Joint Programme 2023 Annual Progress Report

Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in Small Island Developing States

Cover page

UNCT/MCO: Trinidad and Tobago

Reporting Period: 1 January - 31 December 2023

JP title: Building Resilience & Ending Vulnerabilities in Small Island Developing States

Thematic SDG Areas: Food systems transformation;Energy transitions;Digital transformation;Decent jobs & universal social protection;Transforming education;Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution;

Gender Marker: Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gender needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support)

Engine Room Activities: Shift in policy and regulatory frameworks; Devising a market-ready pipeline; Developing the 'deal room' (financing mix) ; Building capacity at scale;

Total estimated expenditures: USD $438,668.00

Total estimated commitments (including expenditures): $588,166.00

Executive Summary

Three major results include: 1) A national data and statistics architecture that makes greater use of digital technologies and international standards (including on gender and human rights). This includes an online SDG Statistics Repository where development actors can get consistent, quality, disaggregated and timely data (to better inform development of policies, regulatory frameworks, planning and programming, divisions of labor and collaborations, and allocations and mobilization of resources), and which has been populated with all available data for the 17 SDGs. Digitalization of national surveys eases data collection, makes disaggregated and timely data more available to those who need it, and reduces the per capita data costs. Additionally, a Review the National Statistical Landscape was completed, with assessments of deficiencies, opportunities and investors to inform an in-development roadmap and investment plan for modernizing the Central Statistical Office CSO through digital technologies and related skills. 2) Development actors across sectors have the knowledge and networks required to formalize partnerships and collaborate on data, disaggregated and statistics. This includes the 2023 Big Data Forum, with 250 multisectoral participants, ten exhibitors, and international speakers from governments, companies, and research institutions. A coordinating mechanism for a Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics in Trinidad and Tobago was also developed, with partnerships, interoperability, governance, investment and functionality requirements, and financial and sustainability issues addressed. Additionally, free training (with certification) is being provided to at least 100 officers (from central and local government organizations, and national and sub-national authorities) on the standardized production, use and sharing of quality, disaggregated data and statistics. This will break down siloes and enhance collaboration and coherence between these offices. 3) Increased partnership on data and statistics between the UNCT and the private sector. This entailed the training of 31 professional accountants from large companies in SDG-data-related Integrated Reporting and Sustainability for Finance; 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 three ESG capacity-building workshops delivered to 121 executives from 45 companies; and dissemination (with 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 Multi-country 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 progress against 3 key results in 2023:

Outcome 1: Greater use of digital technologies and global standards by national statistical architecture:
 Output 1.1: UNCT managed cooperation and investment framework to support reporting on SDGs and formulation of National Strategy for Development of Statistics:
 Results: Assessment of national statistical landscape; Online SDG Statistics Repository; Data Analysis Repository Matrix and Report with all collated data for 17 SDGs; Government approved TOR for Investment and Training on digital technology and related skills at Central Statistical Office (CSO).
 Output 1.2. More gender and human rights responsive, digitalized instruments for two national surveys.
 Results: Two updated, digitalized national surveys (Survey of Living Conditions and Continuous Sample Survey of Population); 75 tablets, 10 laptops and related software and training delivered to CSO.
 Outcome 2.: Development actors better able to partner and collaborate on data and statistics:
 Output 2.1: Public, private and philanthropic institutions have increased capacity for production, sharing and use of quality, disaggregated data:
 Results: Free UNITAR certified data and statistics course for officers from central and local governments, and national and subnational authorities; 31 professional accountants from large companies trained in SDG related Integrated Reporting; Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) toolkit disseminated to 276 companies to build

their capacities to report SDG related data; Three ESG workshops delivered to 121 executives from 45 companies; Consultant procured to sensitize business leaders on Big Data applications; Philanthropy Field Book disseminated to help philanthropic organizations align giving with SDGs.

Output 2.2: Multisector agreement on objectives and resourcing of a joint project:

Results: Multisector Project Committee convened to develop project document for collaborative data intervention; Government approved project document on Coordinating Mechanism and Investment Plan for Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics in Trinidad and Tobago.

Output 2.3: Big Data Forum planned and executed:

Result: 2023 Big Data Forum executed with 35 local and international speakers, 250 attendees and 10 exhibitors.

Outcome 3: Strengthened environment for legislative best practice on data and statistics:

Output 3.1: Cohort of legislature and policymakers sensitized on value of quality, disaggregated data and statistics in decision making:

Results: TOR Master Class session(s) with Cabinet, legislature and policymakers on value of quality, disaggregated data, and need for passed legislation for autonomous National Statistical Institute.

Output 3.2: Public awareness campaign on value of data and statistics to national development:

Results: Approved TOR for creation and dissemination of gender-sensitive information products to build statistical literacy and appreciation in targeted (e.g., policymakers) and general audiences.

All results contribute to the 4 Pillars and 8 Outcomes in the Multi-country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, the CF for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean for 2022-2026. They also contribute to Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Strategy (2016-2030), and its 5 Themes and 28 Outcomes.

The results help the RCs and UNCT become change agents across policy and regulatory frameworks, going beyond standard sectoral approaches. With more complete, timely, disaggregated and shareable data sets, the RC and UNCT will also facilitate pipelines of bankable and market ready projects with participation of both public and private sectors; be better able to attract the needed financing from traditional (e.g., development banks) and nontraditional (e.g., capital markets, philanthropic foundations) actors; develop a 'deal room' for innovative instruments in the six transitions; and commit to scalable capacity building in public institutions and civil society to to reinforce and sustain SDG related investment.

Main Challenges, adjustments and lessons:

Building data and statistics capacities in Trinidad and Tobago faced several constraints that may also be encountered in other Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These included:

Limited resources: There were insufficient financial and human resources necessary to invest in data collection, analysis, and infrastructure. This included limited budgets for statistical agencies, inadequate numbers of trained data officers, and a lack of appropriate technology and software. It also caused significant delays to engagements with and responses from overburdened data and statistics personnel.

Data fragmentation and lack of coordination: Data is scattered across different government agencies, ministries, and non-governmental organizations, making it difficult to consolidate and harmonize. This produced inconsistencies, redundancies, and gaps in data coverage.

Weak statistical infrastructure: There were insufficient or inadequately robust legal frameworks and regulatory mechanisms for data governance, privacy protection, and quality assurance. This can undermine the credibility and reliability of data, hindering its use for evidence-based policymaking.

Limited technical capacity: Skilled personnel with expertise in data analysis, modeling, and visualization are limited in number. This can make it challenging to extract meaningful insights from the data and translate them into actionable policies.

Geographical challenges: SIDS like Trinidad and Tobago face unique challenges due to their remoteness, dispersion, and vulnerability to natural disasters and global shocks. These factors can make data collection and dissemination more expensive and logistically complex.

Lessons learned from this JP include:

Prioritize capacity building: Investing in training programs, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and the development of a skilled workforce is essential for long-term sustainability.

Promote data governance and coordination: Establishing strong legal frameworks, data quality standards, and inter-agency collaboration mechanisms can ensure data accuracy and accessibility.

Leverage technology and innovation: Utilizing cost-effective technologies, such as mobile data collection tools and cloud-based platforms, can improve data efficiency and accessibility.

Partner with stakeholders: Collaborating with international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector can provide financial and technical support, as well as share best practices. The private sector's need for planning related data, and their reporting requirements, make the business community and its leaders particularly enthusiastic collaborators in data and statistics initiatives, and also investors (if only via their philanthropy).

Focus on user needs: Data collection and analysis should be driven by specific development goals and the needs of policymakers, civil society, and the private sector.

Draw on or upscale initiatives that were successful and beneficial elsewhere: These include the UN's Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, which supports countries in implementing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through data and statistics; and the Pacific Islands Data Initiative that helped Pacific SIDS strengthen their data systems and use data for evidence-based decision-making.

It is also important to remember that building data and statistics capacities is a long-term process that requires sustained commitment and resources.

Priority Cross-cutting Issues

Cross-cutting results/issues

Gender Marker and activities undertook for gender equality

The JP is Gender-responsive (for example, the JP aimed to respond to specific gender needs, such as linking social assistance with GBV response services or maternal health support). 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);Adaptation of existing programmes (e.g. revision of eligibility criteria, removal of conditionalities);Capacity development (e.g. training of social workers, local governments, local communities);Other;

SDG Transitions Acceleration

All 17 SDGs and their 169 targets entail data and statistics, and efficient and effective statistical ecosystems that maximize the use and benefits of digital technologies (e.g., lowered per capita data costs, more timely data) will accelerate progress towards the Goals. By achieving its three outcomes (Greater use of digital technologies and global standards by national statistical architecture; Development actors better able to forge partnerships and collaborate on data and statistics; and Strengthened environment for legislative best practice on data and statistics) the JP contributed to the six transitions by promoting:

Understanding of the Scope and Scale of ….?: Data helps quantify the challenges and opportunities presented by each transition. For example, climate data shows the extent of the country's vulnerability to the impacts of global warming, while demographic data informs us about aging populations and their needs.

Informed Policy Decisions: Statistics guide the development of effective policies and interventions. Data on energy consumption, for instance, informs policies to promote renewable energy adoption, while data on poverty and inequality informs social safety net programs.

Monitoring Progress and Evaluating Impact: Monitoring progress towards transition goals requires robust data collection and analysis. Data on educational metrics and their alignment with the economy's needs, for example, determine the extent to which education systems should be transformed, while data on urban green spaces

measures the success of urban sustainability initiatives.

Identification of Risks and Vulnerabilities: Data helps us understand who and what is most vulnerable to the impacts of the transitions. For example, data on poverty and location can identify communities most at risk from food insecurity, and will determine the allocations and geographical distributions of social protection.

Innovation and Collaboration: Data can be used to develop new technologies and solutions for the challenges of the transitions. Open data platforms can facilitate collaboration between researchers, policymakers, the private sector, and other development actors, all of whom must work in unison to accomplish the six transitions and 17 SDGs.

Public Awareness and Engagement: Data can be used to raise public awareness about the transitions and SDGs, and sensitize populations on their implications. Visualizing data and sharing compelling stories can help people understand the urgency of action and encourage their participation in solutions.

Annual Reporting on Results

Exit strategy, scaling, sustainability and next steps

To ensure the mid- to long-term sustainability, scaling and eventual 'exit' of the JP, measures were taken to enhance government ownership, and to promote participation of traditional (e.g., ECLAC, IFIs like the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank) and non-traditional (e.g., philanthropic foundations, ESG investment) finance sources. To sustain and potentially upscale the initiative beyond its lifespan, the JP:

1. Build local ownership and capacity by:

Training local staff via skilling programs and knowledge-sharing initiatives to equip government officials and statisticians with the know-how and expertise to operate and maintain digital statistical systems beyond the JP. This included training not just on data collection, analysis and reporting, but also on system administration.

Institutionalizing the system: The digital Repository is being integrated into the existing government structure and workflows. This will ensure that data collection and analysis become routine practices within the relevant institutions.

Raising awareness and build buy-in: Stakeholders from across government, civil society, and the private sector were engaged to raise awareness about the benefits of the digital system and garner support for its long-term sustainability.

2. Ensure financial sustainability by:

Developing an investment strategy: This diversified funding sources beyond the JP grant to ensure ongoing financial support for the system. This includes exploring options such as government budget allocations, public-private partnerships, or user fees for data access.

Utilizing cost-effective and open-source technologies: Done whenever possible to minimize ongoing maintenance and upgrade costs. Cloud-based solutions were also used to reduce infrastructure costs.

Mobilizing resources: The JP advocated for international development assistance and grants, including from partner IFIs, specifically targeted at supporting data governance and statistical capacity building in developing countries.

3. Promote data governance and quality by:

Establishing data quality standards and protocols: Guidelines and procedures for data collection, cleaning, and analysis, including by a Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics, to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and consistency of data throughout the system.

Strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks: The JP promoted legal frameworks for data privacy, security, and access to ensure responsible data governance (including via an autonomous National Statistical Institute) and build trust among data users.

Promoting data sharing and collaboration: Data sharing and collaboration was encouraged between different government agencies, with the private sector, and with CSOs to maximize the value and impact of data.

4. Leverage technology and innovation by:

Promoting emerging technologies: The JP promoted integration of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, and big data analytics to improve data collection, analysis, and visualization.

Investing in innovation: Local innovation in data solutions and applications were encouraged and supported (e.g., via the Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics) and tailored to the country's specific needs and context.

Measuring and reporting on impact

870,000

Via training business leaders in reporting on their companies' environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance, and aligning corporate philanthropy with the SDG, business chambers have staged an ESG Conference (April 2023) and a Health, Safety, Security and Environment Conference (November 2023), each at a cost of USD 200,000; undertook training for companies on COP27 and COP28 implications (USD 40,000); and staged a Business Sustainability Challenge (March 2023; USD 30,000). Also, 14 companies have made corporate philanthropic investments to the SDGs exceeding a combined USD 400,000 in 2022 and 2023.

Overview of progress toward Financial Instrument(s)

Completed transactions

Strategic Partnerships, Documents and Communications

Multi-stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder groups you closely partner with, as part of your JP approach

National Government;Sub-national Governments;Civil Society Organizations;Parliamentarians;IFIs/DFIs;Private sector;Bilateral aid organizations;Other;

Brief description of the nature of engagement. Outline the main outcomes and achievements resulting from the partnerships.

Representatives from the National Government (Ministry of Planning and Development), Sub-national Governments (the Tobago House of Assembly), Civil Society Organizations (The Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women, The Cropper Foundation), IFIs/DFIs (Inter-American Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank), and Private sector (Employers Consultative Association) were members of both the Project Steering Committee and the committee that chose the Coordinating Mechanism for a Center of Excellence for Big Data Analytics as the multisectoral project the JP was to develop. The European Union, The Kingdom of the Netherlands, and other Bilateral Donors (e.g., The Republic of Korea, The People's Republic of China) were participants at the project launch, representing donors of the Joint SDG Fund. With respect to government officials and/or other service providers that have increased capacity as a result of the JP, 100 public sector officers are being trained in data and statistics best practice (with UNITAR certification); 75 officers from the Central Statistical Office received digital devices; 121 business leaders received training in reporting their companies' environment, social and governance (ESG) performance; 31professional accountants in companies received training in Integrated Reporting and Sustainability in Finance; 28 leaders of corporate philanthropy were trained in aligning their companies' giving to the SDGs; and 250 participants from the public, private, academic and research sectors benefitted from attending the 2023 Big Data Forum. Terms of Reference have been approved for a MasterClass style event to the country's Cabinet and at least 36 of Trinidad and Tobago's 71 Parliamentarians, as well as 1 Permanent Secretary and 1 Deputy Permanent Secretary from each of the country's 22 Government ministries complete sensitization sessions.

How did the JP facilitate collaboration with diverse stakeholders

Financial leverage

Financial resources leveraged

870,000

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performance, and aligning corporate philanthropy with the SDG, business chambers have staged an ESG Conference (April 2023) and a Health, Safety, Security and Environment Conference (November 2023), each at a cost of USD 200,000; undertook training for companies on COP27 and COP28 implications (USD 40,000); and staged a Business Sustainability Challenge (March 2023; USD 30,000). Also, 14 companies have made corporate philanthropic investments to the SDGs exceeding a combined USD 400,000 in 2022 and 2023.

Donor and Strategic events attended by JP in 2022

JP steering committee/ programme board meeting	Strategic partners/ donors event
Yes, in 2023	Yes, in 2023

Explanation if you have not held any key meeting/events for the above question.

Not applicable.

JP contribution to 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	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Briefly explain how and in which area your JP contributed to enhancing SDG financing
Completed a landscape assessment of the national SDG data ecosystem that identified gaps and opportunities, and potential efficiencies and donors, and which will inform an investment plan for modernization of SDG related statistics, and enhance planning and resource mobilization for the Goals;
 The SDG data repository collated, for the first time, all available official data for the SDG targets and indicators, increasing synergies and reducing duplications between actors, and boosting efficiencies and savings;
 The digital, online SDG Data Repository allows actors across institutions and sectors to access the same data, diminishing siloed approaches and making planning, resourcing and implementation of the Goals more effective, efficient and collaborative, and increasing the return on capital investment by all actors;
 Supported the digitalization of two national survey instruments and technological capacity of the country's statistical office, thereby reducing the per capita costs of the data needed for SDG planning, investing, monitoring and evaluation;
 Built capacity (via manuals and workshops) among >120 business leaders for local and international reporting frameworks, requirements and regulations on companies' environment, social and governance (ESG) performance;
 Built capacity (via manuals and workshops) among >60 business leaders on alignment of corporate philanthropy with the SDGs.

Focus on LNOB cross cutting principles

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

Provide any other comments or descriptions on how your JP contributed to cross-cutting issues and principles.
Improving the amount and disaggregation of data and statistics on the SDGs in Trinidad and Tobago can advances human rights in the country in several ways:
 1. Transparency and Accountability: Comprehensive data sheds light on which groups are being left behind and where inequalities exist. This empowers marginalized communities to advocate for their rights and hold governments accountable for progress on the SDGs. The Government can also use data to identify areas where policies and programs need to be strengthened or redirected.
 2. Targeted Interventions: Disaggregated data reveals specific needs and vulnerabilities within the population. This allows for the design of targeted interventions that address the unique challenges faced by different groups, such as women, minorities, people with disabilities, those living in poverty, and others at risk of being left behind. By tailoring interventions to specific needs, resources can be used more effectively and outcomes can be improved.
 3. Evidence-Based Policymaking: Robust data informs the development and implementation of effective policies that address the root causes of human rights violations. By understanding the factors contributing to poverty, discrimination, and other injustices, policymakers can craft solutions that are more likely to succeed.
 4. Monitoring Progress: Tracking progress towards the SDGs through data collection and analysis allows for the identification of successes and challenges. This enables course correction when necessary and ensures that human rights are at the forefront of development efforts.
 5. Empowering Civil Society: Access to disaggregated data empowers civil society organizations to track progress, hold governments accountable, and advocate for the rights of marginalized communities. This strengthens the space for civil society participation.
 For example, the JP has collected and collated data on:
 Gender pay gaps, maternal mortality rates, and access to education, and will inform policies that promote gender equality and women's empowerment.
 Poverty rates by income level, location, and ethnicity, and will help target interventions to reach the most vulnerable populations and ensure that no one is left behind.
 Deforestation and climate change, and can be used to develop policies that protect the environment and the human rights that depend on it.
 Human rights mechanisms related to the JP include 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.

Beneficiaries

Number of beneficiaries

1367510

Percentage (%) of women benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of children & youth (0-24 years of age) benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of older persons (age 60 and above) benefited among the total number	Percentage (%) of persons with disabilities benefited among the total number
49.8	36.6	13.4	3.9

Please briefly explain how people benefited from the joint programme

1367510

Did your JP support the localization of SDGs by moving SDG actions to the local level and enhancing abilities of local and regional governments to promote the SDGs?

Raised awareness (e.g. campaigns, communication strategy) ;Conducted diagnostics and studies to contextualize SDGs at the local level;Enhanced capacities of staff in the local and regional governments;Supported development and implementation of territorial or local economic development approaches/strategies/policies;Decentralized public finance management in relations to financing the SDGs;Enhanced the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs at the sub-national level (e.g. development of Sub-national Voluntary National Reviews);Created hubs/coordination mechanisms with tools for tracking local outcome metrics and enhancing multi-stakeholder dialogues.;Established or enhanced institutional arrangements to ensure adequate multi-level governance.;

Provide information of how your JP supported localization of the SDGs as outlined above:

By enhancing and modernizing the country's data and statistics ecosystem, the JP will help Trinidad and Tobago localize the SDGs in several ways:
 1. Improved Planning and Resource Allocation by:
 Identifying Local Priorities: Accurate data pinpoints specific areas and populations where achieving the SDGs is most challenging. This allows policymakers to prioritize interventions and allocate resources efficiently, targeting the most critical areas.
 Monitoring Progress: Robust data systems enable tracking progress towards SDG targets at the local level. This helps identify areas where interventions are effective and where adjustments are needed, ensuring continuous improvement.
 Benchmarking and Sharing Best Practices: Local data can be compared to national and regional benchmarks, allowing communities to learn from each other's successes and adapt best practices to their specific contexts.
 2. Empowering Local Stakeholders by facilitating:
 Evidence-Based Advocacy: Local data empowers communities to advocate for their needs and priorities, ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes.
 Community Engagement: Data collection and analysis can involve local communities, fostering ownership and participation in SDG implementation. This builds trust and increases the likelihood of interventions being successful.
 Transparency and Accountability: Open access to local data promotes transparency and accountability, holding local authorities responsible for delivering on SDG commitments.
 3. Informing Specific SDG Targets such as:
 Poverty (SDG 1): Local data on poverty rates, income levels, and access to basic services helps target interventions towards the most vulnerable populations.
 Hunger (SDG 2): Data on food insecurity, malnutrition, and agricultural productivity informs policies to improve food access and production at the local level.
 Health (SDG 3): Local data on health outcomes, disease prevalence, and access to healthcare facilities helps direct resources towards improving health services in specific communities.
 Education (SDG 4): Data on literacy rates, school enrolment, and educational quality helps tailor education programs to address local needs and challenges.

Communications

Voices from the field

The Honorable Pennelope Beckles-Robinson, Minister of Planning and Development:

"Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Strategy, Vision 2030, iterates the need for a comprehensive, coordinated National Statistical System delivering quality, user-oriented and timely statistics on Trinidad and Tobago's economy, social needs and natural environment."

"Our lives and the lives of our citizens depend on the capacity of statistics to inform world class service delivery, leaving no one behind. Through this US $721,400 allocation from the UN's Joint SDG Fund, we will enhance SDG-related policy making, programming and resourcing; and render more targeted assistance to those at risk, including women and girls, who have been insufficiently considered in national statistics."

"The integration of advanced big data analytics and artificial intelligence into our future planning is necessary for guaranteeing a continued thrust for more efficient and transparent government services, as well as obtaining solutions to localised problems; especially solutions in line with Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Strategy and the SDGs."

His Excellency Raphael Kibed, Ambassador of The Kingdom of the Netherlands in Trinidad and Tobago:

"This Joint SDG Fund project, 'Modernising Trinidad and Tobago's Statistical Ecosystem through Enhanced SDG Data Development,' is an incredible initiative. Soon, the National Statistical System will be able to deliver quality, user-oriented and timely statistics on the economy, social needs and the environment. This is critical to making effective, evidence-based decisions and to monitoring the achievement of programme and policy objectives. The Kingdom of the Netherlands is proud to be a part of these important developments through its contributions to the Fund."

Cory Belfon, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Digital Transformation:

"We have placed the highest priority on building a robust cybersecurity environment including ensuring that public-sector digital transformation initiatives include security by design."

"This is truly a time of disruption. The effective management of data is critical for ensuring this transformation is positive and beneficial for all our citizens."

Declaration

We hereby confirm that the information provided in this update is duly reviewed and approved by the RC and all PUNOs involved in the Joint Programme.