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COUNTRY PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 2008-2011

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Introduction

1. This Country Programme Document (CPD) has been informed by the consultative process on the transition to Net Contributor Country status (NCC), the preparation of the CCA and [UNDAF \(hyperlink\)](#) involving both resident and non resident UN agencies. The government has demonstrated its commitment to multi-lateralism by its agreement to a continued full UNDP presence in Trinidad and Tobago as a NCC from 2008 on a Government cost sharing basis. This CPD presents the UNDP programme in a “high human development” twin island country which has the capacity to fund its development programme. UNDP as a neutral partner will support the country in addressing gaps towards achieving developed country status.

Part I. Situation Analysis

2. The country is ranked 57th on the Human Development 2006 Index.¹ Other HD indicators are good HPI - 15th; Gender-related Development Index (GDI) 48th; Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) 23rd and life expectancy at birth is 75 years.² The population stands at 1.3m (CSO 2000 Census) with an average annual growth rate of 1%. Male/female ratio is approximately 1:1.

3. Recent strong economic growth has resulted in important advances towards achieving developed country status as per the country’s long term development plan, [Vision 2020](#). Indeed, the country recorded growth rates of 6.9% in 2000; 7.9% in 2003; 6.5% in 2004; and 7% in 2005 showing consistent good performance. In articulating its Vision 2020 the Government has accepted the attainment of the [Millennium Development Goals](#) as the minimum standard for success. A critical component of the Vision 2020 process is the continued participation of the private and civil society sectors in the planning and implementation processes at the regional levels. The paucity of disaggregated socio-economic data for evidence based planning and monitoring; the inherent social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities as a Small Island Developing State; human security threats from crime and violence, poverty and HIV and AIDS pose continuing threats to the achievement of Vision 2020 goals.

4. Economic growth and wealth generation will continue to be energy (oil and gas) based. In 2004 the petroleum industry contributed 37.15% to GDP, 60.2% of visible exports, and 36.8%³ of Central Government revenues but only 5% of employment. Crude oil production has recently been surpassed by gas production which has encouraged huge inflows of foreign direct investment. The economy is also supported by a vibrant and rapidly expanding tourism industry that saw visitor arrivals in Tobago more than double during the 2001-2004 period. A recent study of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) found that tourism accounted for 56.8% of employment in Tobago. National unemployment rates have been declining, approximately 9% for 4th quarter in 2006. This decline though may be masking the existence of structural under employment and the inability of the country to produce the requisite skills for its fast growing economy.

5. Trinidad and Tobago continues to record high levels of education and health care access. Within these critical sectors though, the country is grappling with quality issues. In response to this challenge the education sector is being reformed to cope with the demand for skills for the fast paced and increasingly technologically-based economy and to encourage innovation that will increase the competitiveness of the economy. In health, non-communicable lifestyle diseases, substance abuse, and injuries related to accidents and high levels of violence continue to stretch the system. The HIV prevalence rate is 3.2% with 45% of new infections occurring in women, and the population of people living with HIV and AIDS is estimated at 29,000 or (2.2%) of the population⁴. Government has made a major investment in addressing HIV and AIDS through financing of the National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS and has established a National Aids Coordination Committee (NACC) with UNDP support. Notwithstanding the progress made, there are still outstanding issues related to stigma and discrimination.

¹ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). [Human Development Report 2006](#); UNDP, New York, 2006

² *ibid*

³ Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago: Economic Bulletin, May 2005, Vol. V11 No 1.

⁴ Source: UNGASS HIV/AIDS Report, 2006 – Page 3

6. The country's reliance on the hydrocarbon sector has been its bane and boon. It has created wealth to fuel growth in other sectors but has also created attendant economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities, the latter manifested as land degradation, water and air pollution. The expanding energy sector has been accompanied by declines in the manufacturing and agriculture sectors and slow progress in the development of other industries such as the creative industries that can contribute to sustained growth even with declines in or depletion in the energy sector. Indeed, the manufacturing sector as a percentage of GDP moved from 7.4% in 2001 to 6.9% in 2005. The relatively high-wage energy sector contributes to wage disparities between the sectors and there is continued poverty in the midst of plenty. Recent estimates are that 17% of the population lives below the poverty line.⁵

7. Uneven patterns of development within Trinidad and between Trinidad and Tobago have been recognized as development challenges in Vision 2020 and the [Draft White Paper on Local Government Reform 2006](#). The Government has therefore embarked on a Local Government Reform programme aimed at improving efficiency and effective delivery of public goods and services and ensuring more equitable and participatory development. This is to be achieved by building institutional capacity at the municipal level and strengthening public participation.

Part II. Past Co-operation and Lessons Learned

8. Under the second CCF UNDP provided support to strategic interventions in: (a) National Development Policy and Poverty Reduction; (b) HIV and AIDS - Capacity building to mainstream HIV and AIDS into sector planning; (c) Energy and Environment - Capacity Building to adhere to global conventions and (d) Democratic Governance. The programme was financed from core and non core resources, the latter consisted mainly of government cost sharing.

9. UNDP provided advisory services to the Government, through the Multi-Sectoral Task Force and sub-committees on Poverty, Gender, Environment and Governance as well as the introduction of participatory methodologies for broad-based engagement, in the preparation of its Vision 2020 Plan. In contributing to building equity UNDP, using the UNV modality contributed significantly to the improvement of health care delivery to the vulnerable, particularly those in rural communities, the reduction in patient waiting times for surgical procedures and facilitating the establishment of voluntary counseling and testing centres. Further, the UNV modality was used to provide scarce skills to assist the stalled physical development agenda in Tobago and provided much needed support to capacity development in the Infrastructure Division in Tobago. Under its Energy and Environment programme through its collaboration in convening a regional energy conference UNDP is now a recognized partner in the regional debate on energy security.

10. Through its implementation of the GEF Small Grants Programme and Social Development Small Grants Programme, UNDP continued to support innovative community based approaches to environmental management and social development particularly healthy family functioning and sustainable livelihoods. Guided by international best practice UNDP provided technical expertise in the articulation of the National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS and partnered with the World Bank in providing technical expertise for the operationalization of the National AIDS Coordinating Committee to provide a multi-sectoral response to HIV and AIDS. Though not yet accepted as national policy, UNDP provided critical support by providing knowledge on comparative experiences, global best practices and technical advice in the articulation of a draft gender policy.

11. Main lessons include (a) the need for greater alignment with the country's priorities in terms of national environmental management. Strides towards achieving this have been made through UNDP's leadership in a national pilot project, involving both public and private sector, on renewable energy technologies through a solar water heating project; (b) the need to adjust the Country Office programme strategy to ensure that resource mobilization, networking and partnering building skills were developed in preparation for NCC status; and (c) the need to address CO sustainability without compromising corporate mandates. These challenges remain as the country assumes NCC status.

⁵ Unpublished Report on Survey of Living Conditions 2005

Part III. Proposed Programme

A. UNDAF Outcome 1: Effective public participation in governance structures at all levels

12. In accordance with UNDAF Outcome 1 UNDP will provide advisory services and technical support, particularly through capacity building to government, private sector and civil society that address the UNDAF Country Programme outcomes as per the Results and Resources Framework attached.

13. Vision 2020 emphasizes the importance of effective governance for the achievement of national development goals and the MDGs. UNDP will continue to support capacity building for strengthening effective civil society and private sector participation in the implementation of the local government reform process. Specifically, UNDP will provide technical expertise to assist the Ministry of Local Government in strengthening management systems, human resource capacity and funding mechanisms at the municipal levels.

14. A programme approach will be developed for each result area to ensure programme coherence and partnership building among the UN System, the private sector, academia, other multi-laterals and the regional banks.

B. UNDAF Outcome 2: By 2011, Trinidad and Tobago is implementing rights-based social, labour and economic policies that effectively empower and protect vulnerable groups.

15. In accordance with UNDAF Outcome 2 and Vision 2020 UNDP will support Government's policies and programmes to effectively empower and protect vulnerable groups. UNDP will contribute to the UN System efforts by supporting initiatives to reduce socio-economic and environmental vulnerability.

16. UNDP will provide technical support to required research, dialogue and policy setting towards strengthening Trinidad and Tobago as a broad based energy economy which could play a lead role in bolstering the region's energy security status.

17. The current role of UNDP in supporting disaster management in Trinidad and Tobago is limited to institutional strengthening. Over the programme period, UNDP will further support government's efforts in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction approaches as part of disaster preparedness programmes nationally. This would include strengthening of training capabilities as well as site vulnerability assessment. Through the GEF and Social Development Small Grants Programmes, UNDP will continue to support communities to ensure that their social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities are reduced.

18. The relatively high levels of crime and violence have posed an increasing threat to human security. UNDP will support the Government in seeking out solutions through the provision of knowledge-based advisory services that focus on regional development, strengthening CSOs, youth employment and entrepreneurship, and governance at the local level.

Part IV. Programme Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

19. Trinidad and Tobago assumes NCC status on January 2008. Since NCC status will mean the withdrawal of UNDP core resources and given the commitment of the Government to finance the cost of the office and programme there will necessarily be need to ensure alignment between Government's requirements and UNDP policies for management, monitoring and evaluation of the programme. This will be reinforced by through strengthened collaboration among the UN system in Trinidad and Tobago within the framework of the first UNDAF. In this context the programme will be executed in accordance with Government's priorities with NEX and NGO execution being the main modalities. Where necessary UNDP will continue as requested by the Government to provide project support and advisory services. External expertise wherever needed will be recruited from national institutions in the first instance, UNDP Headquarters and global resource centres.

20. A Task Force comprising Government, UNDP and other national stakeholders will be constituted to provide guidance on programme management arrangements including monitoring and evaluation. Results Based Management will be used to measure progress towards targets and measurement of

results. Participatory approaches for monitoring and evaluation to ensure that programme and project monitoring systems are aligned with the Results Framework. Adherence to the annexed evaluation plan will allow the CO to adapt the programme based on critical lessons learned.

21. In the implementation of the Country Programme linkages will be established with the regional programme for Latin America and the Caribbean particularly with the Support to Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean programme, the South-South cooperation Unit of UNDP and the leveraging of global knowledge through UNDP's Caribbean Sub-Regional Resource Facility.

22. Given the NCC status the programme will be financed from non-core resources drawn mainly from the Government but also including Trust Funds to which the country might be eligible even as an NCC, and resources mobilized from the private sector both internal and external. The Corporate Social Responsibility mapping project will provide a framework to steer private sector development funds.

RESULTS AND RESOURCE FRAMEWORK 12mar07

National priority or goal (Millennium Development Goals and/or other International Conference Commitments)					
Intended UNDAF Outcome 1: Effective public participation in governance structures at all levels.					
Programme Component	Country programme outcomes, including outcome indicators, baselines and targets	Country programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Role of partners	Indicative Resources by Goal
1.UNDP MYFF Goal 2: Fostering Democratic governance Service Line 2.6	1.1.Governance structures and practices are more decentralized and responsive to needs at the local level. <u>Baseline:</u> Government functions and services are centralised <u>Indicators/ Targets:</u> Local Government Reform completed and public participation mechanisms in place	1.1.1.Transformated local gov't system through revised legislation; new organisation, management and policy implementation arrangements including Tobago;	<u>Baseline:</u> Outdated local government systems <u>Indicators/ Targets:</u> Revised legislation; Institutional and legislative framework established by 2010; Annual implementation reports; New organizational structures established at the municipal level.	Ministry of Local Government, Tobago House of Assembly – Coordination & Management Research papers on cost of crime UN System – Resources & Technical support	Regular Resources
					Other Resources
					3,600,000
		1.1.2. NGO and CSO capacities to plan and execute programmes at the local level increased	<u>Baseline:</u> Weak organizational structures of NGOs and CSOs and lack of strategic plans. <u>Indicators/Targets:</u> Toolkit developed for capacity building of CSOs and NGOs in all municipalities	Ministries of Local Government, Social Services and Community Development – resources coordination and management.	Regular Resources
			Other Resources		
			300,000		
2. MYFF Goal 2 Fostering Democratic Governance MYFF Goal 3 – Energy and environment for sustainable development	2.1. Creation of an enabling environment for sustainable Development <u>Baseline:</u> Key elements (policy, institutional framework, public participation) for sustainable development weak. <u>Indicators/ Targets:</u> Mechanisms for articulating sustainable development goals and fostering public participation exist and functioning.	2.1.1 Civil society capacity and mechanisms for inter-organisational coordination for service delivery strengthened	<u>Baseline:</u> Weak inter-organisational coordination <u>Indicators/Targets:</u> Coordination mechanism for CSO in service delivery developed	CSO, private sector and Government agencies for coordination, technical support and resources. UN agencies for technical support	600,000
		2.1.2. Policies, procedures and capacity for compliance with international conventions and conferences in the social and environmental sectors enhanced	<u>Baseline:</u> Limited capacity for fostering compliance. <u>Indicators/Targets:</u> Advisory services provided through workshops and technical consultations.	Government agencies and Ministries (Environment and Energy) - technical support, resources and policy setting framework. CSOs and NGOs – technical validation	600,000
		2.1.3. Efficiency in management of land transportation system enhanced	<u>Baseline:</u> Inefficient motor vehicle offices <u>Indicators/Targets:</u> Establishment of efficient procedures, regulations and standards. Increased efficiency in service delivery and M&E system in place.	Ministry of Works and Transport for resources policy framework.	5,000,000

Intended UNDAF outcome #2: By 2011, T&T is implementing rights-based social, economic and labour policies that effectively empower and protect vulnerable groups					
Programme Component	Country programme outcomes, including outcome indicators, baselines and targets	Country programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Role of partners ⁶	Indicative Resources by Goal
3. MYFF Goals 1 Achieving the MDGs and reducing Human Poverty MYFF Goal,3 Energy and environment for sustainable MYFF Goal 4: Crisis Prevention and Recovery MYFF Goal 5: Responding to HIV and AIDS	3.1. Strengthened capacity for poverty monitoring and measurement of other development indicators in place. <u>Baseline:</u> Limited capacity for data management and measurement of development progress. <u>Indicators/ Targets:</u> Data management and measurement systems developed and accessible.	3.1.1 Establishment of a national socio-economic information database.	<u>Baseline:</u> No national socio-economic database exists for the measurement and monitoring of development progress. <u>Indicators and targets:</u> Capacity for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on development indicators strengthened	Government agencies responsible for planning and data collection – policy framework and resources. UN System agencies – technical resources	Regular Resources 300,000
					Other Resources 500,000
	3.2. An enhanced level of human security. <u>Baseline:</u> Worrying levels of crime and violence and continuing vulnerability to disasters particularly floods. <u>Indicators/ Targets:</u> Institutional arrangements for disaster management in place. Government able through existing data to monitor and respond effectively to crime and violence.	3.1.2. Support for dialogue and research on crime, violence and disaster risk reduction.	<u>Baseline:</u> No system for costing impact of crime. Limited focus on disaster risk reduction. <u>Indicators/targets:</u> Research papers and M&E tools on cost of crime. Policy and technical advice in the implementation of a national plan for disaster response..	.Government agencies and Ministries;(Planning, National Security and Tobago) academia and private sector for resources and technical inputs UN system agencies – complementary research	350,000
	3.3. HIV response is fully mainstreamed in all sectors <u>Baseline:</u> Disproportionate capacity to respond to HIV and AIDS at the municipal levels <u>Indicators/ Targets:</u> Tobago Development Planning process includes HIV and AIDS as a core development issue.	3.1.3. Support for the HIV and AIDS response in Tobago	<u>Baseline:</u> Weak capacity to respond to HIV and AIDS in Tobago <u>Indicators/Targets:</u> Provision of advisory services, expertise and equipment. Island specific response to HIV and AIDS for Tobago.	Tobago House of Assembly; - Coordination Ministry of Health – Technical advice and support; National AIDS Coordinating Committee – Technical support NGOs – advocacy and service delivery support;	1,600,000
	3.4. Strengthened health service delivery capacity <u>Baseline:</u> Gaps in health care delivery particularly to the vulnerable <u>Indicators/ Targets:</u> More equitable health care delivery to vulnerable groups.	3.1.4. Expanded health care delivery and vulnerable groups	<u>Baseline:</u> Inadequate human resources for efficient health care delivery <u>Indicators/Targets</u> Trained personnel sourced to increase health care delivery and build national capacity.	Ministry of Health – technical support, policy framework and resources IDB technical support	2,000,000