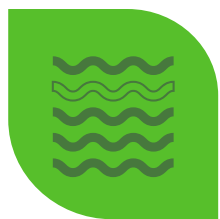


#### ABAS ACTION CLUSTERS

- Scale up climate action.
- Scale up biodiversity action.
- Conserve and sustainably use the ocean.
- Mainstream disaster risk reduction.







## Flagship results

Resilience to climate change/shocks and sustainable natural resource management



### Strengthening humanitarian logistics for disaster resilience



In 2024, WFP, in partnership with CDEMA, significantly advanced humanitarian supply chain and logistics capacities in Trinidad and Tobago, contributing to strengthened institutional capacity for gender-inclusive adaptation and disaster management. The rollout of the CDEMA Logistics System trained 24 disaster management personnel across 11 institutions, enhancing the government's asset documentation and internal planning for hurricane preparedness. A simulation exercise engaged 13 professionals from 7 national institutions, testing emergency response mechanisms and fostering interagency coordination. In response to training gaps, WFP facilitated forklift certification for

17 individuals, equipping them with critical skills for emergency logistics. The embedding of a Logistics Associate within the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management contributed to the development of the National Logistic Plan and emergency response efforts, including an oil spill cleanup in Tobago. This comprehensive capacity-building approach not only enhances national disaster response capabilities but strengthens resilience and fosters coordinated emergency logistics across the region.



### Multi-stakeholder partnerships for food security and resilience

WFP, in collaboration with The Cropper Foundation, the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service, and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management advanced food security resilience in Trinidad and Tobago to strengthen food systems and increase access to nutritious food for vulnerable populations. As part of the National Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Month, 11 participants received specialized



training on disaster preparedness, enhancing their ability to address climate-induced shocks and reinforcing youth engagement in agriculture. The seventh round of the Food Security and Livelihoods survey provided crucial data, with 40 per cent of surveyed households in Trinidad and Tobago reporting livelihood disruptions in 2024, particularly those with below-average incomes (47 per cent) and those reliant on remittances. These findings informed a country-specific report, equipping policymakers with data-driven insights to develop targeted interventions. Additionally, in 2024 for the first time, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago participated in the Regional Forum on School Meals in Latin America and the Caribbean organized by WFP in partnership with the Government of Mexico. There was

an emphasis on utilizing data and sharing best practices which ultimately resulted in Trinidad and Tobago joining the international School Meals Coalition.

WFP also partnered with government ministries and private sector actors to participate in six youth-focused agricultural caravans and major expos, thereby positioning agriculture as a sustainable career path for young people. By advocating for resilient food systems, delivering high-quality food security data and convening key partnerships, WFP's initiatives support sustainable development and enhancing food security resilience in Trinidad and Tobago.



### Delivering risk-informed disaster risk management in Trinidad and Tobago through the Disaster Risk Information Management System

Through a strategic partnership between the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management, the Trinidad and Tobago DRIMS has emerged as a best practice in the Caribbean for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. This centralized repository for disaster risk knowledge enhances national capacities by integrating multi-sectoral risk data, enabling a shift from traditional early warning systems to impact-based forecasting and



strengthening risk-informed policymaking. DRIMS supports policymakers, stakeholders and developers with detailed risk information on hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities, facilitating safer planning and sustainable development. Its interoperability ensures continuous updates with data from various sectors and United Nations partners, reinforcing resilience at national and sub-national levels. It provides the country with the opportunity to better understand

risks and make informed decisions to monitor, assess and manage disaster risks and climate change. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to maintaining and expanding DRIMS ensures long-term sustainability, safeguarding both lives and livelihoods at present but also secures a resilient future for all citizens.



## 4 Advancing zero waste and circular economy efforts

In 2024, the European Union-funded and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-executed Zero Waste in the Caribbean project significantly enhanced coordination, policy dialogue and awareness on sustainable waste management through partnerships with Agence Française de Développement, the German Agency for International Cooperation and national stakeholders. The initiative engaged over 1,080 persons including key regional actors from the public and private sectors, NGOs and media, aligning efforts to promote a greener circular economy. A major milestone was the High-Level Forum (HLF-8) for Caribbean Ministers & Senior Sector Officials Responsible for Waste Management, convened

in Trinidad and Tobago, and facilitated by the Ministry of Public Utilities and the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association. At this event, policymakers reaffirmed commitments to financing solid waste management and disaster waste response, culminating in the adoption of the Port of Spain Declaration 2024. By fostering multi-sectoral collaboration and strengthening policy frameworks, the project is driving the transition towards sustainable waste management in the Caribbean and reinforcing national commitment to environmental resilience.





## 5 Enhancing climate transparency in Trinidad and Tobago

The Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency project successfully strengthened Trinidad and Tobago's climate transparency systems, aligning with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement. Implemented by UNEP in partnership with EMA, the project facilitated the submission of high-quality climate reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, ensuring compliance with global reporting standards. Additionally, it empowered government stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to implement climate transparency activities and make data-driven decisions on mitigation and adaptation efforts. Key

outputs included a comprehensive assessment of national mitigation and adaptation transparency activities, the development of gender-sensitive indicators and methodologies for tracking NDC implementation and sector-specific consultations on adaptation indicators in agriculture, water resources and health. The outcomes of the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency project contribute to Trinidad and Tobago's long-term capacity to monitor and report climate action, reinforcing national commitments to sustainability and the 2030 Agenda.

## 6 Supporting the next generation of media literate citizens



The Building the Caribbean's Next Generation of Media Literate Citizens project, spearheaded by the Public Media Alliance and supported by UNESCO, strengthened media and information literacy as part of the United Nation's commitment. With engagement from the Media Institute of the Caribbean and the Association of Caribbean Media Workers, the initiative introduced interactive, hands-on learning experiences for schoolchildren, fostering critical thinking and digital literacy. Students from schools such as Caroni Hindu Primary, Picton Presbyterian Primary and Waterloo Secondary participated in workshops on media ethics, digital technology and news production, using peer-to-peer learning and creative exercises like "digital superhero" posters. Beyond education, the initiative aligns with broader disaster preparedness efforts by equipping

young citizens with the skills to navigate and interpret information, ensuring they can access and disseminate reliable content before, during and after crises. By embedding media and information literacy (MIL) within the educational framework, this project lays the foundation for a more informed and resilient society, reinforcing the role of media in advancing sustainable development and disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean, in line with the 2030 Agenda.

## 7

### Strengthening Tobago's environmental resilience through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme

In 2024, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) designed and implemented 15 projects nationally to support NGOs, community based organizations and civil society organizations addressing biodiversity conservation, land degradation, climate change, water conservation and chemicals and waste management. Four of these projects were key initiatives to enhance Tobago's capacity for environmental management and disaster response. Following the Tobago oil spill,





“ In Tobago, we are adamant that we must be able to preserve what we grew up on and grew up with so that several generations later, we'll be able to enjoy the same things we enjoyed as children... For many, many generations to come, you can continue to come to Tobago and enjoy what we have. ”

*The Honorable Farley Chavez Augustine,  
Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly*

GEF SGP partnered with the Buccoo Reef Trust and the Tobago Emergency Management Agency to strengthen local disaster response capacity. This collaboration led to the procurement of critical response equipment, including drones, critical care transport and specialized oil spill clean-up equipment, as well as specialized training for Buccoo Reef Trust members – ensuring Tobago is better prepared for future environmental crises.

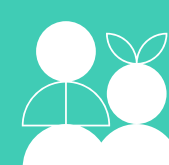
GEF SGP is supporting crab conservation education and training at Mason Hall High School, where a crab habitat has been constructed. It also continues to partner with the Tobago House of Assembly's Division of Community Development in capacity-building efforts for NGOs through the Retooling and Revitalizing Programme Phase 4, which trained 80 participants in NGO governance and grant funding access.

Further advancing Tobago's leadership in sustainable tourism, the island hosted the 2024 Blue Flag National Operators Meeting, welcoming over 50 international delegates. Tobago remains a regional model in the Blue Flag program, demonstrating best practices in sustainable marine tourism. These initiatives align with UNMSDCF goals and local priorities

by strengthening environmental management institutions and promoting community resilience, sustainability and economic opportunity.

The UNDP, through its Accelerator Lab, is implementing dynamic, youth-focused initiatives in Tobago that promote sustainable transportation, food innovation, healthy lifestyles, and rural economic diversification. In partnership with the Signal Hill Police Youth Club, 72 boys and 24 girls of school age received bicycles, along with access to an off-road training course and a comprehensive curriculum covering bicycle repair and maintenance, tour guiding, and environmental awareness. In Castara, the Accelerator Lab collaborated with Riversdale Dairy and Agri Eco Estate and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to engage 27 students from Castara Government Primary School in a hands-on cheese-making experience, introducing them to both the flavour and production process. Although access to a reliable and affordable supply of goat milk remains a challenge, the initiative has demonstrated strong potential for local value-added production.

# Key Tobago achievements 2024



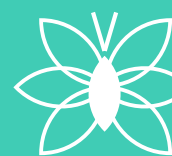
**186 persons trained**



**60,000 beneficiaries**



**60,000 hectares of marine habitat benefitted from improved practices to protect biodiversity.**



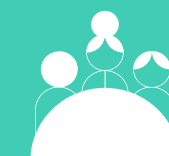
**1 apiary established to support pollinators and youth**



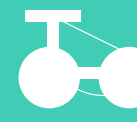
**1 youth hydroponics project**



**1 youth crab conservation project**



**1 global sustainable tourism conference**



**1 youth sustainable alternative transportation project**



**1 policy supporting Blue Economy development**





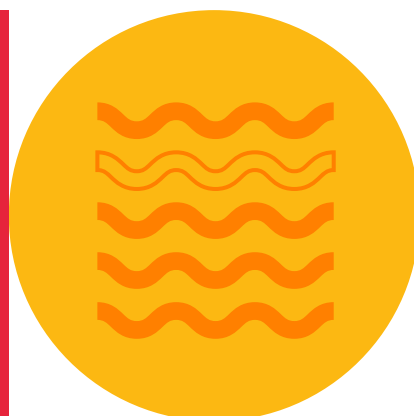
## 8 Conserving biodiversity and restoring agro-ecological land

Over the past year, the FAO, through the BIOREACH initiative, has made significant progress in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration across the country. FAO partnered with NAMDEVCO, to address the spread of coconut red ring disease by installing coconut weevil traps, safeguarding 195 hectares of coconut plantations. Then, in collaboration with the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), efforts to restore degraded forests led to the successful rehabilitation of five hectares of land. Additionally, an integrated wildfire management system was developed, with 75 forestry officers trained in wildfire prevention and response, strengthening national forest management.

The BIOREACH project also engaged 541 participants in Citizen Science initiatives. These included biodiversity monitoring, a large-scale riparian restoration effort where 10.5 km of riverbank was reforested with native species,

and specialized bird-banding and monitoring training to assist the recovery of the White-tailed Sabrewing Hummingbird population. Further conservation efforts included initiatives for the critically endangered Trinidad Piping Guan (Pawi). Through a revised Management and Recovery Plan, stakeholders enhanced monitoring techniques by using acoustic sensors and artificial intelligence to track the bird's population and habitat.

These conservation efforts not only aid wildlife but also benefit local communities by stabilizing riverbanks, improving water quality, reducing agricultural land fragmentation, and providing inclusive employment opportunities. Overall, these efforts align with global sustainability goals by promoting sustainable agriculture, strengthening ecosystem resilience, and restoring critical habitats.





# 2.2

## Achieving Cooperation Framework Priorities, outcomes and outputs

### Priority Area 4

Peace, safety, justice and rule of law



Efforts to strengthen peace, safety, justice and the rule of law in Trinidad and Tobago focused on justice sector modernization, human rights protection, counter-trafficking, GBV prevention and child protection in 2024. Judicial reforms employed digital case management enhancements to improve efficiency, while institutional capacity-building initiatives equipped officials to combat trafficking, terrorism and illicit arms trade.

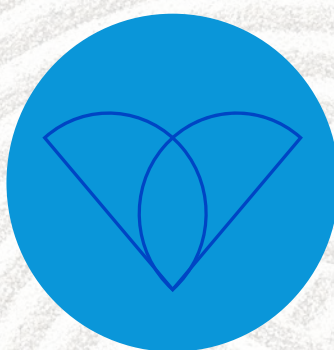
The Government also Implemented a NAP on Women, Peace and Security, integrating global best practices to address GBV and social cohesion. Public awareness



in USD

**Total Available**  
**\$4,017,503**

**Total Expenditure**  
**\$3,421,061**

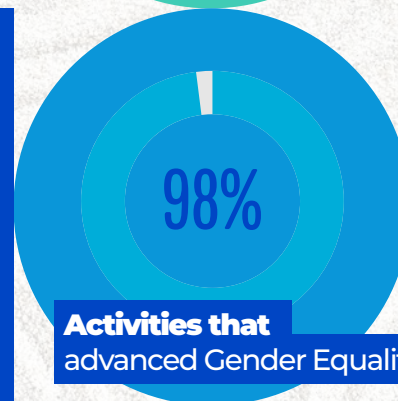
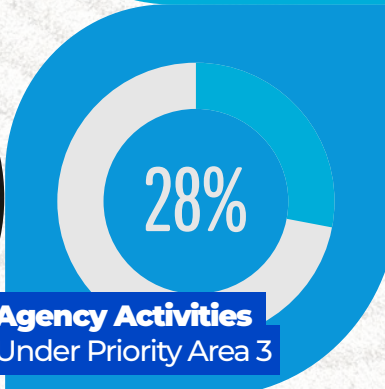
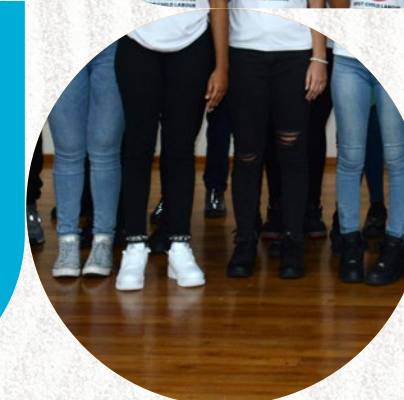


### Outcome 7

Regional and national laws, policies, systems and institutions improve access to justice and promote peace, social cohesion and security.

### Outcome 8

People in the Caribbean and communities actively contribute to and benefit from building and maintaining safer, fairer, more inclusive and equitable societies.



### In Numbers



**1 National Strategic Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Violence.**



**National Action Plan (NAP) to advance the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.**



**448 Government officials trained on humanitarian protection.**



**5,000 child welfare cases benefitted from streamlined case management.**



**56 officers from law enforcement, legal and scientific institutions trained in firearms trafficking prevention and ballistic evidence collection.**



**228 duty-bearers trained to identify, protect and assist victims of trafficking.**







## Promoting national gender-based violence prevention and response



“ The implementation of this comprehensive framework has significantly improved national responses to GBV and sexual violence, creating a structured approach to prevention, protection, and survivor support mechanisms tailored specifically to the needs of Trinidad and Tobago. ”

*The Honorable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister – Gender and Child Affairs, reflecting on the National Strategic Action Plan on GBV & Sexual Violence*

The commitment of the United Nations Trinidad and Tobago to ending GBV continued shaping the organization's transformative work throughout 2024, long after the completion of its dedicated GBV program – the Spotlight Initiative – in December 2023. Through a dual approach of bolstering institutional frameworks and providing direct support to vulnerable communities, United Nations partnerships played enhanced the systems and services required for GBV prevention and response.

In a culmination of its institutional-strengthening work under the Spotlight Initiative, UN Women supported the Office of the Prime Minister – Gender and Child Affairs with the finalization and launch of the cabinet-approved, National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) on GBV & Sexual Violence (2023–2027). The first of its kind, this comprehensive, costed framework is designed to address violence against women and girls through sustained technical and financial assistance across public sector programming. To ensure the viability and sustainability of the National Strategic Action Plan, UN Women aided the Ministry with the establishment of a robust governance structure comprising a Joint National Steering

Committee and a Technical Working Group. UN Women also built capacity across 34 national and regional partners to develop financing strategies and advocate for gender-responsive policies, thereby equipping participating entities with the skills required to oversee effective execution of the National Strategic Action Plan. A GBV workshop held on 9 December 2024, further enhanced the skills of the Committee members – a multi-sectoral grouping drawn from government, civil society and the private sector.

UNHCR and its partner, La Casita Hispanic Cultural Center, supported 178 GBV survivors with case management, safe shelter, mental health and psychosocial support services, and empowerment activities. Seventy-six people were trained by UNHCR on GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response. Together, these efforts demonstrate that prevention of violence remains a pillar of the United Nations' development cooperation with Trinidad and Tobago, extending not only to strengthening institutional capacity but also to delivering essential services to individuals.



## Changing social norms towards gender based-violence

Strengthening GBV prevention and response across the Caribbean, UNFPA has advanced integrated initiatives to support vulnerable women and girls in Trinidad and Tobago while fostering regional behavioral change. In 2024, UNFPA in close collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, and key national stakeholders including the Office of the Prime Minister – Gender and Child Affairs, the National AIDS Coordinating Committee and the Ministry of Local and Rural Development, expanded access to essential GBV services and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) support. As part of this effort, 250 dignity kits containing vital hygiene supplies were distributed to women in rural and marginalized communities, including refugees, persons with disabilities and GBV survivors, ensuring their dignity and well-being during crises. In addition, 250 women and girls received critical GBV and SRH information alongside referrals to life-saving services.

Complementing these direct support measures, UNFPA also strengthened regional capacity to address GBV through the Caribbean Model for Behavior and Cultural Change (CMBCC). In partnership with the University of the West Indies, a capacity-building workshop equipped over 20 civil society organizations and government representatives – including 23 participants from Trinidad and Tobago – with the skills necessary to implement community-based interventions. This workshop laid the groundwork for promoting positive social norms, deepening understanding of behavioral drivers of GBV and advancing effective intervention strategies.

With support from Global Affairs Canada, these integrated efforts not only provide immediate support and services for at-risk populations but also drive long-term social and behavioral change, reinforcing safer, more inclusive communities across the Caribbean.



## Trinidad and Tobago improves trafficking in persons ranking

In 2024, Trinidad and Tobago recorded an improved ranking in the United States TIP report, moving off the Tier 2 Watch List after three years. This achievement signals the country's growing capacity to combat and respond to human trafficking through stronger law enforcement, victim support and protection, and public awareness. The United Nations system and its partners directly contributed to this milestone by strengthening prosecution efforts, enhancing institutional capacity and fostering a multi-sectoral approach to TIP prevention. Spearheaded by UNDP and IOM, these efforts leveraged partnerships with the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the United

States Government Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, USAID, the American Bar Association and CARICOM IMPACS.

A key catalyst for Trinidad and Tobago's progress in 2024 was the development of a costed implementation framework for NAP to improve prosecution of TIP, as part of UNDP's CARISECURE 2.0 initiative. A capacity development report for the Counter Trafficking Unit further reinforced law enforcement's strategic direction for delivering effective TIP responses. Additionally, an alliance with the American Bar Association provided specialized training for law enforcement and





judicial officers, reinforcing the prosecutorial chain against traffickers. Complementing this institutional strengthening, CARISecure 2.0 also prioritized public education initiatives to raise awareness and foster a culture of vigilance. The World Day Against TIP saw widespread outreach through social media and branded public transportation, empowering communities to identify and report TIP incidents.

IOM contributed to this holistic approach by enhancing the national response systems which ensure victims of trafficking receive effect care and support. Nearly 228 people were trained to offer improved victim care, case management, age assessment and PSEA. Shelter management

training equipped 38 stakeholders with the skills to manage shelters for trafficking survivors. This comprehensive approach contributes to empowering survivors, fostering their rehabilitation and enabling them to transition from victims to empowered individuals contributing positively to society.

By combining institutional strengthening and multi-sectoral coordination, UNDP, IOM and their partners laid a strong foundation for sustainable progress on SDG 16 and Vision 2030's commitment to a safer, more just society.

## 4 Strengthening institutional capacity to combat trafficking in persons in Trinidad and Tobago

The capacity-building initiatives of IOM enhanced the ability of 100 local stakeholders to identify and respond effectively to victims of trafficking through specialized training on TIP, victim care, case management, age assessment, PSEA and self-care. Additionally, 37 participants completed Training of Trainers sessions, equipping them to deliver basic TIP and victim care training within their organizations. TIP Shelter Management Training in January 2024 strengthened the skills of 38 stakeholders in shelter management, with a focus on PSEA, gender sensitivities, cultural awareness and staff well-being. In March 2024, IOM partnered with the Red Cross Society and medical

experts to provide first aid and medical screening training, covering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), wound care and emergency response. These efforts contribute to the development of institutional mechanisms, including a TIP Roadmap/Strategy, and align with Trinidad and Tobago's Vision 2030 human capital development goals. By enhancing the capacity of service providers and institutionalizing standardized processes for identification, referral and case management, these initiatives strengthen national governance mechanisms to protect human rights, combat trafficking and support the rehabilitation of survivors.



## 5 Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

In 2024, UN Women played a pivotal role in strengthening Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda by providing technical expertise and fostering multi-sectoral collaboration. Women, Peace and Security is a Gender Equality Accelerator, initiated by a landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, aimed at increasing peace and security through women's leadership and inclusion in violence prevention, peace-making, and gender-responsive justice and protection.





## 6 Enhancing government capacity for refugee protection and human rights

Framed within a sustainable development paradigm that emphasizes social inclusion, human rights and resilient governance, targeted capacity-building efforts have bolstered the protective framework in Trinidad and Tobago. Through specialized training on human rights and refugee protection law –delivered by UNHCR in partnership with the Ministry of National Security – 448 government officials have enhanced their ability to safeguard vulnerable populations including refugees, asylum seekers and those at risk of trafficking. A Human Rights Day Symposium, co-organized by the Ministry's Counter Trafficking Unit and UNHCR, provided a platform for stakeholder

discussion on the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. The forum further allowed for refugees and asylum seekers to share their experiences, fostering greater awareness of their challenges and resilience. Additionally, key state agencies identified opportunities for cross-sector collaboration – spanning health, child protection and national security –to improve victim support services, strengthen identification protocols and disrupt trafficking networks.

Recognizing UN Women's leadership in this field, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago invited the agency to join a Cabinet-appointed advisory group to develop the country's first National NAP on Women, Peace and Security. UN Women supported the enhancement of national and regional capacity, equipping 30 government and civil society focal points with the tools to develop high-impact NAPs. Furthering stakeholder engagement, UN Women facilitated consultations with nine civil society organizations in Trinidad and Tobago, incorporating their insights into the final plan while increasing awareness of the Women,

Peace and Security Agenda. Submitted to the Government in November 2024, NAP integrates global best practices to address human security challenges including gender-based violence, crime and social cohesion to benefit all women and girls. UN Women continues to mobilize resources and provide technical support to ensure the plan's effective implementation, reinforcing the country's leadership in promoting gender-responsive peacebuilding and sustainable development in the region.



“ As a participant of UNHCR's workshop on International Protection, I can say that the experience and information have been very useful to me in assisting the review and improvement of existing Standard Operating Procedures in maritime operations. All participants have benefitted immensely from the information shared and are now able to carry out their duties with greater appreciation and understanding of mixed migration, the importance of recognizing persons with specific needs and exercising psychological first aid to persons that are in distress. ”

*Lieutenant Daniel Bharath-Khan,  
Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard*



## 7 Delivering child protection and mental health support

“A powerful experience was presenting mental health resources such as workbooks and directories of services on [www.youngcaribbeanminds.com](http://www.youngcaribbeanminds.com) that I co-created with youth and UNICEF to a group of over 100 young people. After the presentation, a youth came to me in tears, expressing that she did not know that such help existed and how much these resources could support her mental health. This showed me the big impact that we young people can have on other young people when we work with organizations like UNICEF.”

Daniel Lutchman,  
National Youth Mental Health Focal Point



UNICEF advanced child protection in Trinidad and Tobago by enhancing institutional capacity and expanding services for vulnerable children and families. The roll-out of the Primero Child Protection Information Management System streamlined case management for over 5,000 cases, improving service coordination and decision-making across sectors. To bolster mental health and psychosocial support, UNICEF piloted the U Matter text line for children and adolescents, with plans for regional expansion. Additionally, 66 community volunteers and 159 frontline workers were trained under the Return to Happiness program, enabling support for 1,906 children affected by emergencies. UNICEF also

strengthened legal protections for migrant children by supporting birth registration and comprehensive case management services for at-risk minors, including trafficked and unaccompanied children. These initiatives reinforce Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to safeguarding children, ensuring access to protection, mental health support and essential services.

scan to visit  
[www.youngcaribbeanminds.com](http://www.youngcaribbeanminds.com)



## 8 Advancing justice sector modernization in Trinidad and Tobago through the Caribbean and European Union on Justice project (PACE)

The UNDP partnership on the Caribbean and European Union on Justice project made significant progress in modernizing Trinidad and Tobago's criminal justice system through technology enhancements, capacity building and improved coordination. A key milestone was the proclamation of the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act in December 2023, simplifying legal procedures for indictable matters. To support this transition, the project provided ICT equipment to the judiciary, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, enabling virtual court operations and improved case management. Procurement efforts continue with additional

equipment expected for the Trinidad and Tobago Prisons Service and other key institutions in 2025 to optimize digital case management systems. UNDP further strengthened justice sector coordination through the Criminal Justice Interoperability Platform, fostering seamless collaboration among institutions for case progression and secure information sharing. These efforts align with the UNMSDCF strategy to enhance governance mechanisms, ensuring a more efficient, transparent and effective justice system in Trinidad and Tobago.

## 9 Enhancing firearms control and forensic capacity

Efforts to combat firearms trafficking and enhance forensic capabilities in Trinidad and Tobago were advanced through the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap supported by the Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) and CARICOM IMPACS. A regional monitoring and evaluation series strengthened government capacity to develop NAPs and improve reporting mechanisms in alignment with SDG 16. Additionally, 33 officials from law enforcement, legal and scientific institutions completed specialized training in combating arms and ammunition trafficking, equipping them with strategies to improve arms control and prevent illicit manufacturing and brokering. Forensic investigations received a critical boost with the donation of a Firearms and Tool Marks Comparison Microscope to the Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre, enhancing the capacity of 23 scientific officers to analyze ballistic evidence from shooting incidents, including homicides. To support firearm control at the legislative level, UNODC facilitated the review of the proposed Firearms Bill with an emphasis on incorporating participant feedback, and identifying necessary bylaws, regulations, and procedures to support its implementation. These initiatives, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Security, position governance mechanisms to more effectively tackle firearm-related crimes and curb violence.





## 10 Comprehensive law enforcement capacity building for counter terrorism

The CT TECH initiative, implemented by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) with support from the International Criminal Police Organization and funding from the European Union, has significantly strengthened the capacities of law enforcement and criminal justice authorities to address the exploitation of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes while leveraging these technologies to combat terrorism. The initiative integrated human rights and gender mainstreaming across all activities, ensuring that counter-terrorism measures protect digital rights and empower marginalized groups, including women and youth. Two capacity-building events benefitted 29 Trinidad and Tobago

officials, including 14 women, from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of National Security, the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Legal Affairs, as well as from other judicial and security organizations. Gender parity targets to ensure more than 40 per cent women participants were met. The workshop enabled Trinidad and Tobago to complete their national threat and risk assessment of the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes. The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism will continue its support for integrating this assessment into the national incident classification matrix.



European Union Ambassador Peter Cavendish stressed that although terrorists make use of new technologies for various ends, they “can also be used by law enforcement agencies to share intelligence on terrorists, detect acts of terrorism and bring terrorist perpetrators to justice and can provide opportunities and solutions for better protecting citizens from crime and acts of terrorism.”

## 11 Revising national frameworks and raising awareness to combat child labor

In 2024, Trinidad and Tobago advanced its efforts to prevent and eliminate child labor, aligning with its international commitments and the 2030 Agenda. In addition to commemorating the World Day Against Child Labor, ILO, in collaboration with various Government partners and the National Steering Committee, supported a national strategy that strengthened institutional capacity and public engagement. A key component was the Child Labour Ambassadors Programme, which engaged seven secondary schools across the country. Locations included Blanchisseuse, Carapichaima, Debe and Toco where 31 student ambassadors were appointed to advocate against child labor. ILO also facilitated national consultations to refine

hazardous and light work lists, and organized South-South knowledge exchanges with Brazil to improve child labor data collection. These initiatives enhanced the evidence base for policy development. Looking ahead to 2025, awareness campaigns will continue alongside the recruitment of a consultant to support the Ministry of Labor and the National Steering Committee in developing a comprehensive national Child Labor Policy. This policy will reinforce Trinidad and Tobago’s broader child protection framework, ensuring a systematic approach to eradicating child labor.

“ The CT TECH program successfully integrated the country’s counter-terrorism initiatives with its cybersecurity mission, demonstrating the critical need to align these frameworks. By fostering greater cooperation and coordination, the program aims to fortify the nation’s defences against both physical and digital threats. ”

*Darren Lall,  
Assistant Superintendent of Police (Ag)*







"Our school and community can participate in the fight against child labor by working in unity with all stakeholders, parents, teachers, students and members of the community to assist less fortunate children to ensure that their needs are met and their rights are not violated," explained Child Labor Ambassador, Arianna Rampersad.



## Strengthening Airport Security in Trinidad and Tobago to Combat Transnational Crime

The Aircop Programme, a collaboration between UNODC, INTERPOL, and the World Customs Organization, continues to significantly bolster the institutional capacities of Trinidad and Tobago's Piarco International Airport to detect and intercept illicit trafficking and high-risk passengers. Since the 2022 signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the initiative has established an Aircop Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force (JIATF) comprising 8 vetted officers from the Trinidad and Tobago Police

Service, Immigration Department, and Customs Agency. In 2024, the JIATF reported successful interdictions related to document fraud, high-risk passenger interception, illegal migration, and drug trafficking. By strengthening security at international airports, Aircop contributes a coordinated cross-border approach to combat transnational organized crime, curb violence, and uphold human rights in accordance with the SDG 16 for peace, justice and strong institutions.







## 2.3 Support to partnerships and financing the 2030 Agenda

In 2024, the United Nations Trinidad and Tobago showcased the transformative power of dynamic partnerships in advancing sustainable development. By working collaboratively with government institutions, civil

society, academia, the private sector and international organizations, the United Nations mobilized critical resources and catalyzed systemic change, driving progress on the SDGs.

### Regional partnerships for digital transformation

Anchored in the pursuit of inclusive economic growth, enhanced social inclusion and efficient public governance, the Caribbean is embarking on a transformative journey to empower its SIDS through digital integration. UNDP launched its SIDS 2.0 initiative in 2024 to harness the power of cross-sectoral partnerships to advance the digital transformation in the Caribbean. By fostering a collaborative and innovative digital ecosystem, the SIDS 2.0 regional coordination platform will help overcome the unique digital transformation challenges facing Caribbean islands, including limited market size, high infrastructure costs and geographical constraints.

Strengthening regulatory frameworks is a core objective as the program promotes comprehensive cybersecurity measures, data protection and fair competition laws, creating a secure environment for digital innovation. The initiative is set to boost the digital economy by supporting entrepreneurship and the development of new digital enterprises, which in turn will create jobs and stimulate sustainable economic growth. Recognizing that technology alone cannot bridge the gap, SIDS 2.0 also places a strong emphasis on cultivating digital literacy.

Countries will use the SIDS 2.0 framework to conduct assessments and develop Action Plans according to national priorities and local needs. Supported by key partners including the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of Digital Transformation, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Inter-American Development Bank – with additional backing from the European Union, UNCDF, the Association of Caribbean States and CARICOM – SIDS 2.0 is set to unlock the full potential of the digital economy.



“By leveraging digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, we aim to shape a future where innovation drives inclusive and sustainable growth, leaving no one behind.”

*Michelle Muschett, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director of UNDP for Latin America and the Caribbean*



“Digitalization advances at the speed of trust that communities have in these initiatives. We are seeing across the region that people are asking for participation, they want to be part of these processes.”

*Ugo Blanco, UNDP Resident Representative for Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten*

### Partnerships with the private sector

A multi-agency effort to establish and strengthen partnerships with the private sector redounded to the sustainability efforts undertaken by corporate Trinidad and Tobago in 2024, strengthening the contribution of this important economic driver to the country's SDG progress.







## Empowering Youth

In 2024, the UNCT invested over 1.6 million USD in initiatives aimed at advancing youth development in Trinidad and Tobago. This included a coordinated effort empowering 40 National Youth Parliamentarians to engage with legislative processes with the power to harness advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) through a human rights-based approach. Under the leadership of the Office of the Resident Coordinator, ECLAC, UNESCO, UNAIDS and ILO partnered with the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago to train the 2024 National Youth Parliamentarians on AI policymaking for SIDS, ethical considerations underpinning the use of AI and the impact of AI on the world of work. Using this information, the National Youth Parliamentarians engaged in a

debate on the prospect of integrating AI into the education curriculum. This was the first time that an AI-centric debate had ever been conducted in the Parliament chamber, an important milestone spurred on by the United Nations Pact for the Future. Ms. Jada McLeod, a 22-year-old student from the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago, was awarded second place in the “Best Debaters” category. Reflecting on the importance of empowering young people’s voices in national discussions on AI, she said, “AI is everywhere, so young people must now learn how to master it. We [youth] are experiencing AI in its most raw and elementary stage, so we get the benefits of it here and now. That is why young people must have a leading voice in this conversation as the new policymakers, lawmakers and the majority vote.”



When the United Nations and its partners commemorated the seventy-ninth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, the theme Youth Voices, Bold Visions for Peace was selected to highlight the importance of empowering young people to instigate positive change. Three young spoken word poets used this platform to convey to an audience of government leaders, development partners, civil society actors and heads of United Nations agencies their ideas for a more peaceful, inclusive future in Trinidad and Tobago.







## Empowering persons with disabilities

GEF SGP has supported multiple projects that benefit persons with disabilities. One notable initiative is the expansion of learning opportunities at the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) to include 3D printing, climate-smart agriculture and videography/photography. With these new resources, students have designed and printed their own tools – now available through their online store, grown their own food to support the organization, and begun offering videography and photography services to interested clients.



Additionally, the University of the West Indies is collaborating with the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities to design and print 3D tiles that can be used to support children learning Braille in early childhood education centers.

Another significant project is the expansion of the climate-smart agriculture garden at the Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago. Through this initiative, the Autistic Society of Trinidad and Tobago has benefited from the installation of new hydroponic systems, which have increased production capacity and created livelihood opportunities for persons with autism. These initiatives contribute to empowering persons with disabilities and the United Nations goal to leave no one behind.







## 2.4

Results of the United Nations working more and better together: United Nations coherence, effectiveness and efficiency

### Data-driven transformation: flagship initiative modernizes statistical ecosystem



In a coordinated effort reflecting the strength of United Nations agency collaboration, the Modernizing Trinidad and Tobago's Statistical Ecosystem initiative supported the establishment of a National Data Architecture that enhances SDG monitoring and informs evidence-based policymaking. This project was funded by the Joint SDG Fund and spearheaded by PAHO/WHO, ILO, UNEP and ECLAC under the chairmanship of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Development. The joint program equipped the Ministry with a SDG Data Repository to consolidate all available national statistics on SDG progress and strengthen evidence-based policymaking across sectors. The joint program also prioritized private

sector engagement through collaborations with the American Chamber of Commerce Trinidad and Tobago, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and the European Business Chamber in Trinidad and Tobago. These partnerships reached over 600 professionals, building capacity in sustainability reporting, and environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices aligned with the SDGs. Finally, ECLAC advocated for a stronger legislative environment for official statistics by hosting a Masterclass on Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence for the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago. This session explored the integration of data and AI into decision-making in an effort to foster innovation and evidence-based policymaking.

### Bolder climate ambition: Trinidad and Tobago powers up for COP 30

In the face of intensifying climate impacts, escalating extreme weather events and growing public demand for decisive action, countries are being called upon to deliver stronger, more ambitious climate commitments at COP 30. The conference, set to take place in Brazil in November 2025, will accelerate momentum for achieving the main objectives of the Paris Agreement – limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C and aligning financial investments toward pathways for low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient national development. To support Trinidad and Tobago with strengthening its NDC, the Ministry of Planning and Development is partnering with UNDP and FAO on a joint program Toward NDC 3.0. Updating Trinidad and Tobago's Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation and Financial Investment Plans. In November 2024,

the Joint SDG Fund awarded US \$ 250,000 for this 12-month initiative which aims to leverage financial resources from international climate finance entities and the private sector, ensuring financial sustainability and effective implementation of NDC. Key outcomes include: an updated NDC Implementation Plan; a refined Financial Investment Plan that can attract private investments; a framework to strengthen the inclusion of the Agriculture, Forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector; and enhanced capacities of institutions to implement NDC with a focus on inclusion. By producing more robust NDCs, the program not only reinforces Trinidad and Tobago's Vision 2030 development priorities but also enables broader sustainable development objectives such as economic diversification, job creation and energy security.

### United Nations Caribbean supports SIDS resilience through CDCC

At a critical juncture for the region's sustainable development trajectory, the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) stands as a pivotal inter-governmental convening space for accelerating SDG progress through integrated, evidence-based policymaking. Convened in Port-of-Spain in September 2024, the thirtieth CDCC session brought together Caribbean ministers, ambassadors and international partners to promote economic and social cooperation among Caribbean countries, and between Latin America and the Caribbean.

The CDCC's role is reinforced by the ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, which acts as its secretariat and provides essential research, best practices and policy guidance.

In a pointed address, ECLAC Executive Secretary, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, noted that only 20 per cent of the Caribbean's SDG targets are on track while 47 per cent are veering off course. He urged governments and private sectors to strengthen productive development policies, collaborating on the development of economic sectors that invigorate the growth and transformation required to create a more sustainable future.





“ Governments can draw on the UN network, technical knowledge and other capacities of the UN system for implementation of ABAS priorities. ”

*Joanna Kazana, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten*

With the CDCC Session occurring in the wake of the Fourth International Conference on SIDS, the United Nations engaged CDCC members on its offer of support to empower Caribbean countries to deliver on ABAS priorities. Discussions centered on the United Nations capacity to coordinate across its agencies, funds and programs to convene innovative partnerships that attract development funding and to strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks. Digital transformation, data, climate adaptation and sustainable food systems were

identified as key areas of focus in ABAS to stimulate catalytic change.

Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Planning and Development, Penelope Beckles, assumed leadership of CDCC for the period 2024 to 2026, reinforcing the country's role in steering the sustainable development journey of Caribbean SIDS. Minister Beckles advocated for strong support to use regional and global platforms to make the case for climate adaptation for SIDS.



“ The climate crisis is not some distant threat; it is unfolding before our very eyes, wreaking havoc on our economies, ecosystems and the livelihoods of our people... Since those unaffected by our peculiar circumstances are unlikely to effectively champion our cause, the obligation lies with us to affirm our right to equally benefit from the providence of this earth ”

*Penelope Beckles, Minister of Planning and Development*

## Strengthening response systems and services for human trafficking survivors

Harnessing the potency of inter-agency coordination, the United Nations collaborated with national partners to redefine victim care for survivors of human trafficking by addressing systemic vulnerabilities and empowering marginalized communities. The joint Access, Support and Coordination (ASC) Program, first launched in 2021, was officially completed in 2024.

At its core, the ASC Program epitomized the power of coordinated action among United Nations agencies. Funded by the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund and implemented by IOM, UNICEF and UNFPA, the program united international organizations, government ministries and local partners to bridge critical gaps in support services. By strengthening national and community-based systems (Access), empowering survivors (Support), and coordinating stakeholder efforts (Coordination), the program contributed directly to SDGs 1 and 8.

Notable achievements include the refurbishment of two shelters in Trinidad and Tobago, creating safe spaces for survivors, and the development of the first digital Case Management System in the English-speaking Caribbean. Now managed by the Counter Trafficking Unit, this digital system centralizes case information in real time,

streamlines communication and eliminates duplication – setting a benchmark for effective interagency collaboration. Through streamlined communication among stakeholders, investigative processes and the overall quality of victim support services are enhanced.

Additionally, the ASC Program provided extensive training and capacity building to over 800 participants in both the public and private sectors, enhancing protection mechanisms in child protection, GBV and psychosocial support.





# Coordinating humanitarian responses for refugee and migrant integration

The national R4V platform, co-chaired by UNHCR and IOM, exemplified the United Nation's ability to integrate humanitarian and development responses while mobilizing multi-sectoral partners unified by a common goal. This mechanism mobilized partnerships between government ministries, the international development community, United Nations agencies and civil society organizations to advocate for the inclusion of Venezuelan refugee and migrant children in public schools. One of R4V's keystone events is the Humanitarian Breakfast Series – a dynamic forum for exchanging information, enhancing coordination and addressing queries from development partners and the international community. In 2024, the platform hosted three iterations of the Humanitarian Breakfast Series. The sessions gathered donors, the diplomatic corps, government and civil society partners to discuss: Asylum and Protection Systems; Trafficking in Persons; and Asylum, Migration and Integration. Building on stakeholders' increasing interest on the topic of integration, R4V co-chairs organized a three-day to explore opportunities for fostering local

integration among refugees, migrants and host communities. The event featured presentations from integration specialists, sector experts from international organizations, United Nations agency representatives and the European Union delegation to Trinidad and Tobago. They shared best practices for helping displaced populations overcome financial, social and cultural barriers to inclusion. Civil society participants then engaged in proposal development exercises focused on promoting cross-cultural exchange and social cohesion within the Trinidad and Tobago context. R4V facilitated housing stability for refugees, and advanced regional frameworks and protection mechanisms like the Trinidad and Tobago Refugee and Migrant Needs Assessment. The platform, through the Protection Working Group, also enhanced government capacities through joint training workshops such as those with the Coast Guard, to better identify and support vulnerable populations. These initiatives underscored the United Nation's role in addressing displacement challenges with both immediate and long-term solutions.

# Efficiencies through the Business Operations Strategy

The UN's inter-agency Operations Management Team worked collaboratively to deliver the work plan for the Business Operations Strategy (BOS). Nine UN entities participated in the BOS exercise in 2024. Through the provision of common business operations by one UN agency for one or more UN agencies, the UN System was able to realize total cost avoidance of USD \$80,503 in areas of travel services, accommodations

services, plant management, conference and event management, cleaning services, security services, catering services and help desk. Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN will continue to advance efforts to realize efficiency gains in its operations.



## 2.5 Lessons Learned

Enhanced cross-collaboration and robust communication have emerged as foundational pillars across United Nations efforts to advance sustainable development. By working together with government bodies, implementing partners and civil society, United Nations teams have strengthened institutional approaches and refined programming to ensure that the rights of vulnerable populations – whether refugees, migrants, GBV survivors or at-risk children – are effectively safeguarded.

Reflecting on the journey ahead, key lessons have emerged across the United Nations Trinidad and Tobago that underscore the need for both systemic adaptation and agile program implementation. One prominent challenge has been the reliance on short-term funding which constrains scalability and sustainability. Experiences with increasingly frequent climate-related disasters have reinforced the critical need for long-term financial commitments that can underpin integrated, flexible disaster risk reduction strategies. Such lessons have driven a shift toward advocating for multi-year funding mechanisms and embedding adaptability within program designs.

At the same time, efforts to protect vulnerable children and other marginalized groups have encountered obstacles stemming from

bureaucratic inertia and slow legislative progress. The pursuit of reforms has demonstrated the value of sustained advocacy, ongoing capacity building and strategic collaboration with diverse stakeholders. In tandem with these challenges, lessons from interagency work have highlighted the importance of multi-disciplinary teamwork and strategic sustainability planning to optimize resource mobilization and deliver results.

Stakeholder engagement remains a cornerstone for effective project delivery. Iterative, time-sensitive feedback and proactive communication – including the formalization of partnerships through memorandums of understanding – have proven essential to align project outputs with evolving institutional needs and technical challenges. This iterative engagement process not only fosters stakeholder ownership but also ensures that interventions remain responsive to the dynamic contexts in which they operate.

Together, these insights from various United Nations contributions demonstrate that enhancing cross-agency coordination and long-term, flexible programming are not merely operational priorities – they are strategic imperatives that will drive meaningful, sustainable change in protecting human rights and advancing social inclusion in the years ahead.







2.6

## Financial overview and resource mobilization

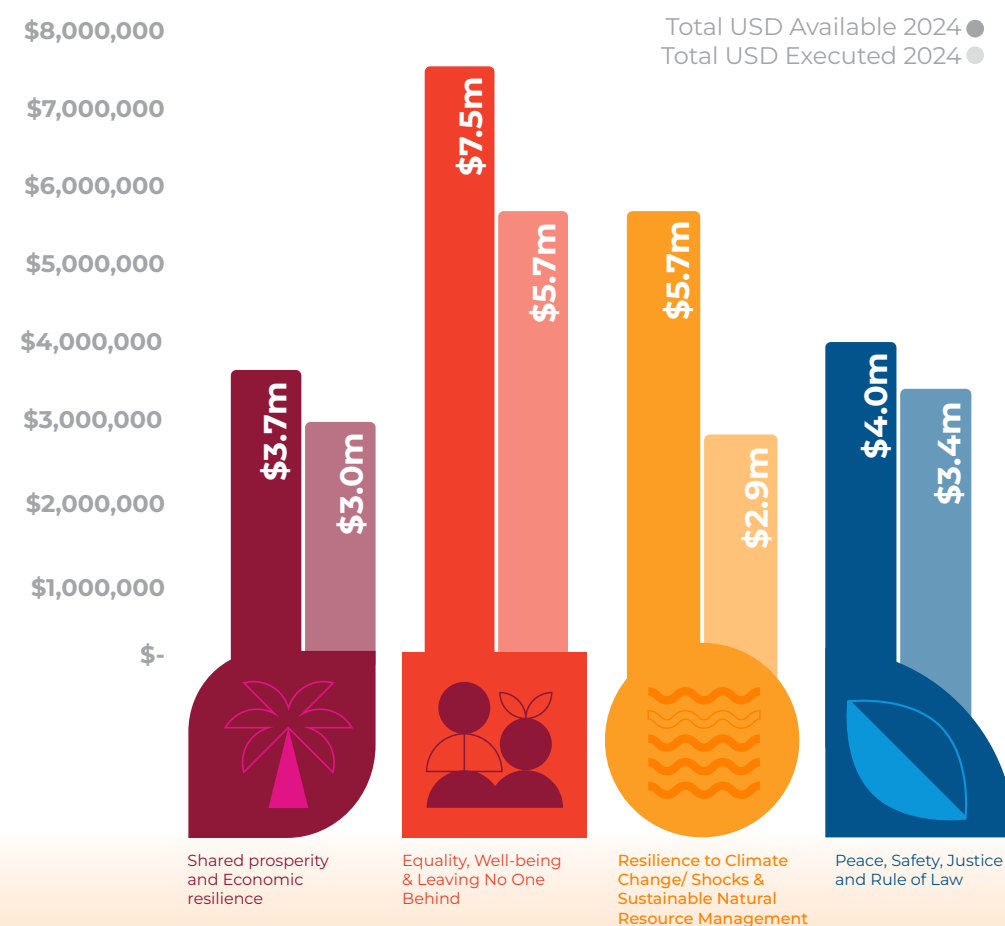


Figure 1 Overall available and executed resources  
Figure 2 Available and executed by UNMSDCF Priority area



## SDG Expenditure



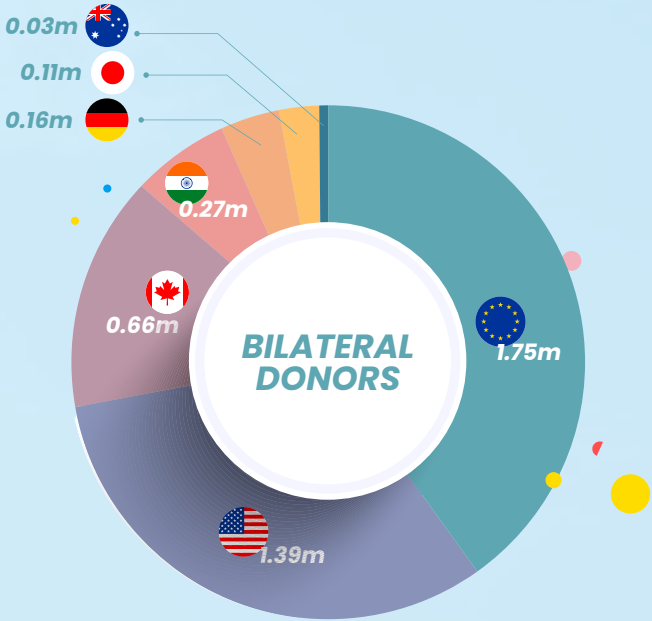


# Funding Source of UN Cooperation

In 2024, 34 funding partners provided a combined US \$15 million to advance sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago. Four of these supplied half of this total (51 percent): UNDP (US \$3.11 million), UNHCR (US \$1.76 million), the European Union (US \$1.75 million) and the United States of America (US \$1.39 million).

UN entities contributed 52 percent of all inflows (US \$7.8 million), led by UNDP and UNHCR, with contributions by ECLAC, FAO, ILO, IOM, ITU, PAHO/ WHO, UNESCO, UNEP, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR, UN Women and WFP. Bilateral donors accounted for 29 percent (US \$4.37 million), with the European Union (40 percent of bilateral funds) and the United States of America (32 percent of bilateral funds) at the forefront. The governments of Canada (US \$0.66 million), India (US \$0.27 million), Germany (US \$0.16 million), Japan (US \$0.11 million) and Australia (US \$0.03 million) rounded out the bilateral group.

The vertical fund, Global Environment Facility (GEF), supplied 8.8 percent (US \$1.33 million), targeting increasing capacities to address climate change adaptation and mitigation. UN inter-agency pooled funds (Migration MPTF, Green Climate Fund, International Programme for the Development of Communication and the Spotlight Initiative) contributed another US \$1.13 million (7.5 percent). Finally, domestic and regional partners—the Government of Trinidad and Tobago along with regional bodies such as the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security, the Caribbean Heritage Emergency Network and the Caribbean Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives—together supplied the remaining 3 percent, underpinning implementation of the national Country Implementation Plan.







## CHAPTER 3

Into the future – the  
United Nations Country  
Team focus for 2025

The United Nations Country Team's key areas of focus for 2025 encompass several thematic areas, including digital economy and e-commerce, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, environmental conservation and marine protection, healthcare and social well-being, and justice sector reform.



# Leveraging technology for economic growth and resilience

In 2025, technology will drive progress in e-commerce, agriculture and fisheries. A comprehensive E-commerce Strategy will be implemented to strengthen the regulatory framework, boost digital skills and expand market access, with a focus on inclusion. The National E-commerce Committee will also be updated to enhance governance.

United Nations system work in 2024 to map and analyze food trade policies and logistics will be leveraged in 2025 to implement recommendations

and solutions in support of increased resiliency and food security. An expanding agriculture e-commerce platform will also connect over 500 farmers with institutional buyers, improving supply chain efficiency. Small-scale fishers will receive training on VHF-DSC radios to enhance maritime safety, and a gap analysis on maritime communication compliance will inform policy improvements. These initiatives will harness technology to foster economic resilience and sustainability.

# Environmental conservation and marine protection

Addressing plastic pollution and marine litter remains a high priority in 2025. The National Source Inventory of the Lifecycle of Plastics and the National Roadmap on Plastic Pollution, developed through stakeholder consultations in early 2024 with United Nations support from UNEP, will guide national efforts to reduce plastic pollution from source to sea. Complementing this initiative, the Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea (PROMAR) project will be implemented in five Caribbean countries including Trinidad and Tobago. The project will focus on mapping waste streams, piloting circular economy solutions, implementing policy instruments and engaging stakeholders to reduce the plastic packaging and single-use plastics entering the Caribbean Sea.

The PROCARIBE+ project will further efforts in marine conservation and sustainable economic development. This five-year initiative will support the development of a Marine Spatial Planning process for Trinidad and Tobago's Exclusive Economic Zone in the Gulf of Paria. The Marine

Spatial Planning exercise aims to promote sustainable blue economic growth, reduce conflicts among marine users, rehabilitate coastal ecosystems and strengthen resilience to climate change. This initiative aligns with national policies including the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Policy Framework (2023), Maritime Policy and Strategy (2021) and Vision 2030.

In 2025, significant progress in promoting gender-inclusive energy efficiency and carbon emissions reductions in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector will continue. Next steps include launching two district cooling pilot sites in Marabella and Point Lisas, and promoting green financing among key stakeholders, such as financial institutions and project developers.

# Healthcare and social well-being

Several initiatives will be implemented in 2025 to improve healthcare systems and social well-being. The HIV Response Sustainability Roadmap will outline a country-led path for achieving global AIDS targets by 2025 and sustaining progress beyond 2030. Meetings and consultations with national stakeholders in late 2024 have paved the way for implementing this Roadmap, with a consultant expected to conduct the initial assessment.

Adolescent health will also be a focus area, with the finalization and implementation of Adolescent Health Standards. These standards will facilitate minors' access to SRH services and information, ensuring alignment with WHO Global Standards for Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Services.

In maternal and child health, efforts will continue to support the National Childhood Immunization Program, the National Breastfeeding Program and the Cervical Cancer Elimination Program. The Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative will be further strengthened following the certification of two additional hospitals in 2024, bringing the total to four certified maternity hospitals. A Clinical Audit of the Expanded Program of Immunization is also ongoing and expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2025.

# Strengthening justice and community empowerment

In 2025, efforts to enhance justice and social inclusion will continue through judicial reforms and community-driven initiatives. The implementation of the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act will streamline legal procedures, supported by the delivery of ICT equipment to key justice institutions, including the Judiciary, Police Service, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Prisons Service. These investments aim to improve virtual court operations, optimize case management and enhance overall efficiency.

At the community level, programs will focus on closing the intergenerational gap, promoting gender equality and fostering social inclusion. Insights from national outreach efforts will shape initiatives that empower communities and bridge societal divides. Together, these efforts contribute to a more inclusive and efficient justice system while fostering community-led development.







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