Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in SIDS

Joint Programme 2022 Annual Progress Report

Cover Page

UNCT/MCO: Trinidad and Tobago

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2022

JP title: Modernising Trinidad and Tobago's Statistical Ecosystem through Enhanced SDG Data Development

Stakeholder partner: National Government;Sub-national Governments;Civil

Society Organizations;IFIs/DFIs;Private sector;Bilateral aid organizations;

Thematic SDG Areas: Food systems transformation;Decent jobs & universal social protection;Digital transformation;Climate action & energy transformation;Transforming education;SDG localization;Solutions for internal displacements;The JP is enhancing systems, networks and capacities for the collection, analysis and sharing of quality, disaggregated data on all the SDG indicators to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of current and planned SDG-related initiatives. It is therefore crosscutting across all thematic SDG transformation areas.;

PUNOs: PAHO/WHO, ILO, UNEP, ECLAC

Total estimated expenditures: US$ 119,137.9

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): US$ 290,016.5

Gender Marker: Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm)

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Executive Summary

Major results achieved in 2022 were:
 1) A completed Data Analysis Repository Matrix and Report that compiled the country's available data for all 17 SDGs, and which creates a foundation for the an online SDG Statistics Repository where all development actors can get quality, disaggregated and timely data to better inform their planning and programming, determine synergies to better collaborate and divide labour, to more effectively seek resources (e.g., from IFIs such as the Inter-American Development Bank and Caribbean Development Bank that are JP partners), and to more efficiently allocate scarce resources.
 2) The piloting of the digital deployment of national surveys by the country's Central Statistical Office (CSO), by updating (to international standards) and digitalising two national survey instruments (Continuous Sample Survey of the Population and Survey of Living Conditions) and the provision of 75 tablets with which to collect data and 10 laptops for use in data analysis and sharing. The digitalisation of national surveys will ease data collection, affording more, more-disaggregated and more-timely data to be available to those who need it, and reduce the per capita costs of data (a major issue in SIDS).
 3) Increased partnership between the UNCT and the local private sector via the training of 20 professional accountants from large

companies in SDG-data-related Integrated Reporting and Sustainability for Finance (with 11 more accountants identified for training in 2023), the development of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) guides and toolkit (and their dissemination to 276 companies with support from the American Chamber of Commerce), the execution of two ESG capacity-building workshops delivered to 81 executives from 40 companies, and dissemination (with associated training) of a Philanthropy Field Book to help private philanthropic bodies align their giving with the SDGs. These products have led to greater understanding by company leaders of the business materiality inherent in the SDGs, and the need to integrate sustainability into their operations, products and services, charitable interventions, and investing. This can leverage more private resources toward the achievement of the SDGs in Trinidad and Tobago.

 These results all contribute to the 4 Pillars and 8 Outcomes in the Multicountry Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (MSDCF), which is the CF for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean for 2022-2026. They also contribute to The National Development Strategy of Trinidad and Tobago (2016-2030), and all its 5 Themes and 28 Outcomes.

Annual Progress

Overall JP self-assessment of 2022 progress:

Satisfactory (majority of annual expected results achieved; 1 to 3 months delay in implementation)

Overall progress against 3 key results

As of 31 December 2022, the JP's achievements were (titles summarised for space):

 Outcome 1.: Greater use of digital technologies & global standards by national statistical architecture:
 Output 1.1.: UNCT-managed cooperation and investment framework to support country's reporting on SDGs:
 Activity 1.1.1.: Review the national statistical landscape (ECLAC):
 Results: 1) Consultant contracted via competitive process; 2) Consultant report submitted, but awaiting inputs from country's Central Statistical Office (CSO) for approval.
 Activity 1.1.2.: Deploy digital SDG Statistics Repository for all 17 SDGs (UNEP & PAHO/WHO):
 Results: 1) Competitive RFP for consultancy closed, receiving 21 proposals (Activity delayed by approvals from UNEP for transfer of funds to Trinidad and Tobago that were received only in December 2022).
 Activity 1.1.3.: Pilot SDG Statistics Repository by collating available data for 6 SDGs (PAHO/WHO):
 Results: 1) Data Analysis Repository Matrix and Report with available data for all 17 SDGs completed.
 Activity 1.2.1.: Support Government's updating, digitalising and testing of 2 survey instruments (ILO):
 Results: 1) 75 tablets, 10 laptops and cases procured and delivered to country's CSO; 2) Draft revised instruments for the Continuous Sample Survey of the Population and Survey of Living Conditions awaiting approval by CSO.

 Outcome 2.: Development actors better able to forge partnerships and collaborate on data & statistics:
 Output 2.1.: Public, private and philanthropic institutions have increased capacity for the production, sharing and use of quality, disaggregated data and statistics:
 Activity 2.1.2.: Formalize SDG data-sharing agreements between UNCT, public, private, civil society, IFI, academic, and philanthropic development actors:
 Results: 1) 20 professional accountants from large, local companies trained in SDG-data-related Integrated Reporting; 2) Consultant contracted to facilitate Integrated Reporting training of professional accountants; 3) Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) guide and toolkit developed (and disseminated to 276 companies with support from the American Chamber of Commerce) to build capacity in local companies to report SDG-related data; 4) Two SDG-data-related ESG capacity-building workshops delivered to 81 executives from 40 companies; 5) Philanthropy Field Book to help philanthropic organisations align their giving with the SDGs.
 Activity 2.2.1.: Convene Multisector Project Committee to develop the project document for a data and statistics intervention that entails public-private-UNCT-IFI partnership and resource sharing:
 Results: 1) JP Steering Committee agreed to serve as Multisector Project Committee; 2) Decision that project Committee would develop is a Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics, and Terms of Reference approved; 3) Consultant contracted to administer the project; 4) Consultant contracted to develop coordinating mechanism and requisite networks for the Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics; 5) Approved Interim Report from the consultant with two possible coordinating mechanisms for the Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics.
 Activity 2.3.1.: Plan, execute & publicize Big Data Forum to build knowledge & partnerships for Big Data:
 Results: 1) Steering-Committee-approved Concept Note and preliminary Agenda for single, large Big Data Forum (with associated

trade exhibition).

Outcome 3.: Strengthened environment for legislative best practice on data and statistics;
Output 3.2.: Public awareness campaign on the value of data and statistics to national development;
Activity 3.2.1.: Create & disseminate gender-sensitive information products to build statistical literacy in targeted (e.g., legislature, policy makers) and general audiences;
Results: 1) Approved Terms of Reference for consultant to undertake multimedia campaign to build statistical literacy in targeted (e.g., legislature, policy makers, business leaders) and general audiences.

SDG Acceleration progress towards the SDGs, focusing on the main SDG targets

By creating an enabling environment, in which the quantity, quality and pace of provision of disaggregated SDG data is improved, the JP will make the creation and integration of SDG-related policies more evidenced-based; improve monitoring of the country's progress on the SDGs, particularly regarding gender equality and Leaving No One Behind; enhance collaboration between stakeholders, fostering cross-sectoral, interrelated and cascading approaches; and facilitate building of an SDG financing architecture that aids mobilisation and efficient allocation of public, private and donor resources toward the Goals.

By modernising the statistical ecosystem by developing the technological and professional capacities in, accelerating the adoption of international standards by, and formulating investment plans for national institutions and the broader statistical ecosystem, the JP will help the country overcome challenges faced by SIDS statistical systems (e.g., high per capita costs, standards that trail global best practice).

By forging strategic partnerships among data producers and users, and harmonising standards and processes, the JP will facilitate collective action, investment and efficiencies, and allow integration of underused (e.g., administrative data) and innovative (e.g., Big Data) sources.

By creating an enabling environment for data and statistics to be produced and shared within and across sectors, the JP will not just allow public resources to be better allocated, but dramatically leverage and upscale SDG financing from multiple investors, including the private sector.

The JP will enhance statistical literacy at all levels of decision-making, from policymakers to the public.

Constraints that were encountered and any adjustments that were made to strengthen the relevance and effectiveness of the JP and the coherence and coordination of UN system support.

Prolonged response times from the country Central Statistical Office (CSO; the capacity issues of which were among the JP's motivation) delayed several activities (particularly Activity 1.1.1., Review the national statistical landscape, which is a prerequisite for several other activities, including Activity 3.1.1., Sensitise legislature and policy makers on the value of data and statistics in decision making).

Activity 1.1.2., Design and deploy a digital UNCT SDG Statistics Repository, was delayed by administrative approvals from UNEP. These approvals were received only in December 2022, and procurements related to the Activity commenced only then. Initially, the costs of the Activity were to be divided equally between PAHO/WHO and UNEP, with each agency to contribute USD 67,735.74. To circumvent administrative issues related to joint procurement by the two PUNOs, the Activity's costs had to be divided so UNEP's entire USD 97,435.08 JP allocation will now be devoted to this Activity, with PAHO/WHO now contributing USD 38,036.40. PAHO/WHO's balance of USD 29,699.34 will now be used in Activity 2.1.1., and PAHO/WHO will replace UNEP as ILO's partner on that activity. The totals for Activity 1.1.2. and Activity 2.1.1. remain unchanged.

Activity 1.2.1., Support the Government's updating, digitalising and field testing of two national survey instruments, was delayed by pandemic-disrupted global supply chains.

Activity 2.1.2., Formalise SDG-related data-sharing agreements multisectoral actors, was delayed by
contractual negotiations with one of the Activity's consultants over ownership of their existing intellectual property.

Challenges and no-cost solutions are highlighted and commented on in the amended Work Plan and Budget and ProDoc.

Next steps, scaling and sustainability [up to half a page]

Complete National Statistical Landscape review, with inputs from the Central Statistical Office (CSO);
Develop and deploy digital SDG Statistics Repository that can collate data for 17 SDGs;
Pilot the digital UNCT SDG Statistics Repository by completing the collation of available SDG data and populating the Repository;
Finalise the updated, international-standard Continuous Sample Survey of the Population and Survey of Living Conditions instruments/questionnaires to the CSO's satisfaction;
Digitalise and field test two national survey instruments, and train CSO personnel to use of the procured digital equipment to apply the questionnaires and to analyse and share the collected data;
Develop a roadmap for investment and training for digital technology at the CSO;

Develop content and multimedia for online course(s) to train Government technicians (with potential to be applied internationally) on the production, use and sharing of quality data and statistics;

Deploy online course(s) to train Government technicians on the standardised production, use and sharing of quality, disaggregated data and statistics on one of the UN's online platforms;

Pilot online course(s) to train Government technicians at all levels on the standardised production, use and sharing of quality data and statistics with 50 initial participants;

Stage environment, social and governance (ESG) conference to build commitment in the local private sector for SDG-related reporting;

Formalise data sharing partnerships between the UNCT and relevant IFIs, and academic institutions;

Pilot deployment of a Centre of Excellence for Big Data Analytics in Trinidad and Tobago using the developed model for its coordination mechanism;

Stage Big Data Forum and associated trade exhibition/exposition;

Stage sensitisation sessions for the Cabinet, parliament and policymakers on the value of quality data and statistics in decision making;

Create and deploy media campaign to boost statistical literacy in the country's leadership and populace.

Programmatic Survey

Total number of people benefited from the JP in 2022: 269

Percentage (%) of women benefited among the total number: 78

Percentage (%) of children & youth (0-24 years of age) benefited among the total number:1

Percentage (%) of older persons (age 60 and above) benefited among the total number:5

Percentage (%) of persons with disabilities benefited among the total number:1

Explain how people benefited from the joint programme.

Among the JP's direct beneficiaries, 75 received digital equipment (tablets, with 10 recipients also getting laptops), and are scheduled for training in the use of the equipment to apply digitalised national survey instruments; 81 were trained in the environment, social and governance (ESG) business philosophy and its application; 31 were professional accountants from the country's largest companies, who were trained in SDG-data-related Integrated Reporting and Sustainability for Finance; 37 were managers in private philanthropic organisations, who were trained to align the giving of their institutions with the SDGs; and 45 were Big Data stakeholders, who were included in the network that will form the basis of the coordinating mechanism for a Centre of Excellence for Big Data Analytics in Trinidad and Tobago.

By modernising the national statistical ecosystem via material, capacity and networking improvements, the JP by nature will have a small number of direct beneficiaries. However, the JP will have catalytic, cascading effects that will ultimately benefit Trinidad and Tobago's entire population of 1,328,019, of which 50% is female, 30% is under 24, 14% is over 60, and 4% is PWDs (e.g., by enhancing the understanding of the country's public and private leadership on the value of data and statistics in decision- and policy-making, and by giving that leadership the knowledge, skills and tools to better collect, analyse and share quality, disaggregated data, Trinidad and Tobago's leaders will make better, more-informed decisions that affect the whole populace, more efficiently and effectively allocate the country's limited resources to the benefit of all, and make better use of the country's traditional and new sources of data (e.g., administrative data and Big Data, respectively).

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues
Disaggregated data collection and gaps in the national statistical system represent a significant challenge for identifying, monitoring and rendering assistance to those left behind. Those that are at the greatest risk of being left behind are frequently not accounted for by current survey or national statistical-collection methods. By addressing SDG target 17.18, which calls for capacity building to increase the availability of timely and reliable data disaggregated by gender, income, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic locations and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, the JP will help identify those being left behind and the

root causes for this exclusion.

 Groups at risk of being left behind that the project will permit date collection for include: Women; Children; Girls; Youth; Persons with disabilities; Older persons; Minorities and indigenous peoples; Rural workers; Human rights defenders including NGOs; Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; Stateless persons; LGBTI persons; Persons of African Descent; Persons affected by HIV/AIDS and other diseases; Victims of trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse; Other groups including persons living in poverty, persons experiencing homelessness, those excluded from formal economic structures.

 The quality, disaggregated data and statistics the JP will facilitate will enhance Human Rights Mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review; the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Committee on Civil and Political Rights; the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

How did the JP apply the Gender Marker

The JP is Gender-sensitive (for example, the JP acknowledged and aimed to address gender to enhance the policy/programme, such as undertaking gender analysis to ensure policies/programmes do no harm). Evidence, data collection and analysis (e.g. gender assessments of programmes; policy briefs, costing for scale-up of social services);Policy dialogues, advocacy (e.g. direct inputs to national policies, strategies, laws, including women's and girls' rights groups in coordination mechanisms);Capacity development (e.g. training of social workers, local governments, local communties);

JP address the below cross-cutting issues and principles of leaving no one behind

Human Rights	Persons with disabilities	Youth	Environmental and social standards
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Key meetings and events organized in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event	Kick-off meeting
Yes, in 2022	Yes, in 2022	Yes, in 2022

Explanation if you have not held any key meeting/events.

Contribution to enhancing SDG Financing

Drafted a bill, strategy, and/or approved a law increasing the fiscal space for the policy in focus	Produced financing, costing, diagnostic and feasibility analyses as a basis to invest or increase spending on the SDGs	Improved efficiency (cost savings) in the management of programmes/schemes	Improved effectiveness (value for money; i.e. social impact of $1 spent) of spending	Drafted policies/regulatory frameworks or developed tools to incentivize private sector investment on the SDGs	Structured new financial instruments (public, private or blended) to leverage additional funding
No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

How JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing

By modernising the statistical ecosystem by developing the technological and professional capacities in, accelerating the adoption of international standards by, and formulating investment plans for national institutions and the broader statistical ecosystem, the JP will help the country overcome challenges faced by SIDS statistical systems (e.g., high per capita costs, standards that trail global best practice).

By forging strategic partnerships among data producers and users, and harmonising standards and processes, the JP will facilitate collective action, investment and efficiencies, and allow integration of underused (e.g., administrative data) and innovative (e.g., Big Data) sources.

By creating an enabling environment for data and statistics to be produced and shared within and across sectors, the JP will not just allow public resources to be better allocated, but dramatically leverage and upscale SDG financing from multiple investors, including the private sector.

The JP will enable TTO to narrow its SDG funding gap by facilitating more-viable financial instruments from public, private and international financial institutions that encourage wider involvement in the Goals; and determinations of Multidimensional Vulnerability Indices and more persuasive cases for Official Development Assistance, concessional finance, and debt restructuring.

Ten of TTO's largest companies have been working with the UNCT to integrate the SDGs into their collective USD 18 million per annum in philanthropy (using the JP-developed Philanthropy Field Book), and the JP will so mobilise private finance toward the SDGs.

An Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) guide and toolkit were developed (and disseminated to 276 companies with support from the American Chamber of Commerce, AMCHAM) to build capacity in local companies to report SDG-related data, and integrate sustainability into their business models.

In addition to AMCHAM, the project forged partnerships with the Ministry of Planning and Development, Central Statistical Office, Employers Consultative Association, Inter-American Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, The University of the West Indies, the Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants (the world's largest association of professional accountants), Dentons (the world's largest law firm), Ernst & Young, and the UN Global Compact.