



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2014



Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development - September, 2014.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AARD	Average Annual Rate of Decline
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
ACTT	Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AMSP	Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol
ARV	Anti-retroviral
CAC	Continuous Assessment Programme
CAPE	Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDAP	Chronic Disease Assistance Programme
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDF	Caribbean Development Fund
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEE	Common Entrance Examinations
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons
CO₂	Carbon Dioxide
COSTAATT	College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago
CSEC	Caribbean Secondary Education Certification
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CVQ	Caribbean Vocational Qualification
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short
EC	European Commission
eCAL	eConnect and Learn
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
EDF	European Development Fund
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EPI	Environmental Performance Index
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
ESCI	Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative
EU	European Union
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FPATT	Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago
GATE	Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GHGs	greenhouse gases
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GNI	Gross National Income
GORTT	Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
GPI	Gender Parity Index

HBS	Household Budgetary Survey
HCFCs	hydro-chlorofluorocarbons
HDC	Housing Development Corporation
HELP	Higher Education Loan Programme
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSF	Heritage and Stabilisation Fund
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MAVAW	Men Against Violence Against Women
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MHUD	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSM	Men who Have Sex with Men
MTEST	Ministry of Tertiary Education Skills Training
MTPF	Medium Term Development Framework
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOR	Net Official Reserves
NPDP	National Physical Development Plan
NSDS	National Spatial Development Strategy
NSP	National Strategic Plan
NT	National Test
NTA	National Training Agency
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODP	Ozone Depletion Potential
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PLHIV	Persons Living with HIV
PLHIV/AIDS	Persons living with HIV/AIDS
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
RDA	Recommended Daily Allowance
SDF	Special Development Fund
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Secondary Entrance Assessment
SEMP	Secondary Education Modernization Programme
SES	Seamless Education System
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLC	Survey of Living Conditions
SWs	Sex Workers
TB	Tuberculosis

TCCTP	Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme
THA	Tobago House of Assembly
TIDCO	Tourism and Industrial Development Company
TSSP	Trade Sector Support Programme
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
USMR	Under Five Mortality Rate
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UPE	Universal Primary Education
URP	Unemployment Relief Programme
US	United States
USE	Universal Secondary Programme
UTT	University of Trinidad and Tobago
UWI	University of the West Indies
WASA	Water and Sewerage Authority
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

FOREWORD



In 2000, world leaders came together to create a framework that focused international attention on efforts to address global and national development priorities in the form of the Millennium Development Goals. One year prior to the deadline for achieving the set targets, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has prepared this comprehensive Report – the Trinidad and Tobago Millennium Development Goals Report 2014 - documenting our country’s progress towards attainment of the MDGs and charting the way forward to 2015 and beyond. The Report builds on my statement at the “High-level Plenary Meeting of the Sixty-fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals” in 2010 as well as “Trinidad and

Tobago Millennium Development Goals Progress Report 2011”, and outlines, in detail, Trinidad and Tobago’s journey towards achieving the MDGs.

To date, we have achieved some of the targets and metrics relating to almost all of the MDGs, including: reduction in extreme poverty; achievement of universal Primary Education, along with gender parity; immunisation against measles; proportion of men and women with access to anti-retroviral drugs; number of deaths due to AIDS; incidence and death rate associated with Malaria; proportion of land area covered by forest; consumption of ozone depleting substances; and internet users per 100 population. Additionally, we have made significant strides towards attaining other targets pertaining to employment; women in national parliament; and increased access to improved drinking water source.

Still, Government recognizes there is much work to be done if we are to positively impact the lives of the most vulnerable in our society - starting from proper planning to facilitate the development of appropriate policies, strategic and programmatic interventions to monitoring and evaluating those interventions to ensure that our efforts result in improved lives.

Government is committed to the achievement of the MDGs. This commitment is reflected in our national policy agenda as articulated in the National Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and our Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014 which outline seven pillars for national development and five priority sectors, respectively. These two policy frameworks guide our development perspective and aspirations which coincide with many of the MDGs. Like the MDGs, this policy agenda places people at the centre of development, and embodies a National Vision of “Lasting Prosperity” and a Mission centred around “Prosperity for all.”

In implementing this national vision and mission as well as its national priorities, Government aims to create a facilitative environment for human development. Accomplishing the MDGs is therefore viewed as an important means through which our country's progress can be measured.

Inclusive development demands the productive participation of every citizen in social and economic development, and therefore, poverty alleviation and, ultimately, eradication are vitally important to our country's future. While extreme poverty has been substantially reduced, the number of persons under the poverty line still remains at an unacceptably high level. Our strategy for elevating our society and breaking the cycle of poverty is a holistic one that encompasses educating our people, providing access to affordable housing and quality health care and facilitating economic activity at both the community and national levels, while ensuring equal opportunity for males and females and respect for our natural environment. Government also places high priority on direct interventions for poverty alleviation and eradication by providing a safety network for the poor and vulnerable and closing the gap between the rich and poor by elevating persons into meaningful employment opportunities. Government has specifically targeted a 2 percent reduction in the number of persons below the poverty line per year. A Household Budgetary Survey and the Survey of Livings Conditions are currently being conducted (2014) which should provide us with more up-to-date figures.

Trinidad and Tobago, a small island developing state, has attained middle income country status based on our oil and gas

resources. Moving forward in today's global community, Government recognizes that social and economic transformation will depend heavily on the extent to which our people will be empowered to be technologically proficient, innovative and knowledge driven. Our focus, therefore, is on developing our human resources. We are continuing to implement a comprehensive programme to strengthen and improve the quality of the education system as well as increase the participation rates at the tertiary level. One of the goals of this programme is to bridge the digital divide through the Education Sector, not only within Trinidad and Tobago, but between ourselves and other countries. Ultimately, the intention is to build our human capital to create internationally competitive citizens who can match performance in the international arena and who can build competitive institutions, companies and industries at home.

The productive capacity of a nation is determined by many factors, not the least of which is the health and well-being of the population. In our quest to provide universal access to quality health care, we have made substantial investments to improve the management of the health system and to upgrade the physical infrastructure of health facilities. Government will continue to address the deficiencies in the health system to ensure that quality health care is provided across the country.

Specifically, maternal and child health is high of Government's agenda and we will continue to implement programmes to arrest the relatively high levels of maternal and infant mortality with special emphasis on low-income households. Government has also taken decisive action to institutionalise governance and physical structures to ensure the well-being, protection and care of our children. Such action included the establishment of the Children's Life Fund to provide emergency medical care and surgery for children to access medical procedures which are not available in Trinidad and Tobago. Also, we have agreed on a workplan 2013-2016 on strategic actions for children in Trinidad and Tobago.

In addition to continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS where we have had some success, we must now confront the prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension which have emerged as major threats to socio-economic growth, not only in Trinidad and Tobago, but in the Caribbean region and other developing countries. To this end, Trinidad and Tobago, in collaboration with CARICOM, successfully spearheaded the UN Resolution calling for a high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases which took place in 2011. In light of this, Government is paying special attention to bringing non-communicable diseases under more effective control through database management, effective treatment at no cost to citizens and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Development cannot and must not take place without providing equal opportunity for both men and women and respecting the

environment. My Government is committed to partnering with communities and empowering people, and so, gender mainstreaming continues to be an important aspect of our plans for social and economic transformation. We established a Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development in 2012, which has responsibility for addressing issues of the most vulnerable groups in society, including the protection of our children and elimination of discrimination against women. We are seeing a greater increase in the enrollment of women than men at the tertiary level and women comprise more than 50 percent of classroom space. We are also seeing an increase in the number of women in Parliament and in Local Government; and in 2010, Trinidad and Tobago elected its first female Prime Minister. Still, there is room for improvement and Government will continue to adopt appropriate measures to ensure a more gender sensitive society in which males and females are afforded equal space.

Government's path towards sustainable development entails promoting social and economic growth while ensuring environmental sustainability for future generations, taking into consideration the effects of climate change, the impact of which can be severe for a small island state such as Trinidad and Tobago. However, Trinidad and Tobago has taken steps to address and correct this. We have established our own Green Fund for use to finance reforestation and other environmental conservation and preservation programmes. Government has already commenced several renewable energy projects and has also

partnered with the private sector, communities and non-governmental organisations to implement the ‘clean and beautify’ programme throughout the nation aimed at sustainable management of the environment.

As we forge ahead, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will continue to engage our national stakeholders and to adopt measures to strengthen and deepen relations with our development partners in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the United Nations (UN) System and other multilateral development institutions to achieve our national goals. Trinidad and Tobago will continue to work with our regional and international development partners in our steadfast effort to achieve all of the MDGs, not only for our nation, but for other developing countries as well.

As we move towards 2015 and beyond and create subsequent frameworks for global development, special consideration must be given to the least developing countries and small island developing states, some of which straddle both categories. While Trinidad and Tobago has attained middle income country status, it is also a small island developing state, and like other such states, we are fully cognizant of the fact that we remain vulnerable to international financial, food and energy crises as well as natural disasters. These vulnerabilities affect a large percentage of states, and so, success at the global level must be rooted at the national level. Issues that must be addressed include climate change, poverty reduction, human security and the lack of capacity for

economies of scale which affect competitiveness.

Development efforts must be managed and measured. To this end, an Integrated Performance Management Framework focusing on results has been developed and is being institutionalized. A major constraint experienced in measuring progress towards achieving the MDGs was the lack of up-to-date data for all indicators which is reflected in this Report. It contains data ranging up to the years 2008 and 2011, and in some instances we have been able to compile data up to 2014. As part of the institutionalisation of the Integrated Performance Management Framework, our Central Statistical Office (CSO) is being restructured and strengthened with the necessary skills and resources to produce timely data on Government’s behalf. The CSO, in collaboration with international and Caribbean partners, has recently delivered the 2011 Census Demographic Reports while several supplementary reports will be made available subsequently. In addition, the *Survey of Living Conditions 2014* has been launched which, when completed and analysed, will provide up-to-date data for decision-making.

Trinidad and Tobago has made significant advances towards achieving the MDGs. However, there remain some challenges which we are committed to resolving in order to attain our overarching goal, that is, the happiness of our people.

Finally, I wish to recognise and thank the Honourable Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development and his staff, as

well as the key stakeholder Ministries and Departments, for their valuable contribution to the production of the *Trinidad and Tobago Millennium Development Goals Report 2014*.

**Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar, S.C.,
M.P.**
*Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad
and Tobago*

PREFACE



Over the last decade the development of Trinidad and Tobago has been guided by strong principles of achieving equity, good governance and a high quality of life for all citizens. As a small island economy uniquely blessed with hydro-carbon reserves Trinidad and Tobago has consistently used these resources to transform its people, environment, and economy into an exemplary nation. The national vision of prosperity for all harnessed through creativity, innovation and collaboration focuses on creating an environment whereby all persons in the public sector, private sector and civil society can actively participate in national development.

In 2000, the MDGs provided the global basics that all nations should achieve by the

year 2015. In our assessment of the national situation and readiness to implement the MDGs it was confirmed that Trinidad and Tobago had already exceeded some of these global standards for development and therefore there was opportunity to modify the targets to reflect the national situation. Noteworthy was the progress under Goal 2 – Achieve Universal Primary and Secondary Education, which by 2005, had registered net enrolment of both males and females in primary education as being over 90 percent. Government therefore included targets for universal early childhood education and increases in the rates of participation at tertiary level institutions from 2010 and onwards.

Whilst our performance under the MDGs have been generally high, by keeping these indicators in constant view Government was able to identify gaps in development to which comprehensive and systematic responses were developed. In the area of poverty eradication, for example, in 2011, Trinidad and Tobago recorded a 14.8 percent poverty rate. Government has thus undertaken, through the social sector Ministries such as the Ministry of the People and Social Development, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development, targeted interventions that deal with the most vulnerable, as they related to chronic poverty, housing and social conditions and employment.

Areas that continued to be troubling were rates of infant and maternal mortality. However, through collaboration with partners in development, Trinidad and Tobago will

continue to implement institutional and physical reforms in sectors such as health and education, in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

It has been recognized that for greatest impact for development change to occur, there must be the adoption of an integrated approach to deal with the underlying causes of particular development issues which would allow for the realization of transformational results in the shortest possible timeframe. Further, adopting an evidence-based approach to decision making, will ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness in the utilization of resources and the impact intended. For Trinidad and Tobago, therefore, the MDGs provided the baseline for national development which has now been integrated into a robust development platform that includes national goals, targets and indicators.

Since 2010, Government has worked towards creating the links between the pillars of development, specifically human and social, economic and environmental conditions. More recently spatial planning has been included in the analysis and the debate has also begun on creating an understanding of well-being within the context of a holistic Quality of Life Index.

The Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development has formulated through consultation, key planning instruments that will guide development over the medium term giving focus to all the national indicators. **The Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014** and the **Working for Sustainable Development** documents have provided the policy context for

development against five national priorities and for sustainable development. Trinidad and Tobago also produced the **Human Development Atlas, 2012** which, through spatial depiction, allowed a view of human development including the MDGs, crime and violence across regional boundaries. This document created the platform for ensuring equity in development at the regional and sub-regional levels not only in terms of the economic and infrastructure requirements but also in terms of social and demographic variables which served as a guide to decentralized community development.

The National Performance Framework 2012 – 2015 outlined 24 National Outcomes and 48 national indicators under which the MDGs were subsumed. This document built on the principles of effective planning and good governance based on a framework of key result areas, outcomes, targets and indicators of development. It was intended to facilitate strategic interventions that would lead to the achievement of the national priorities in the first instance, ensuring alignment between the planning, financing and the achievement of results.

Recognizing the limitations of land space within Trinidad and Tobago, Government has prepared a National Spatial Strategy that ensures the efficient utilization of our finite land resource. This is essential to ensure that our public and community spaces are properly structured to provide quality housing, community recreational spaces, green spaces and modern infrastructure that would create the esthetical value for the human condition.

Development is therefore being approached through multiple, integrated tiers, deliberately aimed at achieving the necessary results which we all seek.

As Trinidad and Tobago approaches the end of the 15 year timeframe set by the United Nations for implementation of the MDGs, we are satisfied that our efforts will yield positive results by 2015. By that time, Trinidad and Tobago would have achieved and exceeded most of the MDG targets.

Furthermore, our approach to development that targets improvements in terms of social, environmental, economic and physical conditions is comprehensive and holistic. Our development will therefore be sustainable and ensure that no individual is disenfranchised.

As the global debate to post 2015 continues, Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to the global guiding principles that would be adopted at the United Nations. The pledge to meet and exceed these Goals remains our fundamental vision since the Government is committed to creating a nation in which future generations would be proud to be associated.

Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie

**Minister of Planning and Sustainable
Development**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trinidad and Tobago, a small island, developing state, is set to achieve and, in some cases, surpass, most of the MDGs by 2015 as evidenced by the data available. In compiling the data for this Progress Report, it is estimated that at least 70 percent of the MDG targets and indicators is attainable.¹ This includes modifications such as additional indicators which make some of the Goals more relevant to Trinidad and Tobago. The outlook for further advances in attaining the required benchmarks is good based on the sound policies, strategies and strategic interventions currently being implemented and those that are to be executed in the near future. Some of the highlights of this country's achievements over the last 14 years are:

- The proportion of persons living below the poverty line of US\$1.00 per day declined from 24 percent to 14.8 percent;
- Extreme hunger has almost been eradicated with 1.2 percent of the population falling below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption;
- Universal primary and secondary education have been achieved - the latter was set as a national target;
- The country is on track to realising universal Early Childhood Education by 2015 which has been set as a

- national target;
- Tertiary level participation rate increased from 15 percent in 2004 to 60 percent currently, thereby meeting the set target;
- Gender parity in primary and secondary level enrolment has been achieved and women surpass men at the level of tertiary participation;
- There have been significant strides in empowering women: the country's first Prime Minister was elected in 2010 with women holding 36 percent of ministerial positions in that year; women in the Lower House of Parliament increased from 11 percent in 2001 to 29.3 percent in 2010;
- Trinidad and Tobago has almost eliminated malaria and tuberculosis; and
- Trinidad and Tobago successfully met the targets relating to the Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances which declined from a high of 220 ODP tonnes in 1998 to 34.34 ODP tonnes in 2011.

Some of the challenges pertain to the containment of new cases of HIV, the incidence of non-communicable diseases, maternal deaths and carbon emissions.

Government is confident that much more progress will be made towards achieving the MDGs by 2015 given the numerous undertakings in various sectors to improve the quality of life in Trinidad and Tobago.

¹ This percentage includes 22 percent of targets that are on track to be met and 48 percent already met. Indicators added by Trinidad and Tobago were also considered.

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Trinidad and Tobago has recorded a notable 38 percent drop in poverty levels between 1997/1998 and 2008/2009, based on the Household Budgetary Survey data for those years. This significant decline has also been accompanied by low indigence levels as evidenced by both the 2005 Survey of Living Conditions, which recorded a 1.2 percent indigence level, and the more recent 2008/2009 HBS, which revealed the level at 3 percent. The Poverty Gap has also narrowed from 5.3 percent to 4.2 percent between 1997/1998 and 2008/2009 HBS. However, income inequality persists as evidenced by an unchanged Gini-coefficient of 0.39 during the same years. Moreover, the Proportion of Underweight Children under Five Years have also declined from 22 to 18 percent between 2000 and 2006, although further declines are needed.

The country's success in reducing poverty can be attributed to a multidimensional approach to combatting the issue. This involved the implementation of programmes and improved social services delivery to the subsidization of basic services like education, health care and transportation. More recently, emphasis has been placed on decentralized development aimed at reducing regional growth disparities, as well as on human capital development through education and skills training.

Declining overall unemployment levels have led to improvements in the Employment to Population Ratio from 53.70 to 59.14 percent between 2000 and 2011 as more job opportunities became available. Similarly, the Proportion of Own Account Workers and Contributing Family Workers declined during 1990-2000 from 22.69 to 17.36 percent, as persons were more successful in finding stable jobs. However, lower employment among the youth population and women have been identified as issues and are being addressed. Declines in the Growth Rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per person employed also suggested the need for increased labour productivity which is being tackled by the Productivity Council.

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Pre-School, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education

Universal access to primary education had been achieved by Trinidad and Tobago prior to the year 2000. Enrolment ratios surpassed the 90 percent target reaching 92 percent in 2009-2010. Moreover, the Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade 1 Who Reach Last Grade of Primary Education has been generally high - 92.3 percent in 2009/2010. While universal primary education has been achieved, emphasis has been placed on improving the quality of education to ensure all students participate and benefit from their schooling experience.

Given the successes at the primary level, Trinidad and Tobago elected to

include additional targets and indicators for other levels of the education system. These are Net Enrolment in Pre-School, and Secondary and Tertiary Level Participation Rates.

The drive to achieve universal Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) by 2015 is well underway. As at 2009/2010, the enrolment rate at the pre-school level was 88.5 percent. Given the broad-based approach adopted by Government which includes the construction of over 150 new ECCE Centres, utilization of spaces at primary schools to create ECCE places and partnering with private providers to meet the fall short of places; the country is well positioned to achieve this target. This policy initiative will provide every child, regardless of his/her socio-economic circumstance, with a solid foundation for human development (skills, values, attitudes, etc.), academic performance and lifelong learning.

Universal Secondary Education (USE) was achieved in 2000. The reform measures undertaken at the secondary level in support of USE included: the construction of new schools; the de-shifting and conversion of junior secondary and comprehensive schools; curriculum enhancement, particularly the introduction of Information Communication Technology; and the professional development of administrators and teachers. The impact of these initiatives is gauged from the

Net Secondary School Attendance Rate² which increased from 87.2 percent in the 2008 academic year to 89.9 percent in 2011/2012. The ongoing efforts to provide a more supportive learning environment as well as engaging students more creatively in their own learning should positively impact the attendance rates.

There has been an unprecedented increase in the number of students pursuing tertiary level education over the last eight years. The country's Tertiary Level Participation Rate³ increased significantly from 10 percent in 2004/2005, to 57 percent in 2012 due mainly to government's commitment since 2004 to provide free tertiary education to all citizens. The target for tertiary level participation of 60 percent by 2015 has been reached.

The Literacy Rate for persons 15-24 years old was consistently high at 99.5 percent in 2008 up from 95.7 percent in 1995. This increase may be attributed to free access to primary, secondary and tertiary education by citizens.

² The percentage of secondary school age children of the official school age population enrolled in school.

³ The percentage of persons graduating from secondary schools and enrolling in higher education.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Trinidad and Tobago has done remarkably well towards accomplishing this Goal given the attainment of gender parity in secondary and tertiary education; and gender parity in primary education is close to being achieved, reaching 0.98 in 2010.

Women have also had a stronger presence in the non-agriculture sector, with an average participation of 42.65 percent during 2000-2009. Moreover, whereas women's participation in the labour force has been traditionally lower than men, this gap has been narrowing evidenced by an average of 3:2 male to female ratio in all industries during 2007-2011.

Notable strides were also made in increasing women's participation in decision making, through the proportion of seats held by women in the National Parliament. This increased from 11 percent in the late 1990's to 29 percent in 2010. This increase in 2010 was also accompanied by the country's election of the first female Prime Minister. More continues to be done by government to promote gender equality through, policy, legislation and law enforcement.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Trinidad and Tobago has made some gains bringing down the Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) after a period of continuous rise in the 1990s. The most recent estimates place the Rate at 13.2

deaths per 1,000 live births in 2010⁴. While no systematic difference between geographic areas in terms of this Rate was observed, a significant discrepancy between the sexes was evident with the male U5MR being, on average, 25 percent higher than the female rate.

Disaggregation of the under-five mortality rate showed it was predominantly determined by fluctuations in the infant mortality rate and, more specifically, by the neonatal mortality rate with most of these deaths in turn occurring within the first seven days of life. By contrast, the 1-4 year old mortality rate and the post-neonatal mortality rate remained consistently low.

Conditions originating in the perinatal period, particularly, respiratory conditions, were revealed to be the largest contributor to infant deaths. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has moved to strengthen policies related to not only infant care, but antenatal care which heavily influences neonatal health. Initiatives such as the establishment of the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago are set to tackle violence against and abuse of children inter-alia, given that poisoning and other external causes were among the top causes of deaths among children aged 1-4.

The Expanded Programme for Immunization, which provides free vaccines for children against a number of infectious diseases, including measles, has been hugely successful with 83 percent of one year-old infants

⁴ Public Health institutions only.

immunised against these diseases in 2012; up from just 35 percent in 2000.

While the under-five mortality rate 2015 target of 5.4 per 1,000 live births may not be met, Trinidad and Tobago is on track to continued reductions in child mortality as a targeted and sustained policy approach has yielded dramatic decreases in the Rate over only a few years. It is anticipated that these positive results will only increase moving into the future.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Improving maternal health is a critical aspect of the overall health care system which has been identified as a priority area for investment over the medium-term. Trinidad and Tobago is working assiduously to improve maternal health and reduce the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) which has continued to pose a challenge. During the period 1990 to 2010, the ratio has fluctuated widely from year to year, exhibiting a general downward trend between 1994 and 2003, and a general upward trend between 2004 and 2010. The two lowest ratios reached were 29.4 and 27.8 in 2002 and 2003, respectively. In comparing the MMR at its peak in 1994 (76.2) to its lowest rate in 2003 (27.8), the MMR fell by 63.5 percent. It should be noted, however, that in 2011 and 2012, the MMRs at Public Health Institutions only were 22.2 and 20.0, respectively.

In addressing the challenge of reducing the MMR, Government is continuing to improve systems and procedures at health care institutions, increase access

to improved health services, enhance the infrastructure as well as implement policies like the revised Maternal and Child Health Policy and Standard Operating Procedures for Obstetrics and Midwifery.

On the other hand, Trinidad and Tobago has been more successful in achieving the targeted proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel with more than 95 percent of women receiving perinatal care and 99 percent of births being attended by skilled personnel.

Additionally, the prospects for the achieving the target of universal access to reproductive health is promising as over 90 percent of women access reproductive healthcare at least once during their pregnancy.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Dengue, Diabetes and Hypertension

Trinidad and Tobago has made considerable progress towards combatting HIV/AIDS. The incidence of HIV/AIDS among the general public has consistently declined during 2008 to 2011 from 1,448 to 1,284 cases⁵, thereby highlighting the positive impact of Government's multidimensional approach to combatting the disease. Additionally, there were sharp increases in the proportion of persons using anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs, from 46 percent in 2006 to 73 percent in 2011. For pregnant women, the rate was estimated at 73.5 percent during 2005-2009 to 81.9 percent in 2011. This increased use of ARV impacted positively on the

⁵ Ministry of Health, Public Health Institutions data

number of deaths due to AIDS, which peaked at 250 in 2001 and declined to a low of 42 in 2011.

However, concern remains regarding the incidence of HIV/AIDS among the 15-24 age cohort, which continued to increase during 2009-2011, from a prevalence rate of 1.3 to 1.8 percent. This increasing trend persisted despite increased comprehensive, correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS within this cohort, from 56 to 63 percent during 2008-2012 as well as their likely increased condom use compared to the older age cohorts.

The country has also successfully eradicated malaria, with no deaths since 2008-2011 and with no more than 3 incidences in any one year during that period. The death rate for tuberculosis has also been low at 1.9 per 100,000 persons during 2005-2011. Attention is being paid to managing the overall, though small increase in its incidence to 2.7 in 2011, towards achieving the national target of 0.6 per, 100,000 persons by 2015.

Given Trinidad and Tobago's success in managing tuberculosis and malaria, Government included other non-communicable diseases like dengue, diabetes and hypertension, especially given their relevance to the country. There have been low death rates due to dengue which recorded an average of 0.6 deaths per 100,000 persons during 1999 to 2008. However, the incidence of the disease consistently fluctuated to a high of 6,314 cases in 2002 to a few hundred cases in the 1990's and during 2004-2007. Government has therefore

heightened its preventative measures towards more effective management of the disease.

In terms of diabetes and hypertension, new cases were recorded annually at 1,878 and 1,910, respectively, which were unacceptably high. The death rate for hypertension remained constant at an average of 31.44 per 100, 00 persons over 1996-2008; whereas the rate for diabetes increased by 20 percent during that same period. In moving forward, government's focus will be not only an education and awareness but also on behaviour modification efforts supported by improved data collection and policy and legislative changes, as necessary.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Trinidad and Tobago successfully met the 2010 target in so far as it relates to the Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODP), which declined substantially from 196.6 ODP tonnes in 1990 to 34.34 ODP tonnes in 2011, well within targeted reductions. Tightening of the legislative framework and national policy reform were attributed to its achievement.

However, the country did not meet the 2010 target for the Proportion of Land Area Covered by Forest but due to increased reforestation activities it is expected that continued improvement in forest cover would be achieved. Forest Cover was 44.1 percent in 2005 and increased to 48 percent in 2012.

With respect to Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

absolute emissions, there has been an observed overall increase of the greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted. Despite the absence of quantifiable targets and data for selected indicators pertaining to Target 7B, Trinidad and Tobago's progress was still gauged based on information that was available. In this regard, it was evident that the proportion of fish stock within safe biological limits has been significantly depleted mainly due to inappropriate fishing practices. Consequently, most of the commercially important species were either close to full exploitation, or have been fully exploited or overexploited.

Although several categories of terrestrial protected areas were identified in Trinidad and Tobago, not all areas have been specifically designated for the maintenance of biological diversity. Many of these areas have been managed for maximisation of timber values. Of the terrestrial areas, only the three Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) namely, Matura National Park, Nariva Swamp and Aripo Savannas were designated primarily for biodiversity conservation.

In respect of measuring the proportion of species threatened with extinction, to date, only five species have been designated under the Environmental Management Act as "*Environmentally Sensitive*" as opposed to "*Endangered*"- a term not currently addressed in the Act.

On another note, the 2015 target relating to the Proportion of the

Population Using an Improved Sanitation Facility has already been met. This is evident from 2011 data which shows that 88 percent of the population used water closets, a significant increase from 57.7 percent in 1990.

However, the 2015 target for the Proportion of Dwelling Units Using an Improved Drinking Water Source is likely to be met. In 1990, 55 percent of dwelling units used an improved drinking water source and this rose sharply to 76 percent in 2011.

Finally, the 2020 target to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of people living in squatter settlements is likely to be met given Government's thrust towards the equitable development of wholesome and sustainable communities in Trinidad and Tobago. Squatter regularization and upgrading initiatives, home improvement subsidies, within the context of the national planning framework, are all geared towards the overall upgrade of squatter communities.

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

As a small open economy Trinidad and Tobago is reliant on trade and the establishment of strategic regional and international partnerships for its continued economic development. As such, this country's Foreign Policy has been in the pursuit of the national development agenda, namely; promoting sustainable development, peace and citizen security. Consequently, Trinidad

and Tobago's development strategy underscores the importance of meaningful and decisive engagement with the community of nations.

Over the medium term, the foreign policy agenda seeks to maintain, develop and enhance relations with strategic countries at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, especially within the United Nations System.

Creating new trade agreements and maintaining existing ones have also been actively pursued as they are vital components for the facilitation of trade and economic growth. Since trade is an important driver for economic growth, the Trade Policy and Strategy 2013-2017 has been completed and the next undertaking will be to develop a National Export Strategy.

In term of the global agenda for development, this country has been in the forefront of the debate on the post-2015 Development Agenda and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) process. Under the SIDS process, Trinidad and Tobago participated in the Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2014 SIDS Conference in August 2013 as well as the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in November and December 2013 and January 2014 as CARICOM's representative on matters related to Energy, Human Rights and Climate Change.

Over the years, Trinidad and Tobago has benefitted from the development assistance of the multilateral agencies.

Since 1968, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) has been a key development partner of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. As at December 2013, this country received a total amount of approximately US\$52.6 million in grant funding from the IADB. In 1975, the European Union began providing grant resources to this country through its European Development Fund (EDF). The current EDF (10th) for the period 2008-2013 is valued at €25.9 million.

Since its independence in 1962, Trinidad and Tobago has pioneered and supported several initiatives aimed at assisting the least developed countries. This country has been a major contributor to the Special Development Fund (SDF) administered by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), which was established in 1970. At the end of 2012, this country's contribution to the fund was US\$35.8 million. Under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, Trinidad and Tobago provided US\$423.15 million in debt relief, the majority of which was accumulated under the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility.

In 2008, Trinidad and Tobago was a signatory to the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Development Fund (CDF) which was initiated to support the sustainable development of CARICOM Member States. As at December 2012, Trinidad and Tobago contribution was US\$46.7 million or 51 percent of the total amount in the Fund.

The Caribbean Trade Support Programme was created by Trinidad and Tobago in 2003 to assist CARICOM Members Countries. At the end of the programme in 2009, the total disbursement made to countries was US\$239,050.

While not in receipt of foreign assistance in the provision of essential drugs to its citizens, Trinidad and Tobago established the Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP) in 2003 to increase the availability and affordability of pharmaceuticals to the population.

Phenomenal growth has been experienced in the area of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), as the number of internet users has doubled and mobile subscriptions have increased by approximately 25 percent. In addition, the National ICT Plan 2014-2018 has been completed. Trinidad and Tobago is number 1 in the world in mobile network coverage according to the Global Information Technology Report of the Global Economic Report 2014.

SUMMARY TABLE

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS					
GOALS/TARGETS	INDICATOR	PROGRESS			NOTES
		BASELINE DATA/YR	LATEST DATA/YR.	TARGET 2015	
<p>GOAL 1: ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</p> <p>Target 1A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar (US) a day</p> <p>Target 1B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people</p> <p>Target 1C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</p>	1.1: PROPORTION OF POPULATION BELOW \$1 (PPP) PER DAY	24.1 percent (1997/1998)	14.8 percent (2008/2009)	12.05 percent	Significant declines were recorded as a result of a multifaceted approach to combatting poverty. This ranged from increased access to social services, the subsidization of basic services like health and education to empowerment measures like human capital development.
	1.2: POVERTY GAP RATIO	5.3 percent (1997/1998)	4.2 percent (2008/2009)	2.7	To further reduce the Gap, Government has embarked upon strategies to improve human capital development and decentralized development to reduce regional economic disparities.
	1.5: EMPLOYMENT-TO-POPULATION RATIO	0.41 (1995)	0.59 (2011)	0.65	The improvement in this ratio was attributable to lower unemployment rates.
	1.8: PROPORTION OF* UNDERWEIGHT CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE	22 percent (2000)	18.8 percent (2006)	11 percent	This decline may be attributed to the implementation of key measures like the Maternal and Child Health Policy and Standard Operating Procedures and food support programmes. However, further reduction is needed.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOALS/TARGETS	INDICATOR	PROGRESS			NOTES
		BASELINE DATA/YR	LATEST DATA/YR.	TARGET 2015	
<p>GOAL2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRE-SCHOOL, PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION</p> <p>Target 2A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary level schooling</p>	2.1: NET ENROLMENT RATIO IN PRIMARY EDUCATION	93.4 percent (1990)	92 percent (2009/2010)	90 percent	Sustained high net enrolment rates were made possible through the achievement of universal primary education prior to 2000.
	2.2: PROPORTION OF PUPILS STARTING GRADE 1 WHO REACH LAST GRADE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION	90 percent (1990)	92.3 percent (2009/2010)	90 percent	Completion rates have been consistently high, however, a greater number of girls than boys tend to complete the primary school cycle.
	2.3: LITERACY RATE OF 15-24 YEAR OLDS, WOMEN AND MEN	95.7 percent (1995)	99.5 percent (2008)	100 percent	Literacy is commonly understood to be a set of tangible skills particularly the cognitive skills of reading and writing.
	*NET ENROLMENT IN PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION	88.2 percent (2006/2007)	89 percent (2011/2012)	97 percent	Increased enrolment rates are anticipated with the aggressive approach instituted to achieve universal ECCE by 2015.
	*NET SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RATE	87.2 percent (2008)	89.9 percent (2011/2012)	90 percent	The secondary school attendance rate continues to increase. However, emphasis needs to be placed on the participation and completion rates for this level of education.
	*TERTIARY EDUCATION PARTICIPATION RATE	15 percent (2004)	60 percent (2014)	60 percent	Sustained government funding of tertiary education has contributed significantly to increased participation rates and the target of 60 percent by 2015 has already been achieved.

**Indicator included by Trinidad and Tobago*

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOALS/TARGETS	INDICATOR	PROGRESS			NOTES
		BASELINE DATA/YR	LATEST DATA/YR.	TARGET 2015	
GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN Target 3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	3.1A: GENDER PARITY INDEX IN PRIMARY LEVEL ENROLMENT	1.00:1 (1999)	0.98:1 (2010)	1.1	Near gender parity has been accomplished.
	3.1B: GENDER PARITY INDEX IN SECONDARY LEVEL ENROLMENT	1.10:1 (1999)	1.04:1 (2009)	1.1	Gender parity has been achieved..
	3.1 C: GENDER PARITY INDEX IN TERTIARY LEVEL ENROLEMENT	1.38:1 (1999)	1.28:1 (2010)	1.1	Gender parity has been achieved.
	3.2: SHARE OF WOMEN IN WAGE EMPLOYMENT IN THE NON-AGRICULTURE SECTOR	39.2 percent (1995)	41 percent (2011)	50 percent	There was a strong presence of women in the non-agriculture sector. This has been accompanied by a diminishing gap in labour force participation between men and women. However, further reduction is needed and the issue of income inequality between men and women must be addressed.
	3.3: PROPORTION OF SEATS HELD BY WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENT	11.1 percent (1997)	29.3 percent (2012)	50 percent	This proportion has consistently increased since 1997.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOALS/TARGETS	INDICATOR	PROGRESS			NOTES
		BASELINE DATA/YR	LATEST DATA/YR.	TARGET 2015	
GOAL 4: REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY Target 4A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	4.1: UNDER-FIVE MORTALITY RATE	16.2 per 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS (1990)	13.2 per 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS (2010)* <small>*Public Health Institutions only</small>	5.4 per 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	The U5MR has declined dramatically over the last decade after a period of increase. However, meeting the target by 2015 remains a challenge but a number of initiatives are being undertaken to reduce the U5MR.
	4.2: INFANT MORTALITY RATE	12.7.0 per 1000 LIVE BIRTHS (1990)	10.7 PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS (2011)* <small>*Provisional data</small>	4.2 per 1000 LIVE BIRTHS	The infant mortality rate is falling and the number of infant deaths due to respiratory conditions of the newborn - the top cause of infant death - has dropped significantly. The implementation of measures such as the revised Maternal and Child Health Policy are expected to have a positive impact.
	4.3: PROPORTION OF 1 YEAR-OLD CHILDREN IMMUNIZED AGAINST MEASLES	35 percent (2000)	83 percent (2012)	58.1 percent	The Expanded Programme on Immunization has been extremely successful in ensuring widespread child immunization coverage

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOALS/TARGETS	INDICATOR	PROGRESS			NOTES
		BASELINE DATA/YR	LATEST DATA/YR.	TARGET 2015	
GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH TARGET 5A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio TARGET 5B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	5.1: MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO	38.9 PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS (1996)	20 PER 100,000* LIVE BIRTHS (2012) *Public Health Institutions only	9.7 PER 100,000 LIVE BIRTHS	While there have been wide annual fluctuations in the Rate over time, the challenge of sustaining reductions in the MMR remains.
	5.2: PROPORTION OF BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED HEALTH PERSONNEL	99 percent (2004)	99 percent (2007)	90 percent	The country has been successful in meeting this objective.
	5.3: CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE RATE	38 percent (2000)	42.5 percent (2008)	85 percent	The Rate is increasing but more in-depth research is needed into cultural and social norms associated with utilizing and accessing contraceptives.
GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, DENGUE, DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION⁶ Target 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS Target 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	6.1: HIV PREVALENCE AMONG POPULATION AGED 15-24 YEARS	1300 CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION (2009)	1800 CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION (2011)	LESS THAN 1300 CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION	Despite increased testing and comprehensive, correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS, the increasing trend persisted. This suggests that more responsible sexual behavior is required for this cohort, since a decreasing trend was observed for the population overall.
	6.3: PROPORTION OF POPULATION AGED 15-24 WITH COMPREHENSIVE CORRECT KNOWLEDGE OF HIV/AIDS	56 percent (2008)	63 percent (2012)	MORE THAN 56 percent	The increase in comprehensive, correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS has not yet impacted on responsible sexual behavior among this cohort
	6.5: PROPORTION OF POPULATION WITH ACCESS TO ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUGS	49 percent (2006)	75 percent (2010)	MORE THAN 49 percent	This significant increase has impacted positively on AIDS mortality and can be attributed to increased treatment sites and free ARV drugs to the infected.
	PROPORTION OF WOMEN WITH ACCESS TO ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUGS	75 percent (2005)	77.7 percent (2009)	MORE THAN 75 percent	The expansion of the Prevention of Mother to Child Programme, along with increased access to in treatment and testing, has had a positive impact.

⁶ Targets to be developed for selected indicators in this Goal

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOALS/TARGETS	INDICATOR	PROGRESS			NOTES
		BASELINE DATA/YR	LATEST DATA/YR.	TARGET 2015	
Target 6C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	*NEW HIV POSITIVE CASES AT PUBLIC HEALTH LOCATIONS	286 CASES (1990)	1284 CASES (2012)	LESS THAN 286 CASES	The number of cases in 2012 follows a consistent decline during 2004-2011 among the general population. Efforts to reduce stigma associated with testing are underway.
	*NUMBER OF DEATH DUE TO AIDS	105 DEATHS (1990)	55 PER 100,000 POPULATION (2012)	LESS THAN 100	The sharp decline can be attributed to increased availability of ARV Drugs.
	6.6 A: INCIDENCE ASSOCIATED WITH MALARIA	3 CASES (2008)	1 CASE (2011)	LESS THAN 3	The disease has been essentially eradicated in country.
	6.6 B: DEATH RATES ASSOCIATED WITH MALARIA	0 PER 100,000 POPULATION (2005)	0 PER 100,000 POPULATION (2011)	0 PER 100,000 POPULATION	There have been no deaths due to the disease since 2008.
	6.9: DEATH RATES ASSOCIATED WITH TUBERCULOSIS	1 PER 100,000 POPULATION (2006)	2.1 PER 100,000 POPULATION (2011)	LESS THAN 1 PER 100,000 POPULATION	The death rates have remained below 3 in any one year during 2006-2011, but still above the national target of 0.6 by 2015.
	*INCIDENCE ASSOCIATED WITH DENGUE FEVER	3160 CASES (1990)	2847 CASES (2012)	LESS THAN 3160 CASES	Fluctuating rates have led to heightened, preventative measures in managing the disease.
	*INCIDENCE OF DIABETES	1175 CASES (1990)	1984 CASES (2006)	LESS THAN 1175 CASES	Efforts to curb the incidence of the disease, through lifestyle changes, are underway.
	*INCIDENCE OF HYPERTENSION	893 CASES (1990)	2310 CASES (2006)	LESS THAN 893 CASES	Efforts to curb the incidence of the disease, through lifestyle changes, are underway.
	*DEATH RATES ASSOCIATED WITH DIABETES	90.14 PER 100,000 POPULATION (1996)	118.4 PER 100,000 POPULATION (2012)	LESS THAN 90.14 PER 100,000	The increased death rate has resulted in heightened preventative measures to curb deaths due to the disease.
	* DEATH RATES ASSOCIATED WITH HYPERTENSION	28.81 PER 100,000 POPULATION (1996)	31.74 PER 100,000 POPULATION (2006)	LESS THAN 28.81 PER 100,000	Similar to diabetes, the increased death rate has resulted in heightened preventative measures to curb deaths due to the disease.

**Indicator included by Trinidad and Tobago*

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE MILLENUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOALS/TARGETS	INDICATOR	PROGRESS			NOTES
		BASELINE DATA/YR	LATEST DATA/YR.	TARGET 2015	
<p>GOAL 7: ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</p> <p>Target 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environment resources</p>		--	--	--	All plans and policy documents have been established within a results based framework for measuring progress and achievement of targets.
<p>Target 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss</p>	<p>7.1: PROPORTION OF LAND AREA COVERED BY FOREST</p>	44.85% (1996)	48% (2012)	MORE THAN 44.85%	An aggressive reforestation programme coupled with a number of policy instruments supplemented by national strategic plans bolstered the land area covered by forest.
	<p>7.2: CARBON DIOXIDE (CO₂) ABSOLUTE EMISSIONS (GIGAGRAMS)</p>	25,397.2 GIGAGRAMS (1990)	80,823.35 GIGAGRAMS (2008)	LESS THAN 25,397.2 GIGAGRAMS	The national policy to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability has resulted in the implementation of numerous initiatives to reduce CO ₂ emissions.
	<p>7.3: CONSUMPTION OF OZONE-DEPLETING SUBSTANCES</p>	168.7 TONNES (1990)	34.34 TONNES (2011)	LESS THAN 168.7 ODP TONNES	Trinidad and Tobago has successfully reduced the use of ozone depleting substances.
	<p>7.4: PROPORTION OF FISH STOCKS WITHIN SAFE BIOLOGICAL LIMITS</p>	--	--	--	The safe biological limits for many commercially important species of fish have already been surpassed. Efforts to replenish the stocks are being directed at revising legislation and enforcing management regulations relating to fishing practices.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOALS/TARGETS	INDICATOR	PROGRESS			NOTES
		BASELINE DATA/YR	LATEST DATA/YR.	TARGET 2015	
	7.6: PROPORTION OF TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE AREAS PROTECTED	Not available	32% (land) 0.1% (marine)	National target to be developed	Approximately 32% of the combined land area of Trinidad and Tobago is protected and 0.1% of the marine area is protected.
	7.7: PROPORTION OF SPECIES THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION	Not available	55 species endangered (2013)	--	Five species have been declared as Environmentally Sensitive Species (ESSs). More species are in the process of being designated ESSs.
Target 7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	7.8: PROPORTION OF POPULATION USING AN IMPROVED DRINKING WATER SOURCE	55% (1990)	76% (2011)	82.5%	The number of households with access to pipe borne water in their homes increased over the period. Continued improvement of the water supply to the population is expected as the effects of the pipeline installation initiative and the increased supply capacity of the DESALCOTT are realized.
	7.9: PROPORTION OF POPULATION USING AN IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITY	TOTAL WATER CLOSETS: 57.7% (1990)	TOTAL WATER CLOSETS: 88% (2011)	78.85%	There has been a significant increase in the percentage of households in Trinidad and Tobago using improved sanitation facilities.
Target 7D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	7.10: PROPORTION OF URBAN POPULATION LIVING IN SLUMS	--	22,601 (Squatter Dwelling Units, 2011)	--	Based on the 2011 population census, the number of squatter dwelling units was approximately 23,000. However, a robust national spatial development strategy would acutely address major land use development issues within the national planning framework.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TOWARD THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOALS/TARGETS	INDICATOR	PROGRESS			NOTES
		BASELINE DATA/YR	LATEST DATA/YR.	TARGET 2015	
<p>GOAL 8: DEVELOPMENT AT GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Target 8A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system</p> <p>Target 8F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</p>	8.12: DEBT SERVICE AS A PERCENTAGE OF EXPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES	34.4 percent (1996)	1.3 percent (2012)	LESS THAN 5 percent	Target was achieved on account of buoyant gas prices.
	8.14: FIXED TELEPHONE LINES PER 100 INHABITANTS	23.6 PER 100 POPULATION (2010)	21.6 PER 100 POPULATION (2012)	MORE THAN 23.6	Despite having 21.6 lines per 100 population, Trinidad and Tobago's success lies in its mobile connectivity
	8.15: MOBILE CELLULAR SUBSCRIPTIONS PER 100 POPULATION	115.9 PER 100 POPULATION (2007)	142.2 PER 100 POPULATION (2012)	MORE THAN 115.9	Mobile connectivity has surpassed 100% indicating that there are more mobile phones than national population due to aggressive marketing by the two mobile service providers.
	8.16: INTERNET USERS PER 100 POPULATION	32.3 PER 100 POPULATION (2007)	68 PER 100 POPULATION (2011)	MORE THAN 70*	Internet usage has expanded on account of broadband access at public Wi-Fi and mobile phones.

* Target set by Trinidad and Tobago

INTRODUCTION

Background

The decade of the 1990s witnessed new impetus on the part of the various agencies of the United Nations to improve the quality of life of people throughout the world, in particular the developing world.

World Conferences and Summits during this period sought to address the issues that impact on the quality of life of all peoples. The culmination of these Summits and Conferences was the adoption, by consensus, of the Millennium Declaration by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2000.

The Declaration, in translating the shared values of nations into action, paid attention to peace and security, development and poverty eradication, human rights and protection of the environment, among issues of global concern. The Millennium Declaration adopted eight development goals, with numerical targets for each Goal. The timeframe for the achievement of these Goals were set over a 25-year period, 1990 to 2015.

To measure progress in meeting these targets, appropriate indicators were selected. However, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago took the initiative in 2011 to modify some of the indicators within the goals to address

Millennium Development Goals:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
2. Achieve universal primary education;
3. Promote gender equality and empower women;
4. Reduce child mortality;
5. Improve maternal health;
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases;
7. Ensure environmental sustainability;
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

the specific concerns, needs and conditions of Trinidad and Tobago. Accordingly, Goal 2 was amended to include pre-school, secondary and tertiary education. Indicators towards monitoring the incidence and death rates associated with dengue, diabetes and hypertension were also included in Goal 6.

The Trinidad and Tobago Context

The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is an archipelagic State in the southern Caribbean off the north-eastern coast of Venezuela and just south of Grenada in the Lesser Antilles. The Republic is comprised of two main islands: Trinidad, the larger island is 1,864 square miles in area (4,828 square kilometres), and Tobago, the smaller island, is 116 square miles

(300 square kilometres). Five smaller islands lie off the Northwest peninsula.

In 2011, the country's population was estimated at 1,328,019 with an annual growth rate of 0.5 percent. In terms of distribution by age group, 36.6 percent of Trinidad and Tobago's population was estimated to be under 25 years. Persons aged 25-49 represented 37.9 percent of the population, whilst persons 60 and over accounted for 13.4 percent. Males comprised 50.2 percent and females comprised 48.8 percent of the population. Trinidad and Tobago is a multi-ethnic society comprising persons of East Indian descent (35.4 percent), African descent (34.2 percent) and Mixed ancestry (22.8 percent). All other ethnic groups such as European, Caucasian, Chinese and other Mixed groups including descendants of the indigenous Amerindians totaled 1.4 percent. As a plural society, Trinidad and Tobago has cultivated harmonious relations among its ethnic groups using a variety of mechanisms to ensure that peaceful co-existence and mutual respect are maintained.

Due to its energy sector, Trinidad and Tobago has developed one of the most successful economies in the Caribbean with low external debt and unemployment ratios and relatively high levels of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In 2011, the Petroleum Industry accounted for 45.9 percent of GDP and 80 percent of domestic exports. In 2012, new production contracts were awarded and a major diversification thrust is

being pursued within the sector. Oil and gas continue to be the mainstay of the economy but a major diversification thrust in Energy, as well as six identified sectors, is being pursued.

Macro-economic Strategy

In 2014, Trinidad and Tobago finds itself in a good place following the 2008/2009 global financial crisis and ensuing recession. The economy moved from decline to growth in 2012, and in 2014, it registered a 1.9 percent growth with an outlook of 2.5 per cent increase in 2015. The 2014/2015 National Budget has been generous in social support to the most vulnerable citizens, very supportive of savings by the middle class and strong on measures to support business growth and entrepreneurship. The unemployment rate reached a record low of 3.6 per cent in 2013; and as at June 2014, headline inflation was 3.0 per cent. Trinidad and Tobago seems headed for another growth cycle with policies to stimulate economic expansion and provide social support measures for the vulnerable.

While the country is currently on a growth trajectory, a major development challenge facing Trinidad and Tobago is the transformation of the economy to one that is significantly less dependent on oil and gas while simultaneously ensuring a steady improvement in the standard living of all citizens. The hydrocarbon sector has dominated the economy since 1913. In more recent years, oil and gas remain the mainstay of the economy with the sector accounting for 57.5 percent of

Government revenues, and 82.3 percent of export receipts in 2011. This heavy dependence on the hydrocarbon sector makes the economy highly vulnerable to external shocks which can in turn have negative repercussions for the economy and population at large. Furthermore, given the finite nature of these hydrocarbon resources as well as the declining production levels, economic diversification is a critical factor for the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago.

The global landscape is full of challenges and uncertainties that will impact on Trinidad and Tobago's ability to successfully manage the transition from an energy dependent economy. Globalisation and rapid technological advances have resulted in fundamental, long-term changes in commerce and industry. Markets, industries and companies have become global in scope with few products being made entirely in a single country. Labour is now internationally mobile, existing jobs are becoming obsolete and new occupations require greater knowledge, skills and adaptability from workers. Countries are now competing with each other for talent and capital, while skilled workforces and business-friendly environments have become critical elements of international competitiveness.

This has led to the adoption of a new national diversification strategy which aims to reposition Trinidad and Tobago from competing on the basis of production processes and investment in plants to an information, technology-driven, innovative, knowledge-based

and globally connected economy; the foundation of which is rooted in the acquisition, exploitation, creation and strategic deployment of knowledge and skills. To move the economy to a higher growth plane, there is commitment to the promotion of innovation as the basis for transforming existing production systems and creating new goods and services.

In looking at recent macroeconomic performance, Trinidad and Tobago experienced 14 consecutive years of economic growth, at an annual rate of 5 percent over the period 1995 to 2008. This was mainly due to the development of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) production and favourable developments in the Energy sector, including high energy prices and the expansion of downstream industries. As a direct result of the global economic crisis, economic expansion declined by 3.3 percent in 2009 and marginal negative growth in 2010. Since then, Trinidad and Tobago has continued to experience moderate economic growth. The economy grew by 1.7 percent and 1.9 percent in 2013 and 2014, respectively.

The Energy Sector, in 2012, was 40.2 percent of GDP, declining marginally to 38.5 percent in 2014. The Sector continues to be the largest exporter for Trinidad and Tobago and the largest source of foreign direct investment.

The Non-energy Services Sector is the largest contributor to GDP. In 2012, the Sector grew by 2.4 percent and accounted for 50.2 percent of GDP. The Sector has continued to grow, reaching

51.2 and 51.8 per cent of GDP in 2013 and 2014, respectively. The Sector is targeted for diversification and growth in areas such as Finance, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Tourism, Marine Industry and the Creative Sector over the period 2012-2016.

The Manufacturing sector declined on average 0.3 percent over the period 2009-2012. The Sector's contribution to GDP declined from 8.7 in 2013 to 8.5 in 2014. Still, the Sector has growth capacity and with focused export orientation, can recover and grow. In addition, a gas-based diversification strategy linked to export manufacturers is being pursued and expansion as well as job creation are anticipated in 2015 through to 2016.

Over the past five years the Agriculture sector contributed less than 1 percent to GDP. In 2012, the sector accounted for only 0.7 percent of GDP, declining to 0.6 percent in 2014. Major emphasis is being placed on agricultural production and support systems with a national focus on food security. Therefore, it is anticipated that the contribution of the Sector to GDP will increase. Agricultural development is a policy priority of Government in order to enhance food security and sovereignty while providing sustainable livelihoods for those persons employed in the Sector. Growth, diversification and employment creation are anticipated in this sector.

Following the global financial crisis in 2008/2009, the unemployment rate rose from 4.6 percent in 2008 to 5.9

percent for 2010. Thereafter, the rate started on a downward trajectory, reaching as low as 3.6 per cent in 2013.

The Government established the Heritage and Stabilization Fund (HSF) in 2007 to cushion and support public expenditure during economic downturns and provide a heritage for future generations from surplus petroleum revenues. As at the third quarter of fiscal 2013, the Net Asset Value of the HSF portfolio stood at US\$5,000 million. The Value increased to US\$ 5,563.3 million at the end of the third quarter in fiscal 2014.

Gross Official Reserves stood at US\$9,200.7 million in 2012, equivalent to approximately 10.4 months of prospective imports of goods and non-factor services (import cover). Between 2013 and 2014, Trinidad and Tobago's Gross Official Reserves expanded by 11.0 percent, reaching US\$10,219.8 million at the end of July 2014, representing 12.0 months of prospective imports of goods and non-factor services.

Following the global financial crisis in 2008 and the ensuing economic contraction, inflation declined from 12 percent in 2008 to 9.2 percent in 2012. This downward trend continued with headline inflation falling to 3.0 per cent in June, 2014. As at that time, year-on-year headline inflation had remained at single digit levels for twenty-three consecutive months.

For the medium term economic outlook, 2014-2016, efforts will be underway to finalise a National Innovation Policy.

The adoption of the National Spatial Development Strategy (NSDS) 2013-2033, as the successor to the 1984 National Physical Development Plan, along with institutional reforms within the Town and Country Planning process will seek to further advance the national diversification strategy.

With the completion of the National Spatial Development Strategy 2013-2033, attention will turn during 2014-2016 towards the preparation of a successor document to the Medium Term Policy Framework (MTPF) 2011-2014. The new national strategic development plan will have as its core principle the concept of sustainable development, incorporating economic, social and environmental issues as part of overall national development to be consistent with our international obligations in this area.

Dialogue with the private sector and civil society on identifying specific growth solutions commenced in 2013 under the Caribbean Growth Forum (CGF), a regional multi-stakeholder participatory initiative funded by multilateral agencies, including the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DfID). The CGF complements the MTPF 2011-2014 and the national diversification agenda. Already, action plans have been recommended for implementation over the next 18 months in the thematic areas of Logistics and Connectivity, Investment Climate and Skills and Productivity.

Enabling Policy Environment – Current Context

Trinidad and Tobago has achieved approximately 70 percent of the all targets that comprise the various MDGs, including those relating to poverty. However, the poverty levels remain relatively high for a country of middle income status, signalling the need to focus policy interventions on fostering income equity. Government recognises that the deep-seated multi-dimensional circumstances that result in chronic poverty and stymy efforts to improve the quality of life for all citizens in a sustained manner require a solution that is broad-based, encompassing the coordinated and integrated actions of all actors in the society to effect economic, social and psychological transformation. Thus, the vision that anchors the current policy environment is that of prosperity for all spurred on by an innovation-driven growth economy with a commitment to economic inclusiveness, greater equity, more meaningful citizen participation and sustainability.

As noted in the previous section, Trinidad and Tobago relies heavily on its oil and gas sector to generate national income. The sector has brought much fortune to Trinidad and Tobago, but it has also brought uncertainty to the development process due to its sensitivity to external circumstances, leading to economic swings that impact the country's growth momentum. Continued reliance on this sector only is not conducive to sustained

development, improving the lives of citizens and protecting the environment.

In response, Trinidad and Tobago has crafted a strategy for survival, growth and sustainability; and the goal is to shift from the over-dependence on hydrocarbon resources to an emphasis on the development of human capital and the alignment of through-put from the education and training sector with an investment, diversification, competitiveness and innovation strategy. A simultaneous and complementary effort of social transformation must take place, understanding that social transformation can both influence and be influenced by economic transformation. The goal is to create the conditions which will engender greater equity and inclusiveness in the society through expanded opportunities for wealth generation and accumulation, and participation in the national development process for each individual, community and region in the country. Government's economic and social transformation strategy, therefore, is based on the following four (4) principles:

1. Generate productivity-led growth on the basis of a more diversified production structure with the emphasis on value and wealth creation;
2. Create the conditions for greater inclusiveness and equity in socio-economic development;
3. Build the knowledge and talent of our human resources; and

4. Pursue socio-economic development in the context of prudent spatial management and environmental limits.

Government's vision of 'Prosperity for All' is defined by its broad strategic approach to achieving sustainable growth and human development and is espoused in seven (7) strategic and interconnected development pillars that guide the design and execution of policy measures. The seven (7) Pillars are:

- Pillar 1 – *People Centred Development* – is at the heart of Government's development strategy, around which the other Pillars coalesce. It focuses on the people of Trinidad and Tobago and their development aspirations and the strategies that allow each and every individual the opportunity for development through meaningful engagement in education, employment, arts and culture, sport, and family and community initiatives.
- Pillar 2 – *Poverty Eradication and Social Justice* – emphasises economic inclusion and identifies specific targets for reduction of poverty annually. It focuses on protection and care for the most vulnerable of our society – the poor, children, victims of crime and the differently-abled.
- Pillar 3 – *National and Personal Security* – addresses the issue of crime and personal safety with the objectives being to eliminate fear for self and property and to create

an environment in which all can enjoy freedom with responsibility.

- Pillar 4 – *Information and Communication Technology* – is an essential element of the infrastructure underpinning the creation of a modern, competitive economy in an information rich, knowledge and technology-driven world.
- Pillar 5 – *Creating a Diversified and Knowledge Intensive Economy* – is at the core of building international competitiveness, stimulating new areas of economic growth and moving up the value chain. It places a premium on creating high value jobs and generating wealth across all regions of the country. The thrust is towards building an innovative, highly skilled work force supported by strong institutions and increased research and development activity as the cornerstones of the economic restructuring effort.
- Pillar 6 – *Good Governance* – ensures that the society and the economy are characterised by strong institutions responsive to the needs of the citizenry, adherence to a culture of democracy and the principles of accountability, transparency and fairness as well as expanded civic engagement.
- Pillar 7 – *Foreign Policy* – underscores the importance of meaningful and decisive engagement with the community of nations and strategic positioning at the regional, hemispheric and wider global levels to the success of

Trinidad and Tobago's development strategy.

Emanating from the long-term vision of "Prosperity for All" articulated in the seven pillars is Government's Medium Term Policy Framework (MTPF) 2011-2014 – the first of the MTPFs articulated by the Government in planning for the achievement of the long term goals. The transformation agenda as articulated in the MTPF 2011-2014 is based on several policy shifts, including the:

- movement towards building a new economy that is capable of generating high levels of productivity-led, innovation-driven endogenous economic growth with emphasis on value creation, knowledge, skill, talent and enterprise of our human capital rather than on continued exploitation of natural resources or production of primary products;
- creation of a more inclusive and cohesive society in which there is greater equity in the distribution of resources to break the cycle of poverty and where opportunities exist for wealth generation as opposed to income generation only;
- creation of more meaningful inclusiveness and cohesion in the society through greater people participation in the decision making process; and
- institutionalisation of frameworks, systems and processes consistent with proper planning for sustainable development, such as evidence-based decision-making, efficient use of resources,

decentralisation in the decision-making process and sustainable spatial planning.

The MTPF 2011-2014, embracing the theme 'Innovation for Lasting Prosperity', outlines Government's policies, strategies and targeted interventions required over the medium-term to effect the required economic transformation which entails a more productive and competitive, diversified economy, driven by a high quality human capital base and innovation. Government is committed to the promotion of innovation as the basis for transforming existing production systems and creating new goods and services. The aim of this transformation is improve the skills base of the workforce, expand exports, improve the quality of jobs, effect a significant growth in productivity and generate higher incomes.

The Framework sets five (5) priorities to lay the foundations for achieving sustainable economic and social advancement of all citizens in the future. These are:

1. Crime and Law and Order;
2. Agriculture and Food Security;
3. Health Care Services and Hospitals;
4. Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness and Innovation; and
5. Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development.

The main thrusts of this MTPF 2011-2014 are:

- To diversify and deepen the production base in order to ensure that in a context of depleting energy resources, the economy will continue to grow and sustain a high standard of living;
- To move the economy up the value chain, improve competitiveness and expand investment both local and foreign while forging strategic links with economic partners;
- To have a secure and safe nation and to strengthen the framework, institutions and infrastructure to support human security
- To expand the capacity of our citizens for knowledge accumulation and use, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial activity
- To reduce socio-economic and regional inequalities within our borders, move people out of poverty and promote social inclusion through more meaningful economic participation

A key aspect of Policy Framework to effect economic transformation is through building competitive, innovation-driven economy. This involves:

- Creating A New Growth Dynamic - creating new engines of growth for economic diversification by widening and deepening the production base and building production clusters and promoting new and sustainable high value-added industries to strengthen the economy while encouraging initiatives to increase the

competitiveness and productivity of existing industries. An external aspect of this policy is the exploration of the potential for regional cluster development by partnering with resource-rich neighbouring countries in specific industries to produce globally competitive products;

- Supporting Culture and Creative Industries - creating an endogenous growth dynamic based on culture and creativity to promote our world class artistes in a manner that could sustain livelihoods while developing and packaging new value-added activities to expand the range of products and services offered locally and internationally. Areas of focus include the performing and visual arts, literary and fashion industries, architectural design and the software industries;
- The Green Industry and Alternative Energy Sources - transforming the existing consumption-based economic growth into an environmentally-friendly one that emphasises the efficient use of resources and minimises pollution by utilising environmentally-friendly technologies and supporting green industries that can successfully engage in the global environmentally friendly technology market. Creating a greener transportation system, and developing alternative energy sources and wave and wind energy industries are part of this initiative. An important element of the agenda involves taking into

account environmental considerations;

- Creating New Economic Spaces - dispersing productive activities across the country to expand the economic space and creating opportunities for investment and export expansion, including development of five (5) growth poles which will benefit from a special package of fiscal incentives, such as the granting of Free Trade Zone Status and access the tax incentives in the Agriculture, Manufacturing and Tourism Sectors. Additionally, our diversification strategy identifies seven sectors selected for the formation of strategic business clusters and strengthening of value chains: Energy, Food Sustainability, Culture and Creative Industries, Maritime, Tourism, Financial Services and Information and Communication Technology; and
- TTBizLink Multi-Language Platform – expanding the existing TTBizLink into several languages based on factors such as cultural linkages, geographical location, strategic importance, and countries with market potential aimed at penetrating new export markets. This Multi-language Platform will allow investors to access helpful links to Government and business services and information in six (6) languages other than English, namely Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

The policy framework is all encompassing and acknowledges that the process of economic transformation must occur simultaneously with social transformation, and must not only involve strategic reform measures within the social sector, but on a deeper level, the transforming of values and attitudes.

The areas targeted for reform in the social sphere are the social services including safety net programmes geared towards reducing poverty, the education and training system, the health system, regional and community development and housing and community creation. Specifically, our policy for social transformation addresses:

- Stepping Out of Poverty – designing and structuring social safety net programmes that better targeted, developmental and involve clear exit strategies. These reform measures coupled with opportunities for lifelong learning, will encourage citizens to advance towards better paying jobs through education and training thereby creating greater equity;
- Education for Opportunity and Freedom – fostering a strong education system that is seamless and relevant to our development needs. This includes: diversifying the curriculum; training of teacher; adopting new teaching methodologies such as the infusion of technology in the learning process; increasing the number of Workforce Assessment Centres; developing a Labour Market Information System (LMIS); strengthening; and refocusing the training strategy - all of which will enable citizens to reintegrate into the education and training system, build a National Innovation System and assist in the alignment with the absorptive capacity of the labour market;
- A Healthier Nation – building a high quality health system with emphasis on preventative medicine to ensure that citizens have access to health care that is of a high standard, are less prone to health problems, in particular, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and are physically and mentally able to produce and excel;
- Consulting the Citizen – promoting inclusiveness by encouraging citizen participation and consensus building where decisions impact directly on the citizen and on communities;
- Planning for Sustainable Communities - promoting development based on citizen participation and inclusion, sound development planning sensitive to the needs of the differently-abled, elderly and gender in areas such as Land Use Policy and spatial planning; and building housing settlements that allow residents to work, do business, attend school and recreate within their neighbourhoods. In relation to the housing sector, settlements are designed on the basis of fostering sustainable communities that include avenues for attractive business opportunities;

- Greater Self-Reliance and Prosperity for All – institutionalising the measures to effect the social and economic transformation so as to positively impact upon socio-economic problems such as crime, poverty and inequity; and build a cadre of human resources capable of creating and generating wealth to usher in an era of prosperity for all.

Responsible and sustainable development planning must be circumscribed within a spatial context and by respect for the environment. Population growth, climate change and changes in the country's development thrusts have resulted in competing demands for the country's limited land resources. The draft Planning and Development of Land (PADL) Bill allows for delegation of development planning and development control to Municipal Corporations; integration and coordination of planning and building approvals at the municipal level; establishment of a statutory "Chief Building Inspectorate" at the level of the Commission to provide a technical oversight function to the Municipal Corporations; provision of a "One-stop Shop" of statutory agencies involved in the development regulatory regime, and the creation of a statutory appeal process to replace the current ad-hoc procedures of appeals to the Minister. The new Land Use Policy will facilitate development in a coherent and sustainable manner that clearly identifies land use through zoning of

agricultural, commercial, residential and conservatory spaces.

Protecting and conserving our natural resources is critical to advancing economic development and improving our quality of life, and this must be balanced with promoting economic activity that uses our resources as productively as possible to provide the greatest possible socio-economic benefits. Maintaining the equilibrium between economic activity and the provision of social services requires adherence to a legislative and policy framework that governs the management of renewable and non-renewable environmental resources. Therefore, finalising draft legislation such as the Air Pollution Rules, the Solid and Hazardous Waste Rules and the Beverage Container Bill will encourage industries and companies to reduce their carbon footprint, increase their efficiency and conduct energy audits. Also, amendment of the Green Fund legislation to include the restoration of areas that have been damaged by poor environmental practices and the establishment of the National Parks and Recreation Authority to protect environmentally sensitive areas while simultaneously creating green spaces will secure the needs of future generations.

Furthermore, updating the National Environmental Policy to incorporate all recent international commitments strengthens Trinidad and Tobago's obligation to the global community (such as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de

Janeiro (Rio+20)) and enhances the consistency and integrity of policy and execution at home. Also, implementation of the Climate Change Policy will increase the use of new and innovative technologies that have lower levels of emissions, encourage the use of clean energy technology and renewable energy and promote more energy-efficient technologies and practices.

Efforts to transform and improve lives must be guided and fortified by the tenets of good and effective governance. The foundation of Government's development plan is that of inclusion and, therefore, participation, consensus building, accountability, transparency, responsiveness, equity and gender-mainstreaming will continue to be integral to the decision-making process. Soliciting comments from the individual, the family, the community and the wider population will effectively ensure direct citizen participation. Labour, Civil Society and the Private and Sector are all partners with the State in forging our country's development agenda.

As a small, open, developing country, Trinidad and Tobago acknowledges the important role of multi-lateral development institutions in providing technical and financial assistance to advise and help fund the transformation process. Institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development and the European Union have been significant partners as we forge ahead.

Setting the appropriate policy framework is imperative to chart our desired development path and achieve

our goals. The MDGs and Government vision for Trinidad and Tobago are congruent as they all seek to empower and improve the lives of individuals. As the timeframe for the current policy framework comes to a close, it is necessary to take stock of our achievement and plan for the years ahead. We have already commenced the planning process for the next phase of the policy agenda from 2015 to 2021 that will seek to intensify efforts to bring forth continued prosperity for our people and nation.

Methodology for MDG Report

In addition to the UN's Guidelines for country reporting on the MDGs, this Report built upon the efforts of the Social Indicator's Committee established in 2003, comprising several government Ministries, Civil Society, Private Sector and regional and international organizations including the UNDP.

In 2011, an Inter-Ministerial team was convened to review, comment and update the draft Report. More recently, in 2013, comments on the draft Report were solicited from the following Ministries: Ministry of the People and Social Development; Ministry of Education; the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development; Ministry of Health; Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources; Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications; Ministry of Finance and the Economy; Ministry Tertiary Education and Skills Training. This process was led by the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development.

These combined efforts resulted in modified targets in the case of Goals 2 and 6 as well as new and modified Indicators for several Goals as discussed in the Introduction of this Report.

The additional indicators sought to measure progress with respect to development issues and challenges which the country faces which were not adequately reflected in the original list of Indicators.

The production of this Report was constrained by the unavailability of timely and relevant data. In 2011, the Housing and Population Census was conducted and the updated data for estimating current poverty levels will be made available in 2014. In instances where there were little or no data available, proxies were used to address these data gaps. Data from international agencies were also used to augment country data. In most instances, data could not be disaggregated according to the Urban/Rural dichotomy.

It is anticipated that the data challenges would be addressed and updated information presented in a subsequent 2015 MDG Report of Trinidad and Tobago. Currently, the CSO is being strengthened and refocused based on a thorough restructuring of its operations and current and future national needs.

In preparing the *Trinidad and Tobago Millennium Development Report 2014*, Government's intention was to present a

comprehensive view of efforts being undertaken to accomplish each MDG Goal. Consequently, the Report contains information that extends beyond the reporting requirements for the indicators to include sections such as a policy context for each goal and key projects and programmes. Moreover, it was felt that each goal must adequately and quickly present the reader, at a glance, with the status of accomplishments. Each Goal, therefore, contains key highlights after each indicator and these are presented as short precise statements of progress. In addition, the Report sought to present some of the issues faced in moving towards the MDG targets and how these were being addressed.

Goal 1

*Eradicate Extreme Poverty
and Hunger*



GOAL 1

Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day</p>	<p>Proportion of population below \$1 (PPP) per day</p> <p>Poverty gap ratio</p> <p>Share of poorest quintile in national consumption</p>
<p>Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people</p>	<p>Growth rate of GDP per person employed</p> <p>Employment-to-population ratio</p> <p>Proportion of employed people living below \$1 (PPP) per day</p> <p>Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment</p>
<p>Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</p>	<p>Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age</p> <p>1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption</p>

GOAL 1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger



Targets:

- Halve Between 1990 and 2015 the Proportion of People Whose Income is Less than US\$1.00 Per Day;
- Achieve Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All, Including Women and Young People;
- Halve between 1990 and 2015 the Proportion of People who Suffer from Hunger

Introduction

Millennium Development Goal 1 – Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger – is of unmistakable importance to Trinidad and Tobago. Although the Human Development Index for Trinidad

and Tobago remains high,⁷ greater advances are needed in wealth distribution and in further reducing already declining poverty levels. The intention is to reduce poverty levels to the point of eradication to achieve the key result of “a society free from poverty”.⁸

The importance of poverty eradication was further emphasised when it was placed as a national, medium-term priority in the context of the country’s development agenda of becoming a knowledge-based, innovation driven economy.⁹ Government acknowledges that the existence of poverty threatens the fulfilment of this development agenda. Poverty deprives the nation’s citizens of the right to live with dignity and free from want. Housing, health and education are often minimal and affected families are typically unable to fully participate in meaningful social and economic activities. Socio-economic disparities as well as a sense of hopelessness can be created, thereby fostering dependence and a shirking of individual responsibilities. Poverty also has the potential to heighten social tension. Child poverty, can also lead to the abuse of children and the involvement of youth in criminal activity, which robs our country of valuable human capital.

The loss of human capital is, therefore, the greatest threat that poverty poses to

⁷ United Nations Human Development Index 1990-2012

⁸ Annual Performance Report 2013

⁹ Trinidad and Tobago Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014

the future development of Trinidad and Tobago since human capital development is viewed as the single most critical success factor for transforming the country's economy and society¹⁰. This is aligned to UNESCO's philosophy that "skills are vital for poverty reduction, economic recovery and sustainable development"¹¹.

The approach used to combat poverty from 1990 up to 2009 varied. It ranged primarily from the utilization of make-shift programmes aimed at offering temporary employment, to the delivery of social support services such as grants, including food support, and a system of subsidization of basic services like healthcare, education, transportation and utilities like fuel. Focus was placed on facilitating access to education through upgrading and expansion of school infrastructure from pre-school to secondary level. Nearing 2001, special emphasis was also placed on increasing access to tertiary education. Whereas this approach impacted on poverty as evidenced by declines in the poverty rates between 1992 and 2005¹², the rates were still unacceptably high, given our sustained economic prosperity.

In 2010, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago sought to revise the approach to addressing the issue of poverty to achieve even greater results. This revised approach was based on the principles of 'Prosperity for All' and

'Everyone Counts', and the philosophy that all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago "have the right to and deserve a decent standard of living that conforms to the tenets of a just, humane and civilised society."¹³

These principles materialised in the form of key policy shifts, one of which sought to create and adopt an analytical framework that addressed the needs of citizens based on the stages of their life cycle. Government's belief remains that this targeted approach will be more effective in breaking the cycle of poverty – especially for children, young adults, women and communities – and in creating specifically targeted opportunities for socio-economic advancement. The focus has thus been on the following areas:

- i. Each individual member of the family at each stage of his/her life cycle;
- ii. The collective family unit;
- iii. Each community; and
- iv. Each region of the country.

The policy shift towards regional-based development has resounded in five growth poles or strategic regions of investment being targeted for development. This initiative stemmed from the national vision to create prosperity for all through innovation and creativity, collaboration and entrepreneurial-based diversification. The intention is to reduce regional disparities in development by

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ (any particular document /report)

¹² Trinidad and Tobago Survey of Living Conditions 1992 and 2005

¹³ Ministry of Planning and the Economy, 2011, Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014, p. 81.

decentralising economic activity thereby improving the standard of living among citizens and ultimately combating poverty throughout the country. This would also serve to fulfil the national mission of economic inclusiveness while at the same time promoting investment and diversification.

These policy shifts were buttressed by seven Development Pillars which were also established in 2010. In particular, Pillar 2 – *Poverty Eradication and Social Justice* – has placed necessary emphasis on economic inclusion, setting specific targets for poverty reduction, and protection and care for the most vulnerable in the society.

Medium-Term Targets 2011 to 2015 relating to Poverty Reduction

1. Reduce Poverty by 2 percent per year to 2015
2. Reduce the Poverty Gap from 4.6 percent to 3.5 percent by 2015
3. Reduce the Gini Coefficient from 0.39 to 0.21 by 2015
4. Fulfil 90 percent of the Millennium Development Goals by 2014 and 100 percent by 2015
5. Improve HDI Ranking by 15 points by 2015

Government's policy shifts in combating poverty were articulated in the country's *Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014* and more recently, in the *National Performance Framework 2012-2015*. These documents also outlined national targets for poverty reduction as

highlighted above:

Based on the results of the 1992 and 2005 Survey of Living Conditions (SLC), as well as the 1997/1998 and the 2008/2009 Household Budgetary Surveys (HBS), poverty levels have been declining. Both surveys also revealed that a low percentage of citizens suffered from hunger and that the Poverty Gap continued to narrow. This progress suggests the positive impact of policy approaches to reducing poverty. Notably, the low unemployment rate of 5.3 percent during 2009¹⁴ may have also contributed to reduced poverty levels during that year.

The Surveys also showed that the proportion of underweight children under five years of age declined. This may be attributable to Government's promotion of healthy eating habits, the implementation of the *National School Feeding Programme* which provides breakfast and lunch to vulnerable children of school age as well as the provision of food cards via the *Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme* to low income households. These programmes are highlighted further below in this Goal.

Despite these successes, income inequality persists. However, it is expected that the implementation of the growth poles development strategies will address the disparities while further reducing poverty levels.

Government's multi-dimensional

14 Central Statistical Office

approach in combating poverty informed several key strategies, namely: restructuring the economy to provide meaningful income earning opportunities for sections of the population that have traditionally operated on the margins of the economy; increasing access to adequate and affordable social services like housing and healthcare; empowerment of the poor and vulnerable; strengthening social capital at the community level to promote synergies that provide support and produce opportunities for sustainable development; and building the country's human capital through education, training and skills building.

Target: Halve Between 1990 And 2015 the Proportion of People Whose Income is Less Than US\$1.00 Per Day

Trinidad and Tobago, is well on its way to achieving this Goal by 2015 as data from the Household Budgetary Surveys showed a 38 percent drop in the proportion of the population living below the poverty line between 1998 to 2009 based on the definition of 'poor' used in official national surveys.

The 1992 and 2005 Surveys of Living Conditions (SLC), the 1997/1998 and 2008/2009 Household Budgetary Surveys (HBS) as well as the 2000 Population and Housing Census developed for analysis a set of common points which described the nation's

poor. The poor is defined as those who: lack jobs; are unemployed or under-employed; have reduced levels of educational attainment and are uneducated or under-educated; and have inadequate skill sets and are altogether unskilled or semi-skilled.

In recognition of the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and gender mainstreaming, the data from the SLC and the HBS also revealed that female-headed and/or single parent households with persons having low levels of educational attainment and training had a greater probability of being poor and had reduced access to potable water and quality housing. However, more recent data based on the 2011 Housing and Population Census revealed significant increases in the percentage of households with access to potable water (as described in Goal 7). There have also been improvements in the quality of the housing stock evident analysis of both the 2000 and 2011 census data. This data showed declines in the number of households with outer walls made of wooden/concrete and wood/galvanise materials during the period.

Indicator: Proportion of Population below the Poverty Line

SIGNIFICANT DECLINES IN POVERTY LEVELS

In Trinidad and Tobago, two measures are used for analysing poverty levels - the indigence line and the poverty line; and the two of the main surveys used for calculating these measures are the

HBS and the SLC¹⁵. The metrics used in both surveys for determining poverty levels are shown below in **Table 1.1**. Both surveys are regarded as valid for the purpose of gauging poverty levels in Trinidad and Tobago.

TABLE 1.1

Indigence and Poverty Lines for Trinidad and Tobago

	2005 Survey of Living Conditions US Dollars¹⁷	2008/2009 Household Budgetary Survey US Dollars
Indigence Line	\$1.31	\$3.42
Poverty Line	\$2.41	\$6.80

Source: 2005 SLC & 1997/1998 & 2008/2009 HBS

Based on the 2005 SLC, 1.2 percent of the population (approximately 15,600 persons) was indigent, earning TT\$3,060 or less per annum; and 16.7 percent of the population (approximately 217,100 persons) was classified as poor and fell below the poverty line, representing a decline by 4.3 percentage points since the 1992 SLC. A further 9 percent in 2005 (approximately 117,000 persons) was considered vulnerable (**Table 1.2** below).¹⁶

Based on the 1997/1998 and the 2008/2009 HBS, the population living

below the poverty line showed a significant decline by 9.3 percentage points from 24.1 percent to 14.8 percent, representing a 38 percent drop between the two periods. This is believed to be due to a combination of growth in the availability of employment generating programmes, targeted poverty reduction programmes, skills training programmes, income transfers and other socio-economic restructuring activities. The data from both HBSs also showed that the population living in extreme poverty declined from 8.3 percent in 1997/1998 to 2.6 percent in 2008/2009 – a 69 percent drop.

Poverty by Region

The map below¹⁸ (**Chart 1.1**) shows the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line by Municipality or Regional Corporation and, by extension, the levels of poverty in certain areas that were higher than the national poverty rate. The map reveals that less than 30 percent of population in the Diego Martin and Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Regions was living below the poverty line in 2008/2009. At the other extreme, 50.1 to 59.3 percent of the population in Mayaro/Rio Claro, Siparia and Tobago fell below the poverty line.

¹⁵ The SLC and HBS calculate poverty using both the indigence and poverty lines. The absolute poverty line was determined following a costing of a basket of goods deemed necessary to ensure that basic dietary needs were met.

¹⁶ Calculations are based on a population size of 1.3 million.

¹⁷ Based on an exchange rate of US\$1:TT\$6.4

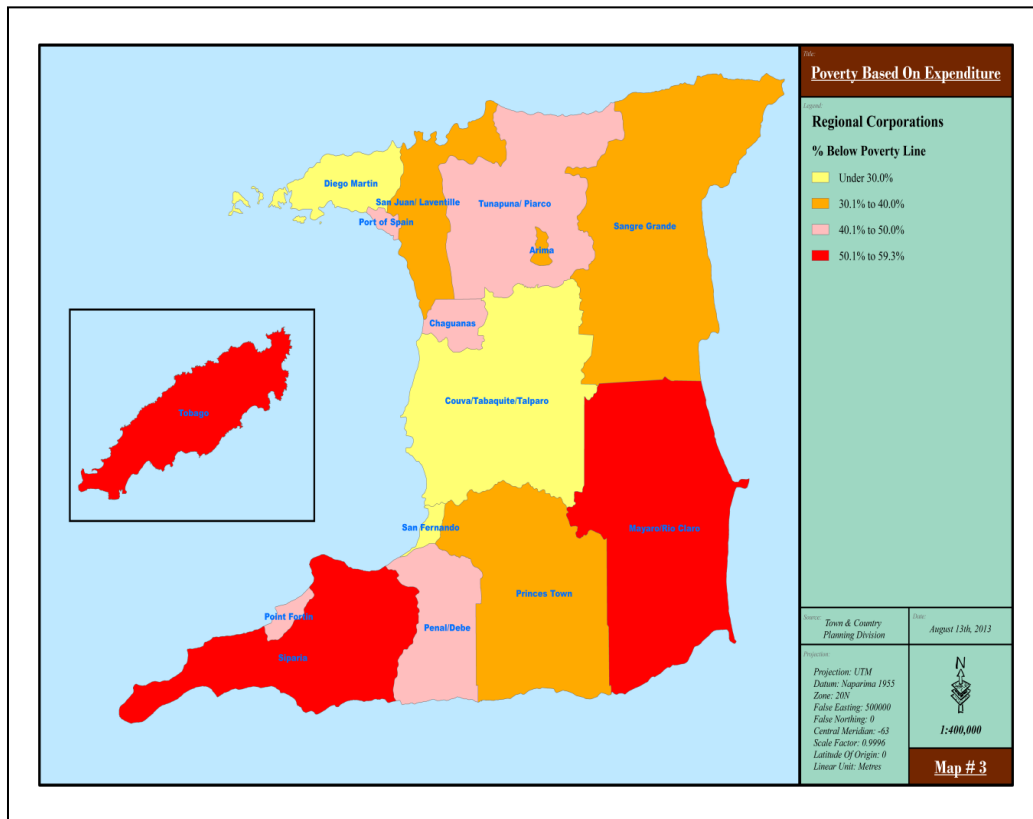
¹⁸ The Map was developed by the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development based on the 2008/2009 Household Budgetary Survey.

TABLE 1.2
Poverty Measurements (1992-2009)

Survey	Year	Population Below The Poverty Line	Population Living In Extreme Poverty	Poverty Gap	Gini Co-Efficient
SLC	1992	21.0	--	7.0	0.42
SLC	2005	16.7	1.2	4.6	0.39
HBS	1997/1998	24.0	8.3	5.3	0.39
HBS	2008/2009	14.8	2.6	4.2	0.39

Source: 1992 & 2005 SLC & 1997/1998 & 2008/2009 HBS

CHART 1.1
Percentage of Households Under the Poverty Line by Regional Corporation



Source: Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development

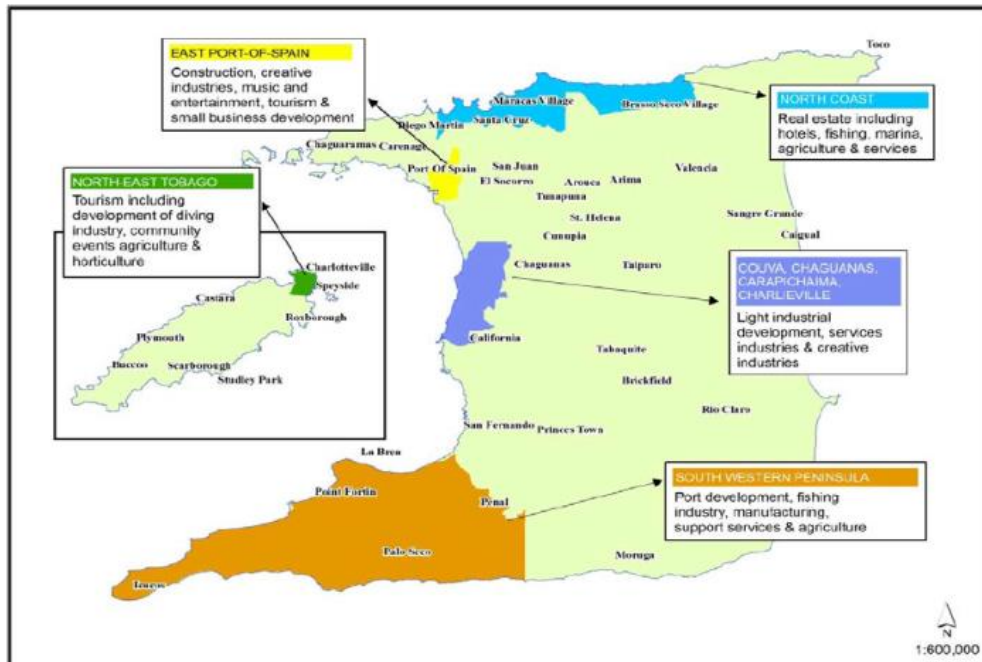
The dispersion of poverty among these Municipalities suggested that the issue was not necessarily a rural/urban phenomenon, but may be related to other multi-dimensional factors like the availability of employment opportunities. Further investigation is required into these factors especially given the relatively high percentage of households under the poverty line in traditionally non-rural areas like Port of Spain and Tunapuna/Piarco.

Moreover, Government recognised the need to develop policies and programmes targeted at bringing poverty alleviation measures closer to the persons who needed them. Thus, an important thrust of the economic and social transformation effort is the wider dispersion of productive activities across the country. One of Government’s key

programmes for effecting this transformation is the five growth poles mentioned earlier. These growth poles are to be spread strategically across the nation, and each growth pole will be a centre of investment in a specific cluster industry. These clusters would serve to create jobs for citizens in the surrounding communities thereby impacting positively on poverty levels in those areas.

Chart 1.2 shows the five growth poles targeted for development, of which, four are intended to address the disparities within Regions and promote economic inclusiveness. These four growth poles will be located in the South West Peninsula, North Coast of Trinidad, North East of Tobago and East Port of Spain.

CHART 1.2
Strategic Investment Growth Poles



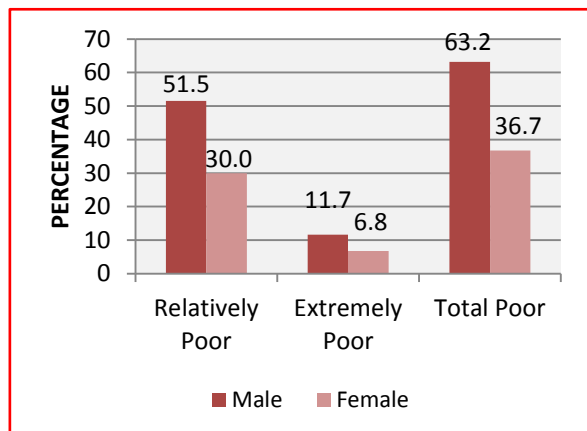
Source: Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014 pg. 67

Poverty by Sex

In comparing the overall poverty levels for males and females, the 2008/2009 HBS data showed a significant difference in the percentage of poor female-headed households which stood at 36.7 percent compared to poor male-headed households which accounted for 63 percent (**Chart 1.3**).

CHART 1.3

Poverty by Male and Female Headed Households



Source: CSO. 2008/2009 Household Budgetary Survey

The differences in the percentage of households classified as ‘relatively poor’ compared to ‘extremely poor’¹⁹ were also higher for male-headed households, consistent with the overall data. Moreover, the higher percentage of poor male-headed households persisted despite the historically lower employment and labour force participation rates among females than

¹⁹ The relatively poor are defined as those individuals who fall between the indigence line and the poverty line of \$TT469.20 and \$TT1329.24 (per month). The extreme poor households are those falling below the indigence line.

males as discussed further in this Goal. It is therefore recognised that there may be other contributing factors to this result and as such, further research is required.

When examining poverty by sex and municipality, the 2008/2009 HBS data revealed a dispersion of poverty between the sexes in both rural and urban areas. It also showed that more municipalities had a slightly higher number of poor women than men. In seven of the fifteen Municipalities,²⁰ women outnumbered men in terms of being classified as relatively poor and extremely poor. Men outnumbered women in four municipalities²¹ in these classifications, but with minimal differences in numbers.

Given that more municipalities had more women who were poor in comparison to poor men but with little difference in numbers, the 2008/2009 data suggests that only a slight poverty gap existed at that time in Trinidad and Tobago in terms of region and sex. These results also pointed to the need for community level data within these municipalities which could offer specific insights into the factors affecting poor households and perhaps reveal trends not observable at the municipal level. What is encouraging to note is that the gaps between males and females in a number of capacity-building areas, in particular education, have been

²⁰ These were: Penal/Debe, Princess Town, Sangre Grande, Diego Martin, Chaguanas, San Fernando and Arima.

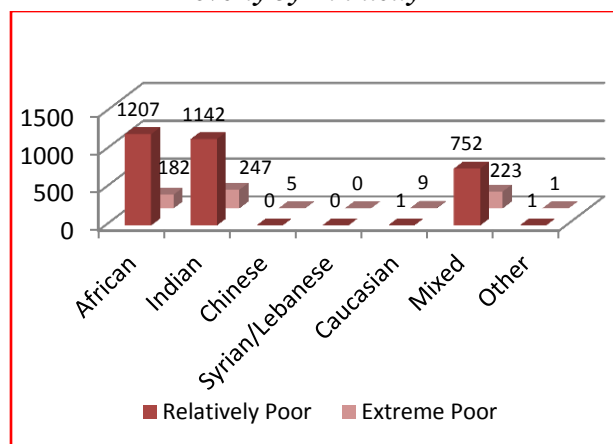
²¹ These were: Mayaro/Rio Claro, San Juan/Laventille, Point Fortin and Siparia.

narrowing, as further discussed in Goal 3 of this Report.

Poverty by Ethnicity

The 2008/2009 HBS data revealed that the ethnic groups primarily impacted by poverty were persons of African, East Indian and Mixed descent (**Chart 1.4**). Of these groups, a slightly higher number of Africans were poor when compared to East Indians, while Mixed persons²² represented a little more than half the size of the two poorest ethnic groups. The data further revealed that no household was deemed to be poor among the Syrian/Lebanese population; and minimal households among the Chinese, Caucasian and Other groups.

CHART 1.4
Poverty by Ethnicity



Source: 2008/2009 Household Budgetary Survey

²² Mixed persons in Trinidad and Tobago comprise persons primarily of a combination of African and East Indian but can also include persons of other combinations of ancestry.

Indicator: Poverty Gap Ratio

THE POVERTY GAP HAS DECREASED BUT INCOME INEQUALITY PERSISTS

The Poverty Gap reflects the average shortfall of the poor from the total population from the poverty line - counting the non-poor as having zero shortfall - expressed as a percentage of the poverty line. This measure reflects the depth of poverty as well as its incidence²³.

The poverty gap ratios²⁴ shown in the 1992 and 2005 SLC analyses indicated a reduction in the poverty gap from 7.0 percent to 4.2 percent. Using the HBS data, the ratios declined from 5.3 percent in 1997/1998 to 4.2 percent in 2008/2009.

However, the Gini-coefficient remained unchanged at 0.39 in the 1997/1998 and 2008/2009 HBSs, indicating no change in income inequality between the two periods.

Indicator: Share of the Poorest Quintile in National Consumption

AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OF THE RICH EIGHT TIMES HIGHER THAN THE POOR

Based on per capita expenditure, the 2005 SLC grouped the nation's households into - quintiles. Data for the poorest quintile showed a monthly

²³<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Metadata.aspx?IndicatorId=2>

²⁴ Poverty gap ratio is the mean distance separating the population from the poverty line (with the non-poor being given a distance of zero), expressed as a percentage of the poverty line.

minimum expenditure of TT\$127.0 (US\$19.85) and a maximum monthly expenditure of TT\$884.0 (US\$138.13). The average monthly expenditure of the richest quintile was more than eight times the average expenditure of the poorest quintile.

A substantial proportion of the total monthly expenditure of the poorest quintile – 41.1 percent – was spent on food, representing 17.4 percentage points and 42 percent more than that of the richest quintile which spent 23.7 percent on food items. Non-food expenditure for the poorest quintile showed a figure of 58.9 percent versus the richest quintile with a figure of 70.3 percent.

The 2008/2009 HBS data, which was divided into deciles, as opposed to quintiles, revealed an average expenditure of \$TT576.35 per month for the poorest decile, based on an average income of \$TT773.77 per month, which represented an expenditure rate of 74.5 percent. The average expenditure rate of the richest decile was much lower at 59.7 percent based on the average monthly income and expenditure of \$TT11,518.11 and \$TT6,876.45, respectively. Moreover, expenditure on food for the poorest decile was 37.5 percent compared to the richest decile of 15.4 percent. Both of these percentages suggest a relatively low food share since 37.5 percent was considered lower than that of Latin American Countries.²⁵

²⁵ Central Statistical Office and UNDP

In the absence of time series data, the unchanged Gini-coefficient of 0.39 in 1997/1998 and 2008/2009 demonstrated the need to institute measures that would result in an increase in the disposable income of persons within the poorest quintile and deciles. In an attempt to reduce the existing gap between the nation's poor and the rich in a fiscally responsible and viable manner, targeted income transfer and income generating programmes were initiated. These included programmes to provide opportunities to empower the poor such as the *Micro Enterprise Loan Facility* and *Micro Enterprise Grants* highlighted later in this Goal. Moreover, given the low food share of households in the poorest decile, emphasis has been placed on assisting these households with non-food expenditure items such as access to low income homes, subsidized public transport and free healthcare, as discussed further below.

Target: Achieve Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All, Including Women and Young People

Indicator: Growth Rate of GDP per person Employed

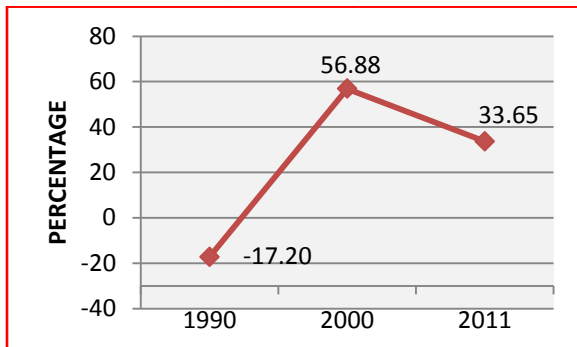
NEED TO INCREASE WORKER PRODUCTIVITY

For the period 1990-2011, the growth rate of GDP per person employed increased significantly, moving from -17.20 percent in 1990 to 56.88 percent

in 2000. However, the figure declined to 33.65 percent by 2011 (**Chart 1.5**) suggesting the need to increase productivity.

CHART 1.5

Growth Rate of GDP per Person Employed (1990-2011)



Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago & CSO

In order to increase productivity, a Productivity Council was established in 2009, to, inter alia, advise Government on productivity strategies and policies.

Indicator: Employment-to-Population Ratio

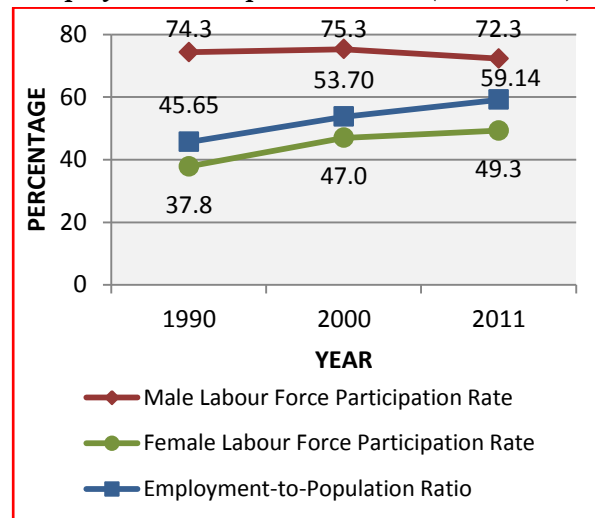
INCREASED JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKING POPULATION BUT MORE NEEDED FOR THE YOUTH

The employment-to-population ratio showed moderate increases over the 21-year period 1990 to 2011. In 1990, Trinidad and Tobago's ratio of 45.65 percent indicated a rate that was below the internationally accepted range of between 50 and 75 percent. This suggested that a substantial proportion of the population was not directly participating in market-related activities.

In the 2000 and 2011 censuses, however, increases in the employment-to-population ratio were recorded at more acceptable levels at 53.70 percent and 59.14 percent, respectively (**Chart 1.6**). The overall increasing trend in the ratio suggested that a reasonable proportion of the working-age population became employed pointing to an increased availability of job opportunities for this group and/or more skilled persons accessing jobs.

CHART 1.6

Employment to Population Ratio (1990-2011)



Source: CSO

However, when analysing labour force participation rate by sex, the data also showed that more of those jobs were attained by males than females as indicated by the labour force participation rates during 1990-2011. The female labour force participation rate remained below 50 percent for this entire period, moving from 37.8 percent in 1990 to 49.3 percent in 2011. Consequently, programmes like the *Unemployment Relief Women's*

Programme were developed to cater to the employment needs of women. On the other hand, while the participation rate for males remained above that for females, the former declined slightly from 74.3 to 72.3 percent over the same period.

Despite the increase in job opportunities evident by overall decline in unemployment rates since 2009 (**Chart 1.7**), the unemployment rate for persons 15-24 years continued to remain high. During 2000 to 2011, the unemployment rate for this age category remained above 20 percent²⁶ indicating the need to pay specific attention to youth employment. The issue was notable among tertiary graduates, of which 18 percent was unemployed after one year.²⁷

Government has been addressing these issues in a number of ways. It has been promoting entrepreneurship among the youth and tertiary graduates and has begun to strengthen the linkages between the labour demands of the economy and its supply from the education and training system to improved labour market information. Labour market studies, for example, were conducted to facilitate the development of the growth poles initiative discussed earlier. Another initiative – the *On-the-Job Training Programme* – continues to offer opportunities for the youth to gain the

²⁶ Central Statistical Office, Continuous Sample Survey data.

²⁷ MTPF 2011-2014. Data based on graduates from the University of the West Indies.

necessary work experience desired by employers in both the private and public sectors.

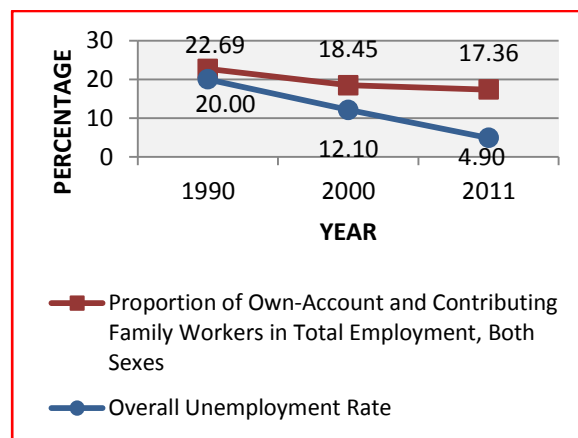
Indicator: Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment

MORE PERSONS JOINING THE LABOUR FORCE COMPARED TO SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Own-account workers and contributing family workers are viewed as being vulnerable since their employment arrangements are often informal and these persons tend to be more susceptible to economic downturns. These factors put own-account workers and contributing family workers at risk for experiencing poverty.

CHART 1.7

Proportion of Own-Accounts and Contributing Family Workers in Total Employment, Both Sexes and Overall Unemployment Rate (1990-2011)



Source: CSO

In Trinidad and Tobago, while the proportion of own-account and

contributing family workers in total employment declined over the period 1990-2000 (**Chart 1.7**), it is notable that the country's overall unemployment rate simultaneously declined during that time. It is possible that as persons left the vulnerable state associated with own-account and family employment, they were more successful in finding stable jobs in the mainstream labour market.

However, there was a levelling off in the proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment between 2000 and 2011 while the unemployment continued to decline.

Government has been consistently promoting entrepreneurship as part of its overall economic and social transformation agenda and more specifically, through its Micro and Small Enterprise Policy (2013-2016). Several initiatives continue to be implemented to strengthen and formalise the micro-enterprise sector while at the same time addressing the vulnerabilities of own-account workers. Initiatives are based on promoting standard setting, including training and certification; mentorship; and innovation through the adoption of information and communication technology (ICT) and new methods and technologies. Special areas of focus for enterprise development include the youth, women and the disabled.

Target: Halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) furnishes us with a global measure of the country's success in reducing hunger. The GHI scoring is compiled as a combination of:

- (1) Undernourishment;
- (2) Child underweight; and
- (3) Child mortality.

Assessed quinquennially, Trinidad and Tobago's GHI score has moved from the moderate to low scoring category over the period 1990 – 2013 indicating that was progress made in the areas covered by the Index.

Indicator: Proportion of Underweight Children Under Five Years of Age

GREATER EFFORT NEEDED TO REDUCE UNDERWEIGHT CHILDREN

The available data²⁸ showed a decline in the percentage of under-weight children from 22 percent in 2000 to 18.8 percent in 2006. These rates signalled an improved situation but were significantly higher than the average rates for the Latin American and Caribbean regions whose rates were 9 and 7 percent, respectively.

This decline in underweight children may be attributable to the implementation of the Maternal and

²⁸ Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, 2000 and 2006.

Child Health Policy, which, inter alia, aims to promote both maternal and child health including low birth weight. Further, in the fight against malnutrition, vis-à-vis hunger, the *National School Nutrition Programme*, currently provides some 44,190 hot breakfasts and 97,831 lunches daily to students enrolled in 822 pre-primary, primary, secondary, special and vocational schools across the nation. Through this Programme, administered by the National Schools Dietary Services Limited (NSDSL), the State provides one third of the daily dietary intake to vulnerable children. The NSDSL employs over 70 caterers island-wide, with menus aimed at meeting one quarter of the recommended daily allowance (RDA) of nutrients for breakfast and one third of the RDA for lunch.²⁹

Indicator: Proportion of Population below Minimum Level of Dietary Energy Consumption

LOW PERCENTAGE OF CITIZENS SUFFER FROM HUNGER

According to the 2005 SLC, 1.2 percent of the population fell below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption. This result was similar to that of the 2008/2009 HBS which revealed that extreme poverty was very low in Trinidad and Tobago, given that less than 3 percent of all households did not reach the minimum food consumption required to have a balanced nutrition.

²⁹ http://moe.gov.tt/units_sds.html

These results pointed to the success of various initiatives utilised by Government in improving access to resources to meet the nutritional needs of the population. *The Grow Box Programme*, for example, seeks not only to establish home gardens in urban areas where land is scarce, but also to encourage families to produce safe, healthy, fresh food, in their own backyards. For fiscal year 2013, 1,500 families were trained in grow box technologies.

Further, the *Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme* (TCCTP), a short-term food assistance programme which promotes nutritional and food security to vulnerable households, was initiated and continues to be implemented. The TCCTP enables families to purchase basic food items with nutritional value, thereby enhancing the health of persons in these households and reducing the intensity of this aspect of poverty.

Government has also been encouraging healthy eating habits among citizens through education and awareness campaigns.

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

Like other emergent economies, Trinidad and Tobago is faced with development challenges in trying to construct a modern, relevant education and training system to build a knowledgeable, skilled and marketable work force. The country is also faced

with addressing the issues of: reduced access to credit and capital markets; inadequate infra-structure and governance structures; environmental degradation; capital flight; lack of and access to adequate and affordable health care, housing and other social services; crime and unequal development. It is under these conditions that poverty continues to exist. Breaking the cycle of poverty requires self-sufficiency, opportunities for wealth generation and the effective use of human, physical, institutional and productive resources.³⁰

It is imperative that these development issues be addressed if the cycle of poverty is to be broken. Government's efforts are based on collaboration with civil society and by engaging the private sector through, for example, corporate social responsibility and private public partnerships (PPPs). We remain committed to attaining this MDG Goal and recognise the economic resources that we possess must be aligned with efforts to tackle these issues, and that these resources must be better managed for efficiency gains. There is need, for example, for short-term measures like greater expenditure on micro-enterprise and training programmes than on cash transfers. Long-term measures involve our programme of economic and social transformation and include economic restructuring and inclusion, and creating a more technologically advanced work force.

In order to achieve even greater success in the battle against poverty, there is need to review social programmes for relevance, sustainability and efficiency, and to develop better mechanisms that will more effectively target those in need. This remains hindered by the lack of specific data on socio-economic vulnerability at the community level. In-depth research to attain poverty profiles of the poor at the municipal and community levels must therefore be conducted; a pilot project is already underway in one community. This will not only serve to improve the targeting mechanisms for social welfare programmes but facilitate to a greater extent the equitable distribution of resources. Moreover, the institutionalisation of cyclical evaluations will play a key role in regularly assessing the impact of poverty reduction programmes, including training programmes targeted at the poor, and will provide information for the articulation of effective policies.

A number of multi-dimensional initiatives have been simultaneously undertaken to break the poverty cycle. Key outcomes identified for the initiatives were: access to adequate and affordable housing; self-reliant and sustainable communities; and an efficient and effective social protection system for the poor and vulnerable.³¹ These initiatives were aligned to the key strategies as previously mentioned, namely: restructuring the economy to

³⁰ National Performance Framework 2012-2015.

³¹ National Performance Framework 2012-2015 page 68.

provide meaningful income earning opportunities; increasing access to adequate and affordable social services like housing and healthcare; empowerment of the poor; strengthening social capital at the community level; and building the country's human capital.

The Way Forward

Restructuring the economy to provide meaningful income earning opportunities

Improving the Standard of Living across Communities

As previously mentioned, the identification of the five regional growth poles was intended to combat poverty by improving the standard of living for citizens in these areas through the elimination of regional development disparities. A variety of areas or clusters within each growth pole have already been identified for building industries. This would be achieved through entrepreneurship, collaboration among Government, Private Sector and Civil Society and by harnessing the existing resources and potential of communities within these geographic spaces.

To date, approvals for the governance systems required to execute the implementation strategies for the growth poles were attained. The governance structure has been established which includes the

Economic Development Board working in collaboration with community stakeholders to oversee this initiative. Baseline studies also commenced to identify the areas of competitive advantage in each pole. In relation to the South West Growth Pole, for example, a situational analysis was completed which suggested possible clusters for development in the areas of energy, agriculture, fishing, asphalt manufacturing, garment and wood and wood related products. A labour gap analysis for this growth pole was also completed.

Further, through the Ministry of Public Utilities, several programmes are being implemented to provide electricity, water and sanitary facilities to rural communities. The impact can be seen in the tremendous increase in households with water closets and access to potable water as shown in Goal 7.

Targeted Sectors for Development

Agriculture and Food Security

Food Security is a sustainable development issue linked not only to economic stability but to malnutrition and poverty eradication. By developing a productive, modern and competitive agricultural sector, Government intends to simultaneously tackle poverty and attain economic diversification. The intention is to achieve the key result area of becoming a "food secure nation by 2015 and the national outcome of having access to adequate and

affordable food.”³²

In developing a strategy to deal with poverty and unemployment, particularly among the youth and women, agriculture was identified as one of the avenues through which sustainable job opportunities could be created. In so doing, two national targets were established. The first target was to increase employment in agriculture to 5 percent by 2015, which, in 2012, stood at 4 percent. The second target was to reduce food inflation to 25 percent by 2015. This is likely to be accomplished since as of September 2013, the food inflation rate was 9.3 percent.

To date, several key initiatives to build the agriculture sector have been undertaken. These pertained to, inter alia, increasing agricultural production; improving the distribution of and access to agricultural land; strengthening the land tenure of farmers; encouraging youth participation in agriculture; and increasing productivity for locally produced goods.

Of note is the *Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture* which allows persons aged 15-25 to be exposed to technological knowledge and skills involved in the business of agriculture. A total of 615 trainees graduated from the Programme while 41 persons enrolled for the period September 2012 to March 2013. In addition, through the

Agriculture Now Initiative, 291 persons were trained in agricultural techniques in fiscal year 2013, with the aim of achieving the target of 3,000 persons trained by 2015.

The Agriculture Professionals Development Programme also allows tertiary level graduates with degrees in Agriculture to be mentored in primary production, agro-processing, agricultural academic development and professional skills in the sector. In fiscal year 2013, 28 professionals graduated from the programme and 3 new agri-businesses were established.

Increased Access to Adequate and Affordable Housing, Education and Training and other Key Social Services

Breaking the cycle and effects of poverty requires a broad-based response. Our efforts toward the reduction of poverty resulted in several measures aimed at enfranchising the poor and indigent of Trinidad and Tobago.

Housing

The *Accelerated High Density Housing Programme* is aimed at increasing the availability of low and middle income housing units for rent or purchase by low and middle income families. During fiscal year 2012-2013, 3,000 new housing units were completed, representing a 157.5 percent increase from the previous year of 1,165 units. Three housing developments were

³² Annual Performance Report 2013, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development.

upgraded and 57 subsidies for new homes were also issued. Moreover, from fiscal year 2011 to September 2013, 2,382 home improvement and emergency grants were issued. Additionally, during fiscal year 2013, 220 sanitary plumbing projects, 337 house electrical wiring projects and 574 minor house repairs projects were completed. These projects were targeted at low income families.

A programme of squatter regularisation, aimed at providing basic infrastructure such as drainage, water and electricity, was undertaken by the Land Settlement Agency (LSA). In fiscal year 2013, 20 squatter sites comprising 3,525 lots were granted final approval from the Town and Country Planning Division. A further 500 persons were selected via the *Land for the Landless Policy* which allows access to a 2 percent low mortgage rate facility. Additionally, state assistance for home ownership for persons at the lower and middle income scales was initiated. Moreover, for fiscal year 2013, 1,500 *Certificates of Comfort* were issued to households within squatter settlements throughout the country, thereby providing them with security of tenure.

Free Healthcare

Free healthcare is provided to all adults and children in Trinidad and Tobago at public health care institutions. The State has invested heavily over the years and continues to invest in the Sector to enhance and expand health care facilities and to widen the scope of

health care therapies available to citizens. Some of these improvements are highlighted in Goals 4, 5 and 6 of this Report. In addition, the *Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP)* was expanded. This programme provides free prescription drugs and other pharmaceutical items to citizens combating specific chronic health conditions. For the period October 2012 to March 2013, 37,071 new patients accessed treatment drugs free of charge at private establishments.

Increasing Access to Social Protection

Public Assistance Grants, Disability Grants and Pensions are offered to citizens who are poor and vulnerable, including the elderly, single female-headed households and the differently-abled. These grants are intended to improve access to social protection while building an efficient and effective social system for the poor and vulnerable.³³ During fiscal year 2013, 25,785 persons received *Public Assistance Grants* up from 25,233 grants in 2012; 24,312 received *Disability Grants*; and 82,509 senior citizens received *Senior Citizens Pension* as of fiscal year 2013.

Apart from these grants, a number of socially displaced persons also benefit from the *Street Dweller, Removal, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme* and the *Street Outreach Programme*. These programmes cater to the needs of the socially displaced

³³ Annual Performance Report, 2013, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development.

ranging from accommodation to medical assistance and re-integrative support services. In fiscal year 2013, 170 street dwellers were brought into the *Street Dweller, Removal, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme*; and under the *Street Outreach Programme*, 142 street dwellers were referred for rehabilitation and 164 for mental health services.

Additionally, persons 60 years and over have access to free transport on the Public Transport Service buses and the National Ferry Service. Also, a dial-a-ride service for differently-abled persons has been instituted.

Increasing Access to Food and Reducing Hunger in Households

In line with our commitment to increasing food access to all, and addressing the problem of the 1.2 percent of the population falling below the minimum level of dietary consumption, as previously mentioned, breakfast and lunch are provided daily through the *National School Feeding Programme* to students in need at pre-primary, primary, secondary, technical and vocational institutions. As at June 30th 2013, 157,122 meals were provided and for the period October 2012 to March 2013, 50,000 vulnerable citizens also received meals. This initiative is implemented in addition to the *Grow Box Programme* discussed earlier as well as the TCCTP highlighted further below.

Empowerment of the Poor and Vulnerable

The TCCTP, as previously mentioned, is an electronic cash transfer facility

programme that is developmental in nature. It seeks to provide opportunities for the empowerment of the poor while improving the quality of life of the household through retraining, job placement or small business development. Clients who make strides towards self-empowerment graduate from the programme after two years.³⁴ For fiscal 2011 to March 2013, over 40,397 persons benefitted from the TCCTP. Of these beneficiaries, over 5,200 persons graduated from the programme and were no longer deemed indigent. The TCCTP and Government's *Micro Enterprise Loans Programme Facility* and *Micro Enterprise Grants Programme* encourage self-reliance and provide empowerment opportunities for the poor and vulnerable by offering loans and grants to those who aspire to become entrepreneurs. During Fiscal year 2013, 65 Micro Enterprise Loans were distributed to 5 Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and 273 Micro Enterprise Grants were distributed.

Employment Assistance

The *Unemployment Relief Programme* (URP) provides temporary employment assistance but also simultaneously provide empowerment opportunities for the poor and vulnerable since it was restructured to incorporate training and re-training components for participants. These components are geared toward introducing and re-introducing persons into the world of work and viable employment.

³⁴ <http://www2.mpsd.gov.tt/content/targeted-conditional-cash-transfer-programme-0>

During the fiscal year 2012, it was found that a number of mothers who enrolled in the programme had children with physical disabilities; more than 200 mothers had children with cerebral palsy. It is recognised that women caring for children with a physical or mental disabilities contributed to their inability to work in mainstream 8:00a.m-4:00 p.m. type jobs. Therefore, the URP, which employs persons within their neighbourhood, caters specifically to women and the working hours are designed to facilitate family or other commitments. For the period October 2011 to June 2012, 28,000 persons were employed based on the programme's rotation policy. Further, the *URP Women's Programme* provides training for employed women in areas such as crafts, furnishings, cleaning, painting, community work, geriatric care and beautification of surroundings.

Strengthened Social Capital at the Community Level

Community Based Micro-Finance

The Micro Enterprise Loan Facility is a poverty reduction initiative which equips Community-Based Organisations to actively engage in promoting sustainable livelihoods among the poor through the provision of micro loans with minimal interest rates and support to micro entrepreneurs. Under the Facility, the State provides grants to CBOs to lend to individuals in their communities in order to start new or

expand existing micro enterprises. MEL provides borrowers with the following benefits: (1) community-based business loan services; (2) business training for all interested persons; and (3) after-loan services and business support. The Micro Enterprise Grants of up to \$5000.00 have been given to over 1500 persons in the past three years.³⁵

In addition, the *Basket of Funding Programme* reduces poverty at the community level by providing training and micro enterprise development activities. To date, 33 projects were implemented throughout the country.

Senior Citizen Investment

In recognition of the value of our senior citizens and their vulnerability to poverty, Senior Citizens Centres or multi-service facilities were established as outlets to provide physical, social and mental stimulation and support mechanisms to persons 55 years and older. The aim of this initiative is to enable older persons to remain active, healthy, and productive and engage in lifelong learning. Eight Senior Activity Centres were established during the period 2011 to 2013.

Community Infrastructure Grants

The *Self-Help Grants Programme* was expanded as a means of reaching more of the nation's poor. These grants promote community infrastructure and rehabilitation projects through the provision of financial, physical and technical assistance to individuals and

³⁵ Ministry of the People and Social Development.

communities. Labour from within benefitting communities is utilized.

Community-Based Training and Skills Development

Government continues to construct and upgrade community centres which enable community cohesiveness and development by facilitating the planning of community-based activities such as training programmes. These programmes include the *Community Education Programme* which trains persons in technical and vocational skills; and the *Community Volunteer and Apprenticeship Programmes* which delivers services to civil society groups aimed at poverty alleviation. *The Community Enhancement and Regeneration Programme* also offers multi- and trans-disciplinary projects to the poorest communities in a range of areas like financial reporting, procurement and entrepreneurship.

Building Human Capital through Education and Skills Development

Education as the key tool to combat poverty

There can be no doubt of the unmistakable role that human capital development, particularly through education, plays in combating poverty and its potential contribution to economic prosperity in terms of enabling citizens to self-actualise, create and innovate.

In Trinidad and Tobago, education is a major focus for breaking the cycle of poverty. It is seen as the main vehicle for elevating persons into sustainable and meaningful jobs and is integral to the national agenda of economic and social transformation of the country.

Government has therefore embarked on key initiatives to build human capital such as reforming the education system and improving access to education, in particular, early childhood and tertiary education. Efforts also include promoting lifelong learning and instilling positive values and attitudes such as civic responsibility and the importance of enterprise. The intention is to create a highly educated, skilled and motivated workforce, in order to break the poverty cycle. Further details of these undertakings are discussed under MDG 2.

Goal 2

*Achieve Universal Pre-School,
Primary, Secondary and
Tertiary Education*



GOAL 2

Achieve Universal Pre-School, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education³⁶

TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary level schooling</p>	<p>Indicator: Net Enrolment Ratio in Pre-school Education</p> <p>Net enrolment ratio in primary education</p> <p>Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary</p> <p>Net Secondary School Attendance Rate</p> <p>Tertiary Education Participation Rate</p> <p>Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men</p>

³⁶ This Goal has been modified by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to suit the national context.

GOAL 2 Achieve Universal Pre-School, Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education



Target:

Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary level schooling

Introduction

Trinidad and Tobago is in an enviable position of being able to provide universal access to prep-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary education to its citizens. Having already achieved Universal Primary and Secondary Education, current

initiatives also indicate that the country is well positioned to achieve universal early childhood education by 2015.

The remarkable gains in the education system were made possible through the commitment of successive Governments to treat education as the number one priority towards social and economic growth and in the fight against poverty. A common thread in all Governments' education policy papers³⁷ is the shared belief that the country's future competitiveness and economic sustainability is ensured by investing heavily in its human capital, a critical asset in building a knowledge-based, innovative, competitive and prosperous economy. The current Administration's commitment, in this regard, is encapsulated in Pillar I of its seven-pillar Plan for national development.

PILLAR I: People-Centred Development— We Need Everyone and All Can Contribute

In a country of 1.3 million people, the optimum contribution of each and every citizen is crucial. In a knowledge-driven economy, a strong basic education system and significant participation in tertiary education make a decisive difference. Accordingly, we commit to making human development a central thrust through the education system and through the creation of other infrastructure to support lifelong learning, skills building, institutional strengthening and the building of a competitive economy. SOURCE: People's Partnership Manifesto, 2010

³⁷ Draft Plan for Educational Development in Trinidad and Tobago 1968-1983; Education Policy Paper 1993-2003; and Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014

Education, therefore, is perceived as fundamental to the achievement of all other development goals. While it may not be a panacea, education provides citizens with the much needed knowledge and skills to alleviate poverty and hunger, combat diseases, reduce infant mortality and ensure environmental sustainability.

Even though progress has been made in increasing access to education at all levels, as the system expands, there is the social demand for quality improvements to keep pace with the ever changing social and economic environment.

The challenge, therefore, is the progression from ensuring access to ensuring relevance, equal participation and quality education.

Structure of the Education System in Trinidad and Tobago

Since its Independence in 1962, Trinidad and Tobago has built a complete education system from pre-school to tertiary education. The administrative responsibility for education falls mainly under the purview of two Ministries – the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (MTEST). The Tobago House of Assembly (THA), by Act No. 40 of 1996, has the responsibility for the administration of education in Tobago, including curriculum. The MOE is the administrative authority for the pre-primary, primary, secondary and post-

secondary (Advanced Proficiency) levels of education while the MTEST has responsibility for tertiary education and technical/vocational education.

The school system comprises public schools, which includes both Government and Government-assisted (denominational schools), and private schools, which are managed by private interests. All schools operate under the tenets of the Education Act Chapter 39:01 of 1966.

Financing Education: counting the costs

Education is so highly valued that, more often than not, the education sector receives the largest share of the annual national budgets compared to other critical sectors such as Health and National Security. This is highlighted in **Table 2. 1**.

TABLE 2.1

Annual Government Expenditure on Education/Training, National Security and Health for Fiscal Years 2009/2010 – 2013/2014

Fiscal Year	Education and Training	National Security	Health
	TTD \$Mn.		
2009/2010	3,437	4,742	3,585
2010/2011	8,325	4,762	4,341
2011/2012	8,700	5,170.5	4,724.9
2012/2013	9,149.1	5,503.7	5,108.7
2013/2014	9,820	6,497	5,096

Source: Ministry of Finance: Annual Budget Statements

Over the last 5 years, an average of 15 percent of the national budget has been appropriated to Education and Training. **Table 2.2** below indicates the percentage of the national budget allocated to education and training over the period 2009/10 to 2013/14.

TABLE 2.2

Annual Government Expenditure on Education and Training as a Percentage of National Budgetary Allocation 2009/2010 – 2013/2014

Fiscal Year	National Budgetary Allocation	Budgetary Allocation Education and Training	Education & Training as a Percentage of the National Budgetary Allocation
	\$TT Mn	\$TT Mn	%
2009/2010	44,366	3,437	7.7
2010/2011	49,015	8,325	17.0
2011/2012	47,000	8,700	18.5
2012/2013	58,400	9,149.1	15.7
2013/2014	61,400	9,820	16.0
Five Year Average			15.0

Source: Ministry of Finance: Annual Budget Statements

The Government is largely responsible for financing all levels of education except for early childhood education which is financed mainly through fees paid by parents to private institutions. The thrust of the government, however, is to regulate the sector and make early childhood education free and accessible to the wider population. Further, the State continues to invest heavily in providing the physical infrastructure

and administrative systems at the pre-primary level.

Public funding covers 100 percent of recurrent and capital expenditure of both Government and Government-assisted schools from pre-primary to secondary levels. Therefore, education is provided free of charge at all Government and Government-assisted schools from pre-primary to secondary levels.

At the tertiary level, there are two public universities: the regionally-owned University of the West Indies (UWI) and nationally-owned University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT). UWI is an autonomous public institution which receives about 85 percent of its recurrent expenditure from Government transfers and subsidies. Tuition fees make up the remaining 15 percent. Regional governments fund 100 percent of the capital expenditure.

At the tertiary level, undergraduate students at public and private institutions receive 100 percent financial assistance for tuition fees through the Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) Programme, which was introduced in 2006.

The cost associated with public assistance for tertiary level tuition escalated from \$102 million in fiscal year 2004/2005 to \$625 million in fiscal year 2010/2011 due to the GATE Programme.

Going Beyond MDG Targets

Since Trinidad and Tobago has already achieved universal access to primary and secondary education, additional indicators for pre-school and tertiary education have been included in the Report. The Government has set targets to provide access to universal early childhood education for children between the ages 3-4 years by 2015 and to achieve a 60 percent participation rate in tertiary education by 2015. These targets are consistent with Government's goal to develop a well-articulated and seamless education system from early childhood to tertiary level that meets the needs of all citizens as well as the developmental agenda for the country.

Pre-Primary Education

Indicator: Net Enrolment Ratio in Pre-school Education³⁸

NEAR UNIVERSAL PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION ACHIEVED

Net enrolment rates for pre-school children increased from 88.2 percent in 2006 to 89 percent in 2009. Steady progress in the net enrolment rate is expected to reach universal proportions by 2015 in light of the under-mentioned initiatives.

³⁸ This Indicator was added by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Quality Universal Early Childhood Care and Education by 2015: making it happen

The institutionalisation of formal, quality, relevant and inclusive education from an early age is essential in creating a society of successful adults and a workforce that is capable of leading and moving the country forward. The focus on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) continues to be high on Government's agenda.

Early childhood education has long been regarded as the foundation for basic education and lifelong learning and development. Traditionally, early childhood education has been provided by private operators at over 700 private schools and accessed mainly by families who could afford to pay the fees. There are approximately 194 Government and Government-assisted early childhood centres catering to 7,359 children. Central Statistical Office data from the 2011 census indicated that the pre-school population was 38,000 children.

In an effort to regulate the sector to give every three to four year old child an equal start, the Government has been working assiduously to ensure universal early childhood education by 2015.

To achieve this, Government has adopted a three pronged approach that includes the construction of new centres, the creation of ECCE spaces in underutilised primary schools and the engagement of private providers

through public/private partnership arrangements.

Commencing in 2007, the MOE initiated ECCE construction programmes aimed at providing service in lower socio-economic status areas. Over the last two years, 29 new centres were constructed thereby providing spaces for approximately 2,175 children of the targeted age group.

Going forward, the Ministry of Education's main programmes for increasing the number of ECCE centres are the *Seamless Education System (SES) Programme*, which is financed in part by a loan from the IADB, and the *Build 100 Programme* financed by the State. Under the SES, fifty new state-of-the-art ECCE Centres will be constructed in two phases of 24 and 26 respectively. At the end of 2012, construction had commenced on 18 Phase 1 ECCE Centres with 6 more carded to commence in 2013; and site identification had commenced for the Phase 2 SES as well as the *Build 100 Programme*. These initiatives have already started to yield results as demonstrated in the increase in enrolment rates.

The SES seeks to address the deficiencies in the ECCE sector not only in terms of the physical accommodation for pre-primary children, but in the curriculum, training of ECCE teachers and the management of the sector.

Given the disparate structure of the sector, Government's emphasis is on providing the enabling environment to

allow for equitable access to all students, including those with different learning needs. This will facilitate the smooth transfer from ECCE through to tertiary level via articulated curricula and performance standards. Thus, in order to improve access to and quality of ECCE, Government continues to strengthen the institutional capacity to oversee implementation of the national standards and the curriculum guide for early childhood education.

Primary Education

Indicator: Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education

OVER 95 PERCENT ENROLMENT RATIOS SINCE 2005

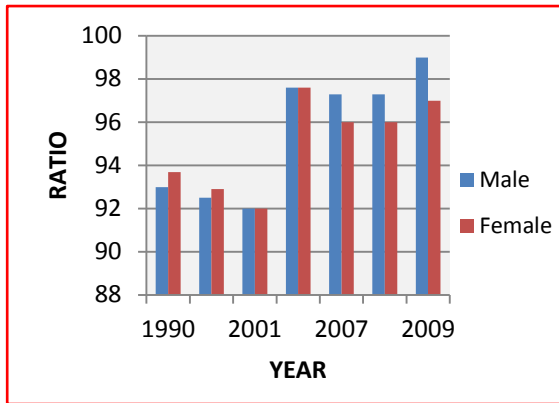
Trinidad and Tobago has met the target of universal enrolment in primary education. Net enrolment ratios have been over 95 percent for both males and females since 2005 (**Chart 2.1**).³⁹

The data showed that enrolment ratios for males were slightly higher than that of females (see **Chart 2.1 below**). While the difference is small, its consistency over time is noted and requires further investigation. It is also noted since the reverse is observed at higher levels of the education system.

³⁹ Data for 1991-1999, 2002-2004, and 2006 are not available.

CHART 2.1

Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education by Sex (1990 - 2009)



Source: Ministry of Education

Indicator: Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade 1 who reach last grade of Primary

HIGH PRIMARY LEVEL COMPLETION RATE BUT IMPROVEMENT IS REQUIRED

Over the years, completion rates of pupils starting Grade I (First Year) who reached Grade 7 (Standard 5) (**Chart 2.2**) declined marginally. In 2006, the completion rate rose to 98 percent before declining to 92.3 percent in 2009.

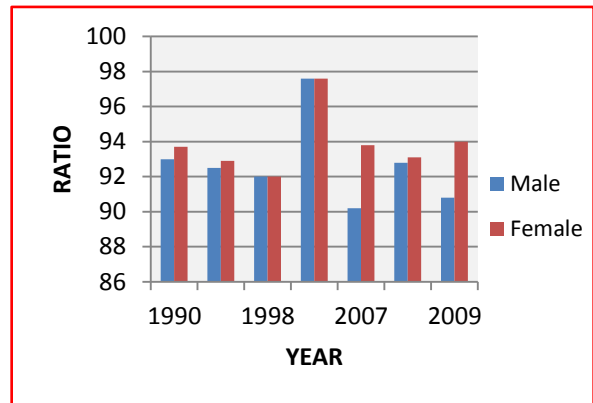
The data indicated that some children who had enrolled in first year did not complete the last year of primary education and may have dropped out for varying reasons.

Over time, the MOE has instituted several programmes aimed at providing an enabling environment at all levels of the system to encourage children to stay in school. These included the provision of free meals, books and transport, as well as guidance and social work services. This data is

significant since, despite these interventions, the survival rate is on a downward trend. It suggests that further investigation is required to determine the causes of student dropout and the remedies needed to ensure students complete their education.

CHART 2.2

Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade I (First Year) who Reach Grade 7 (Standard 5) (1990 - 2009)



Source: Ministry of Education

During the period under review, there has been a general trend of a greater proportion of females reaching Grade 7 than their male counterparts. This is instructive since the enrolment rates for males were marginally higher than those for females during the last three years of the data series.

Overview of Primary Education in Trinidad and Tobago

Universal Primary Education: how it was achieved

Since the 1960s, near Universal Primary Education (UPE) was achieved with equal access being extended to all

children irrespective of gender, race, religion and geographical location.

Over the decades full universal primary education was made possible through the successful implementation of several key initiatives.

One such initiative was the *Fourth Basic Education Project* (1995-2003), which was funded in part by a World Bank loan and was born out of the recommendations contained in the *Education Policy Paper 1993-2003 National Task Force on Education (White Paper)*. The objectives of the Project were to: enhance the cognitive and social development of children in early childhood education to prepare them for primary school; improve the quality of teaching and student achievement in primary school; improve classroom instruction and curriculum strengthening; and to improve the physical infrastructure of facilities at ECCE centres and primary and secondary schools.

The outcomes of the project included the construction of several new primary schools and ECCE centres, provision of textbooks and instructional materials, teacher training and curriculum revision. Implementation of the various measures not only facilitated increased access to primary education but also impacted the quality of education delivered.

Today, there are 476 public primary schools spread across the eight education districts to which primary

school-aged children have free access. Of these schools, 137 are Government and 339 are Government-assisted which are managed by 18 denominational boards.

For the academic year 2009/2010, there was a total of 6,662 teaching and administrative staff at public primary schools. Approximately 90.5 percent of primary school teachers were trained since they had graduated from Teacher's Training College, while 9.5 percent were academically qualified but had not attended college. At the primary level, 77.53 percent of teaching staff were female, while 68.81 percent were female principals and 77.54 percent were female Vice-Principals.

The pupil/teacher ratio at the Primary level compares favourably with other countries. Latest available data shows an improvement in the Pupil/Teacher ratio in primary schools to 18:1.

One of the major challenges facing primary education is the dilapidated condition of many of the school buildings which are well over 100 years old. While Government has consistently invested in refurbishing schools, it has heightened its programme of reconstruction and rehabilitation of schools in order to provide a safe and secure learning environment as well as to support the implementation of the new, expanded curriculum. Within the past three years, 12 primary schools were constructed and another 10 are under construction. Government plans to construct another 42 primary schools over the next 2 years.

Initiatives have also been undertaken to reduce the construction time for primary schools as well as the cost of construction. These include introduction of pre-engineered construction methods, and award of Design/Build contracts which eliminates the need for two sets of tendering.

Assuring Quality and Relevant Education

Testing and Assessment

The main indicators used to measure student academic performance are the results of the local and regional examinations administered to students at the primary and secondary levels.

National Test

The National Test (NT) is a standardized examination administered to all Standards I to IV⁴⁰ pupils in all public and private primary schools in Trinidad and Tobago. Its purpose is to provide data for making decisions and developing strategies intended to improve educational output at the school, district and national levels. Students in Standards I and III are tested in English and Mathematics.

The performance of schools in the National Tests is also monitored and is measured using the annual Academic

⁴⁰ Commencing in 2013, the NT will be administered to pupils of Standards I to III only, in order to facilitate the introduction of the Continuous Assessment Component (CAC) of the SEA.

Performance Index (API)⁴¹ which places schools in 1 of 4 categories: Excelling; Mostly Effective; Academic Watch; and Academic Emergency. **Table 2.3** shows that there was an increase in the number of schools that were placed in the Excelling category, while there was a decline in the number of schools which did not meet the required standard and categorized as being under Academic Watch.

TABLE 2.3

Performance of Primary Schools in the National Test (2011-2012)

YEAR	2011		2012	
API Category	No. of Schools	%	No of Schools	%
Academic Watch	120	22.3	28	5.2
Mostly Effective	394	73.2	384	71.4
Excelling	15	2.8	121	22.5
Total	529	98.3	533	99.1

Source: Ministry of Education

Secondary Entrance Assessment

The Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) is also a standardized test administered to Standard V pupils to test their skills in Mathematics, Language Arts and Creative Writing. Students are placed into secondary schools based on the individual scores achieved. Approximately 90 percent of

⁴¹ The Academic Performance Index (API) is an indicator of school's performance and is calculated based on the percentage of students meeting the required standards in Mathematics and Language Arts on the National Test. The composite score is used to place schools into four categories: (1) Excelling (401-560); (2) Mostly Effective (241-400); (3) Academic Watch (81-240); and Academic Emergency (0-80).

the students are placed at five and seven year secondary schools. Students who score below 30 percent are allowed to repeat the examination in the following year. The number of repeat students has been steadily decreasing each year. The figure decreased from 4.7 percent in 2008 to 2.1 percent in 2012 as highlighted in **Table 2.4**.

TABLE 2.4

Number and Percentage of Students to Repeat SEA (2008-2012)

YEAR	No. Wrote	No. Placed	No. and % of Repeaters
2008	17855	17024	831 (4.7%)
2009	17615	16964	651(3.7%)
2010	17268	16867	401 (2.3%)
2011	17280	16872	408 (2.4%)
2012	17863	17492	371 (2.1%)

Source: Ministry of Education

Generally, more girls than boys scored in the above 90 percent and above 60 percent bands in the SEA. The percentage of females scoring in these bands during the period 2005-2011, was significantly higher than male students. Overall, the percentage of students scoring in the above 90 percent band or range declined from 8.7 percent in 2005 to 4.5 percent in 2011.⁴²

The gender differential in the above 90 percent band was larger than the above 60 percent band. The largest gender difference occurred in the 30 percent and below band where, over the period 2005-2011, approximately seven out of every ten students scoring in this band were males.

This finding is instructive in respect of the emerging issue of the underperformance of males especially when coupled with the data which revealed that a smaller percentage of males than females complete the full course of primary education. This issue has not gone unnoticed and steps are being taken to unveil the underlying societal circumstances and develop appropriate policy responses.

Curriculum Review

The Government, in keeping with its objectives to produce innovative and critical thinkers, has initiated processes to reform the primary and secondary schools curricula. Under the *Seamless Education Programme*, nine subject areas of the primary curriculum were reviewed and the new curriculum was implemented in September, 2013 at Infants I and II and Standard I in all primary schools. All principals and teachers have been trained to implement the new curriculum.

The new curriculum is intended to encourage children to embrace their varied talents and interests. To realise this, the Continuous Assessment Component (CAC) of the Secondary Entrance Assessment was introduced. The CAC consists of specified curriculum objectives for achieving skills and competencies not previously subject to assessment on a national scale. These skills and competencies will be gained by students as they participate in active hands-on learning supported by detailed feedback

⁴² Ministry of Education

provided through their teachers from practice assessments. Assessment will pertain to students engaged in specific activities and the application of standard scoring guides. The CAC was implemented in Standard V as a part of the assessment criteria for the SEA for the first time in the academic year 2012-2013.

Special Education: meeting the needs of differently-abled students

The GORTT has adopted a comprehensive approach towards Special Education. It involves bringing the support services to the child rather than moving the child to the service. Currently there are 12 public special schools; two government-owned and ten government-assisted. There are also 14 private special schools registered with the Ministry of Education which offer programmes for students with special educational needs.

Consistent with its vision for the healthy, happy and normal development of children, the MOE has prioritised the delivery of specialised services to prepare children for learning. The emphasis is on providing services to treat with the neurological and educational development of children. To this end, the *Testing and Neuro-Diagnostics of Children Project* was initiated and is being piloted at eight ECCE Centres and eight primary schools. To date, 3000 students at these 16 pilot schools have been screened for cognitive processing difficulties.

Secondary Education

Indicator: Net Secondary School Attendance Rate⁴³

HIGH RATES OF ATTENDANCE AT THE SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL

The Net Secondary School Attendance Rate⁴⁴ showed an increase from 87.2 percent in the 2007/2008 academic year to 89.9 percent in the 2011/2012 academic year. Despite these high rates, like primary education, emphasis needs to be placed on the participation and completion rates for this level of education.

Overview of Secondary Education in Trinidad and Tobago

The current stock of secondary schools comprises 134 Government and Government-assisted secondary schools and 29 private secondary schools. Like their primary school counterparts, students are provided with free textbooks, while free transportation, breakfast and lunches are provided for needy students in public schools.

At the secondary level, for the academic year 2009/2010, there were 7,661 teachers, comprising 2,637 or 34.4 percent males and 5,024 or 65.6 percent females, employed in Government and Government-assisted secondary schools.

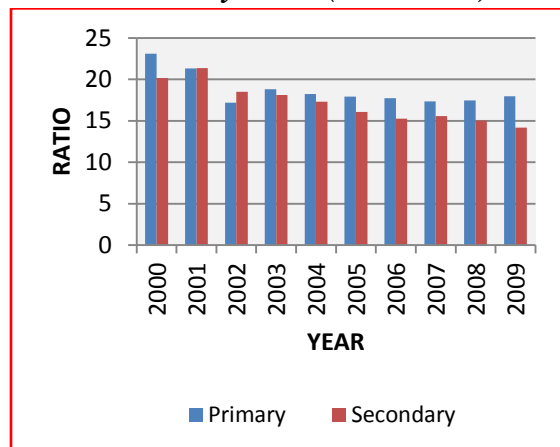
⁴³ This Indicator was added by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

⁴⁴ The average attendance of secondary school children enrolled expressed as a percentage

For secondary schools, the Pupil/Teacher ratio improved to 14:1 in 2009 (**Chart 2.3**).

CHART 2.3

Pupil/ Teacher Ratio at Primary and Secondary Levels (2000 - 2009)



Source: Ministry of Education

Universal Secondary Education: a bold and courageous undertaking

Universal access to secondary education (USE) was achieved in 2000. The Government of the day took the bold decision to fast track USE by placing in secondary schools all Standard V students who wrote the secondary school placement examination then known as the Common Entrance Examination (CEE). The shortfall in places was met through the purchase of places at Private Secondary Schools and Life Centres, as well as the creation of new places via construction of ten new secondary schools under the SEMP (in the first instance) and establishment of 12 Government-assisted Secondary schools. Prior to this, approximately 70 percent of students transitioned from primary to secondary school based on

their performance at the CEE. Moreover, there was an uneven distribution of secondary school places by educational districts resulting in uneven transition rates. It was also found that children from the most disadvantaged homes who often lacked the wherewithal to do well did not obtain secondary school places.

In an effort to reduce the inequity in the system and at the same time satisfy the growing demand for secondary education, the Government, in 1999, initiated the major reform of the secondary school system⁴⁵. Though the *Secondary Education Modernization Programme (SEMP)*, sweeping changes were made to secondary education. Noteworthy, the SEMP was in line with the 1997 declaration by CARICOM Ministers of Education that all member states implement universal secondary education by 2005. The SEMP was implemented over a 9-year period and ended in September, 2009. Among the major achievements of the SEMP were:

- Construction of 17 new schools distributed across the country with emphasis on low service areas, rural districts and those with the most urgent need. All the schools were equipped with facilities including ramps and washrooms for wheelchair access to cater for differently abled students. These new schools provided school places for 9,975 students;

⁴⁵ Prior to SEMP the last major growth phase was during the oil boom of the 1970's when the junior and senior secondary schools were built.

- Training of over 800 teachers in the *Teaching of Reading*, and instituted the *Reading Intervention Programme*;
- Development of curriculum and Teachers Guides for Forms I-V in 8 core subject areas;
- Establishment of the Textbook Loan Programme;
- Outfitting of all secondary schools with computers, mobile laboratories, audio-visual equipment and expanded library facilities;
- Training of teachers in various areas such as Computer Literacy, Visual and Performing Arts, Technology Education, Physical Education and School Management and Leadership;
- Training of Heads of Departments and Principals of secondary schools in Education at the post-graduate level, including Masters;
- De-shifting of 20 junior secondary schools and conversion of 18 comprehensive schools into single shift 5-year and 7-year schools, respectively.

Building on the successes of the SEMP, the Government continues to invest in the transformation of secondary education in order to meet the diverse needs of learners and those of a complex, competitive and technologically advanced labour market.

These investments continue in information and communication technology, curriculum reform, teacher

training and development, and improving school infrastructure.

To this end, the *eConnect and Learn (eCAL) Programme* was introduced in 2010. Among the goals of the programme were: (1) to improve the learning environment for students; (2) improve the quality of instruction and support the infusion of ICT in teaching and learning and the development of 21st century skills in students; and (3) reduce the inequity in access to computers and information between students from wealthy and poor families.

A key component of the programme has been the distribution of free laptops to all Form I secondary school students. Since its inception in 2010, approximately 69,000 students and 4000 teachers have received free laptops at an annual cost of TT\$53 million. More than 650 laptops have also been distributed to Principals, Vice Principals and Schools' Supervisors. With the maturity and continuous improvements of the programme, students now have access to a wider array of information and learning resources for subject areas of the curriculum.

Much has been done over the past two decades to develop secondary education given its importance in preparing students for life, the world of work and tertiary education. However, much more is required to reduce the worrying issues of drop outs, unacceptable levels of academic performance of students

especially among males; and emerging issues such as bullying and school violence. These concerns have not gone unnoticed by the Government and supportive measures are being implemented to address them.

Student Performance at the Secondary Level

The major examinations administered to secondary school students are the regional Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Examination (CSEC) for Form 5 students and the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) for Lower 6 and Upper 6 students.

Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Examination

Based on the 2012 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Examination (CSEC) results, 42.8 percent of the students were successful in 5 or more subjects while the percentage of students who obtained 5 or more subjects with English and Mathematics was 34.8 percent.

In 31 of the 35 subjects written, 50 percent or more of the students obtained a passing grade (Grades I –III) with 9 of the subjects reflecting a pass rate of 75 percent or more. Physical Education and Sport recorded the highest pass rate of 92.4 percent. When the results are disaggregated by gender, 56.0 percent of males and 62.2 percent of females who wrote the examination achieved Grades I –III.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Ministry of Education, 2012

Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination

The performance of students in the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) has been consistently high over the period 2008-2012. The results presented in **Table 2.5** show that over 90 percent of the students gained passes in Unit I and Unit II over the five years except for the year 2010 when 88 percent gained passes in Units I and II.

TABLE 2.5
*Performance of Students at the CAPE
(2008-2012)*

YEAR	Subject Entries Unit I		Subject Entries Unit II	
	No.	% Passed	No.	% Passed
2008	22,084	93.5	1,455	93.0
2009	23,415	91.8	1,564	90.6
2010	26,180	88.0	12,073	88.0
2011	26,294	92.8	12,350	93.3
2012	22,378	94.0	10,617	93.2

Source: Ministry of Education

Education and the New Economy

Curriculum Improvements

School curriculum and the development trajectory of Trinidad and Tobago are intimately intertwined given our policy objective to build the human resource capital base that is internationally competitive. It is, therefore, necessary that the school curriculum is geared towards producing a labour force that is relevant to labour market needs. Public consultations have already commenced to review the secondary

school curriculum to facilitate the new paradigm shift in the education sector. The last review took place in the year 2000 under the SEMP.

Teacher Training and Development

Teachers are pivotal to a quality education system. Cognizant of this, the Teaching and Teacher Development Division was established with a mandate to produce and advance teachers who are competent and adequately equipped to efficiently and effectively implement the curriculum and improve student performance. Over the last two years, training for teachers was provided in over 15 areas including Technology Education, ICT and curriculum assessment. In addition, the MOE has been working closely with the universities to ensure that their programmes are aligned to the school curriculum.

Technical Vocational Education– Caribbean Vocational Qualification

The Technical/Vocational Programme in secondary schools was expanded in keeping with the MOE's *Strategic Plan 2011-2015* which indicated that children at secondary schools should be exposed to a more varied curriculum, including the exposure to skills-based subjects. Efforts have increased to encourage students to pursue subjects in the Technical/Vocational area. By extension, there should be an increase in the number of students requesting certification for the achievement of the Caribbean Vocational Qualification

(CVQ) Standards and an increase in the variety of standards on offer to secondary school students.

Since the introduction of the CVQ programme in 2008, there has been a steady increase in the number of schools and students exposed to related skills-based subjects. The MOE has since made it mandatory that all students undertake at least one CVQ skill with a view to ensuring that all students acquire a specific occupational skill as part of their general education and remove the perception that Technical Vocational Education is for under-performing students and has little benefit for employment.

In 2011, 1,400 students from 44 secondary schools participated in the CVQ standards/units in 23 occupational areas including Air Condition and Refrigeration, Auto-Mechanics, Beauty Therapy, Information Technology Usage and Support, Food Preparation and Poultry Rearing; and in 2012, 1,083 school students wrote the CVQ examinations at the CXC level in 25 occupational areas. A total of 4,497 units were awarded while 583 persons obtained full units.

As at September 2013, 91 secondary schools offered CVQ subjects; and thirty two (32) of these secondary schools are expanding into new occupational areas. Further, 52 additional schools commenced CVQ programmes in the academic year 2012/2013.

Tertiary Education

Trinidad and Tobago has a rapidly growing tertiary education sector, both at the public and private sector levels. This has been made possible through the high levels of investment made by the Government to both regulate the sector and finance the tuition fees of students. Various programmes are offered at the certificate, diploma, associate degree, baccalaureate degree, post-graduate certificate and diplomas, masters and doctoral degree levels. Both local and overseas programmes are offered catering to academic education and training and technical and vocational education.

Indicator: Tertiary Education Participation Rate⁴⁷

SHARP INCREASE IN TERTIARY EDUCATION PARTICIPATION RATE

The tertiary education participation rate⁴⁸ increased significantly from 15 percent in 2004 to 60 percent in 2014, thereby achieving its target of 60 percent tertiary education participation rate by 2015.

This increase is due to ongoing reform measures which have made tertiary education more accessible and affordable to students. Among them was the *Dollar for Dollar Programme* that was instituted in September 2001, in which the State

⁴⁷ This Indicator was added by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

⁴⁸ The tertiary education participation rate is defined by the proportion of persons who have graduated from the secondary education system and subsequently enrolled in tertiary education.

paid half of the tuition fees for all new students enrolled in public tertiary institutions. In 2004, the programme was subsequently replaced by the more all-embracing *Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) Programme* which covers the full cost of tuition for undergraduate students at both private and public institutions once they satisfied the terms and conditions.

Further, students pursuing postgraduate studies at public institutions are eligible for 50 percent of tuition fees per academic year, while those at private institutions receive 50 percent of tuition fees up to a maximum of \$20,000 and \$30,000 per academic year for Masters and Doctoral programmes, respectively. In September 2010, the GATE was expanded to include the *Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programme* at level 2.

The number of students benefitting from the GATE programme increased from 27,214 in fiscal year 2004/2005 to 55,740 in fiscal 2012/2013. The average enrolment rate has been 53,000 between 2008/2009 and 2012/2013⁴⁹.

Additionally, citizens can assess soft loans to fund non-tuition related tertiary education expenses through the Government-funded *Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP)*. The fund was established in 2006 and it assists students with expenses such as accommodation and books. Students may apply for loans up to \$25,000 per academic year if studying in Trinidad and

⁴⁹ MSSTTE: National Consultation, Securing and Expanding the GATE Programme, November, 2011.

Tobago or up to \$75,000 per academic year if studying at any of the specially approved institutions within the CARICOM region. In 2012, 1,475 persons benefitted from the programme.⁵⁰

Undoubtedly, tertiary education expansion has come at a huge financial cost to the State. The investment in tertiary education over the past decade has been significant; showing a figure upwards of US 4 billion dollars. The Government, however, remains committed to expanding the system further, to ensure that all citizens have access to education opportunities, especially those who have been disadvantaged due to systemic barriers.

Assuring Quality Tertiary Level education

In the face of the rapid expansion and higher levels of participation in tertiary level education, greater emphasis is being placed on quality assurance and standards. As such, the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training (MTEST) has worked toward the further harmonisation and strengthening of regulatory frameworks, systems and co-ordinating mechanisms for quality assurance and accreditation. To this end, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) and the National Training Agency (NTA) was signed on July 14th, 2010.⁵¹

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⁵¹ Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education. 2010. Policy on Tertiary Education, TVET and Lifelong Learning.

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET): more than just a second chance

Traditionally, Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has been perceived as catering for the dropouts of the formal academic system or for students who are less academically inclined. Some of the issues that have affected the programme over time include: (1) lack of stakeholder buy-in and acceptance of the programme; (2) under-qualified teachers to impart specialised skills; (3) insufficient teachers; (4) lack of resources; and (5) high failure rate of students in the examinations.

Given the paradigm shift in education to develop the skill sets of citizens and to promote entrepreneurship, TVET was restructured to give students a more viable alternative to the traditional academic subjects. As such, the National Training Agency, which was set up in 1999, was given the mandate to rationalise and provide quality assurance for TVET,⁵² and institutionalise mechanisms to establish a strong link between school and the world of work and to foster more active private sector engagement.

As at 2012, there were 2,000 GATE approved programmes/courses, but only 95 were classified as TVET programmes. The Standing Committee on the GATE Programme, however, has been working to increase the number of TVET programmes that qualify for

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GATE funding. Further, in 2013, a Joint Select Committee was convened to establish the guidelines for the expansion of GATE funding to accommodate TVET to the inclusion of Level II, in addition to Level III and above which were previously ineligible.⁵³

In an effort to increase access to and participation in the TVET sector, Workforce Assessment Centres were introduced to assess and certify competencies gained through non-formal means using a system of *Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition*.

The future of TVET is assured through the continued inter-ministerial collaborations that obtain for the purpose of the growth and development of syncretism between “traditional” forms of education, TVET programmes and lifelong learning programmes.

TVET is much more than providing second chances. It’s about producing competent, innovative, enterprising, certified and entrepreneurial citizens capable of contributing to the continued development of Trinidad and Tobago. TVET, along with tertiary education and lifelong learning, also contributes to the sustainable development of the country.

Meanwhile, the NTA is working to ensure that all institutions offering TVET meet quality standards. Through NTA’s quality assurance process, the level of the institution is determined

⁵³ Tenth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Ministries

using a 5-level CVQ classification that was approved by CARICOM. These are:

- Level 1: Semi Skilled
- Level 2: Skilled
- Level 3: Technician
- Level 4: Professional
- Level 5: Advanced Professional

Further, in 2005, the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago was formed to quality assure the entire system for education and training to ensure the imminent existence of a seamless education and training system.⁵⁴ To this end, a Draft Tertiary Qualifications Framework was developed and plans are underway to complete a National Qualifications and Credit Framework. Within this framework a common academic currency obtains, which facilitates cross institutional transfer and credit accumulation.

Literacy in Trinidad and Tobago

Indicator: Literacy Rate of 15-24 year olds

OVER 90 PERCENT LITERACY RATE

In 1995, a *National Literacy Study* in Trinidad and Tobago⁵⁵ showed that the literacy rate for persons 15-24 years was estimated to be 94.1 percent for males and 97.3 percent for females. The Study estimated functional literacy to

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Godfrey St Bernard and Carol Salim Adult Literacy in Trinidad and Tobago: A Study of the Findings of the National Literacy Survey 1995

be 84.5 percent for males and 93.5 percent for females in the 15-24 age group. More recent data⁵⁶ for persons 15-24 years revealed that the literacy rate increased to 99.5 percent for both sexes.

Despite these rates there is major cause for concern especially when the performance of students in English and Mathematics at the national and regional examinations was examined.

Greater emphasis is now being placed on strengthening the foundation in literacy and numeracy at the primary school level and providing targeted interventions. In this regard the Ministry of Education has devised a Project aimed at improving literacy and numeracy levels in students enrolled in Infants Department to Standard I.

The Way Forward

The foregoing assessment of the country's progress in education indicates that the MDG target for universal primary education was met in terms of access and participation but there are qualitative issues that must be addressed.

This Report sought, however, to give a broader assessment of the overall education sector, hence the inclusion of additional indicators for pre-primary, secondary and tertiary education in the

Report.

The main measure used to determine whether a country has attained universal primary education is the net enrolment rate. This means that each child of the specific primary age group should be enrolled in school. However, the enrolment rates and completion rates for primary school suggested that there is an out of school population that is unaccounted for. The problem may well lie with the existing mechanisms for data collection and reporting or, there are drop outs from schools who are beyond the reach of the system. Further investigation is required in order to account for the specific school age population and where necessary improve the efforts to retain children in school.

While there is a range of services provided at all levels of the system to ensure that students make the best of their learning opportunities, the issues of dropouts and under-performance persist. To address these issues, the Government has adopted a new approach towards assessing the developmental needs of children.

In 2012, the *Testing and Neuro-Diagnostics Project* was introduced. The project is designed to treat with the neurological and educational development of students. The project will be piloted in 8 ECCE Centres and 8 primary schools and subsequently extended to more schools. Under this project a comprehensive range of services will be offered to students

⁵⁶ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Institute of Statistics 2008/2009.

including vision and hearing tests.

The country is attempting to reduce its reliance on the oil and gas sector and promote a development agenda based on innovation and creativity. This requires a workforce equipped with the skills and competencies to assist in making that shift. The data, however, show that students are performing below the required standards especially in English and Mathematics at the secondary level. Cognizant of this, the focus is now on strengthening the foundation at the primary level to build these competencies.

Some of the measures proposed to address this include: (1) the development and implementation of a Literacy and Numeracy plan focusing on raising the level of achievement of students from the Infants to Standard 1 levels; (2) Training of literacy and numeracy coaches; and (3) Formation of literacy teams working with teachers in their respective schools.

To further support the economic shift, it is envisioned that the resources provided under the *eCAL Programme* will be creatively utilised to develop the skills of students to compete in an ICT driven global economy. Moreover, this will enhance the teaching and learning process and may be more engaging for students.

While the Government continues to expend heavily on secondary education, questions are being raised about the quality of the graduates being produced and the low number of students gaining

the standard five CSEC passes. This has implications for the dynamic growth of the labour force, employment opportunities and the intake of secondary school graduates for tertiary education.

Mindful of this, some of the measures being undertaken include:

- Commencement of public consultations for the reform of the secondary school curriculum. This provides the opportunity for a closer examination of the curriculum to ensure that it is gender sensitive to the needs of boys and girls. There is sufficient research that identifies gender as a factor that can impact on learning outcomes; and
- Co-hosting of *Career Guidance Programmes* in schools to give students the opportunities to receive information on career choices, the world of work and to interact with jobs and career coaches. The Programme is aiming for a 60 percent increase in participation of secondary schools by 2015.

Another initiative is the *National Mentorship Programme (NMP)*. The Programme is geared toward positive youth development and is aimed at young people between the ages of 9 to 25 years from primary to tertiary level as well as the youth who may not have the opportunity to be exposed to a stable mentor. Participants are paired with role models who will teach them

fundamental life skills, civic responsibility and positive ways of relating to their peers.

The NMP is also intended to impact on the levels of school violence and bullying that have been affecting schools. While all primary schools and Government secondary schools are provided with security services there are still reports of school violence surfacing. The MOE will be embarking on a recruitment drive to increase the number of guidance officers and counsellors in secondary schools and to have the services available in primary schools as well.

One issue that continues to be of growing concern is the performance of boys in the education system. The data indicates that girls are performing better than boys at all levels of the system. Again, this has far reaching implications for the growth and development of the society. This issue is not confined to Trinidad and Tobago. Countries such as the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom are also faced with it. However, there is agreement that it is a new phenomenon since it did not exist 30 to 60 years ago in those countries.⁵⁷ As highlighted later under Goal 3, the *Defining Male Excellence Programme* aims to address the issue. However, more local research has to be done to determine the underlying causes and possible recommendations.

At the secondary and tertiary levels, greater alignment is needed between

the skills being produced and the skills shortages of the economy. The education output must, therefore, be linked with labour market demand, investment and industry diversification. This mismatch has resulted in unemployment and underemployment of university graduates. To ameliorate this situation, tertiary level institutions have introduced additional programmes that are better aligned to the skills needed in the country. These include 16 new programmes from first degrees to the certificate level offered by the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT), and four additional programmes from the post graduate level to doctorate offered by the UWI.

Also, there has been increased access to online learning at tertiary education institutions such as COSTAATT and the UWI, St. Augustine.

Notably, the Standing Committee on the GATE Programme indicated that GATE funding will be prioritised based on the following:

- Key drivers of change in the country and the global economy which may impact on growth, employment and skills over the medium term;
- Quantification of the current and projected demands for skills in sectors with strong employment growth, economically significant sectors constrained by skills deficit and new/emerging sectors expected to deliver sustainable growth and jobs; and

⁵⁷ "Why boys under-perform in school".

- Government's policy on the levels of entrepreneurship required to drive and sustain the economy.

Some of the projects and programmes related to the achievement of this Goal include:

- Expansion of the eCAL Programme in schools;
- Improving infrastructure in Schools;
- Universal Early Childhood Care and Education;
- Improving Academic Performance – Literacy and Numeracy;
- Curriculum Reform;
- Institutional strengthening in the Ministry of Education;
- The revision of teacher training methodologies and expansion of teacher training facilities at the University of Trinidad and Tobago campuses at Valsayn, Corinth and O'Meara;
- Expansion of the UWI through the construction of the Debe Campus, South Trinidad;
- Improvement works at the UTT Campuses in San Fernando and Chaguaramas;
- Renovation works at the UTT, Scarborough Campus, Tobago;
- Plans are being developed for an integrated campus in Tobago to include UTT, UWI and COSTAATT.

Goal 3

*Promote Gender Equality
and Empower Women*



GOAL 3

Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015</p>	<p>Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education</p> <p>Ratio of Men and Women in different disciplines in Tertiary Education</p> <p>Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector</p> <p>Proportion of Women in Different Sectors of the Labour Market</p> <p>Age and Sex-Specific Unemployment Rates</p> <p>Sex-Specific Average Monthly Income</p> <p>Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament</p> <p>Proportion of Positions Held by Women in Local Government</p>

GOAL 3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women



Target:

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Introduction

Trinidad and Tobago, like the rest of the international community, recognizes the need for gender equality and women's empowerment in order to build a just and sustainable society. Women across the globe play a critical role in almost every sphere of their country's development. Unfortunately, in some cases their contributions are overlooked and not valued for reasons varying from cultural factors, religion and discriminatory attitudes.

Trinidad and Tobago is resolute in its promotion of gender equality and the

Understanding gender equality and women's empowerment

Gender equality implies a society in which women and men enjoy the same opportunities, outcomes, rights and obligations in all spheres of life. Equality between men and women exists when both sexes are able to share equally in the distribution of power and influence; have equal opportunities for financial independence through work or through setting up businesses; enjoy equal access to education and the opportunity to develop personal ambitions. A critical aspect of promoting gender equality is the empowerment of women, with a focus on identifying and redressing power imbalances and giving women more autonomy to manage their own lives. Women's empowerment is vital to sustainable development and the realization of human rights for all.

Source:

<http://www.unfpa.org/gender/empowerment.htm>

empowerment of women as evidenced by its ratification of the *Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* in 1990 as well as the implementation of other key pieces of legislation as highlighted later in this chapter. More recently, in 2011, the country's commitment to addressing gender-related issues and accelerating progress towards accomplishment of this Goal was further demonstrated with the establishment of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development. The mandate of the Ministry is to, inter alia, spearhead the national portfolio on gender equality and empowerment; and its strategic objectives are: to advance the status and rights of women and men; develop policies relevant to gender specific

issues thereby promoting the equitable advancement of both sexes in all spheres of development; promote change in gender discriminatory social consciousness and traditions; and build consultative mechanisms with government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and private partners in advancing gender equality.

Through the efforts of the Government, in partnership with NGOs, notable strides were made in fostering a facilitative environment for gender equality and empowerment. The country has succeeded in removing gender-based disparities in many spheres including those relating to the three main indicators of the MDG 3 target of achieving gender parity in primary, secondary, and tertiary level enrolment. Given the strong supportive environment built by Government, the country is also highly likely to accomplish this Goal by 2015 as measured by the gender parity index in enrolment levels and the share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector.

The country's accomplishments towards gender equity and equality have been reflected in improved rankings and scores on a number of international gender indices. On the Global Gender Gap Index, the country ranked 21st out of 135 countries in 2011; and from 2009 to 2011, the overall score on the index improved consistently from 0.730 to 0.737 (a score of 1 indicates equality).

Additionally, in 2012, the country was ranked 1st among the 135 countries surveyed with respect to the sub index on gender equity in the distribution of professional and technical workers.

Trinidad and Tobago also performed well in the Gender Inequality Index (GII) which measures the inequality between women and men in three areas: reproductive health, empowerment and the labour market. The country was ranked 53rd out of 187 countries with a score of 0.331 in 2011.

Trinidad and Tobago's progress in gender equality was also recognized in the Commonwealth Report Card 2010-*"Because you're a Girl - Growing up in the Commonwealth"*. This Report examined the importance of investing in women and girls to accelerate social, economic, and political progress. Out of 54 Commonwealth Member States, Trinidad and Tobago ranked 3rd when evaluated across eight indicators: life expectancy; sheer survival; education for life; early pregnancy; studying hard; political participation; a sporting chance; and the pay gap.

Two important principles governed the approach taken by Trinidad and Tobago towards creating a facilitative environment for attaining gender equality and empowerment: firstly, the assurance that all citizens have equal opportunity to participate in the economy, and could do so profitably and effectively; and secondly, citizens could self-actualise and develop their innate potential. These principles are

considered to be necessary prerequisites for achieving our overarching national goal of social and economic transformation that is based on utilising all our human capital to build a knowledge-based, innovative economy.

These principles have shaped Government's policy on gender equality and empowerment. A main policy shift as outlined in the *Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014* is to build a more inclusive and cohesive society in which there is greater equity in the distribution of resources for all citizens regardless of sex.

This policy, in turn, has informed several key strategies which have enabled the country's success in attaining gender parity and empowerment. These include:

- Promoting greater awareness of gender issues by shaping public policy and implementing practices which are gender-sensitive;
- Reviewing and amending legislation in order to ensure that all legislation and public documents are gender-sensitive and also protect and ensure the rights of women and men in number of areas such as domestic violence and abuse; and
- Developing specific programmes and projects such as training and employment initiatives tailored to men and women in order to address issues peculiar to each sex.

Target: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Indicator: Ratios of Girls to Boys in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education

NEAR GENDER PARITY IN EDUCATIONAL ENROLMENT AT PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION ACHIEVED

Trinidad and Tobago has achieved near gender parity in educational enrolment at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. An examination of Gender Parity Index⁵⁸ (GPI) for education highlighted in **Table 3.1** indicates that the Index at the primary level has approximated one over the period 1999 to 2010. In addition, as discussed under Goal 2, Trinidad and Tobago had met the target of universal enrolment in primary education; and enrolment rates have been over 95 percent for both males and females since 2005 (see **Chart 2.1** under Goal 2). This suggests that gender parity has been achieved in primary education from a statistical perspective.

⁵⁸ Gender differences are assessed in the Gender Parity Index. A parity of less than one indicates differences in favour of males, while a value near one indicates that parity was relatively achieved.

TABLE 3.1**Ratio of Girls to Boys in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Education (1999-2010)**

Year	GPI in Primary Level Enrolment	GPI in Secondary Level Enrolment	GPI in Tertiary Level Enrolment
1999	1	1.1	1.38
2000	0.99	1.1	1.49
2001	0.98	1.08	1.54
2002	0.99	1.11	1.51
2003	0.98	1.09	1.61
2004	0.97	1.07	1.28
2005	0.98	1.05	1.28
2006	0.98	1.04	N/A
2007	0.98	1.04	N/A
2008	0.98	1.04	N/A
2009	0.98	1.04	1.28
2010	0.98	N/A	1.28

Source: Ministry of Education and Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training

However, it is noted that enrolment ratios for males are slightly higher than that of females. While the difference is small and could be the result of data collection methodologies, its consistency requires further investigation to ensure that females are not placed at a disadvantage in accessing primary education.

In secondary education, the GPI was just above one over the period, indicating gender parity has been achieved at that level. Successful

implementation of the national policy to provide universal access to secondary education in 2000 and achievement of universal primary education have ensured that all males and females have equal opportunity to move seamlessly from primary school to secondary school.

At the tertiary level, the trend in the GPI was well above one over the period 1999-2010, indicating the existence of gender disparity in favour of females. This is not surprising when considering that the results of the CSEC showed a higher percentage of females than males who were successful. Student performance in the CSEC is discussed further under MDG 2.

Indicator: Ratio of Men and Women in different disciplines in Tertiary Education⁵⁹

MORE FEMALES ENROLLED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES THAN MALES

Enrolment data from the major tertiary institution, the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus, is consistent with the GPI figures in **Table 3.1**. Female enrolment at the UWI exceeded that of male in six out of seven faculties for the academic years from 2005/2006 to 2009/2010.⁶⁰

The Faculties of Natural Science, Medical Science, Agricultural Science,

⁵⁹This Indicator was added by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

⁶⁰ The University of the West Indies.

Social Science, Humanities and Education and Law had higher enrolment rates for women; the Faculty of Engineering remained the only one where male enrolment outstripped that of female. The extent of the disparity is revealed in the ratio of the number of males to every 100 females in academic year 2009/2010: for the Faculty of Natural Sciences the ratio was 0.71; Medical Sciences 0.42; Agricultural Sciences 0.61; Social Sciences 0.33; Humanities and Education 0.25; and Law 0.29.⁶¹

Indicator: Percentage of Women in Wage Employment in the Non-Agricultural Sector

STRONG PRESENCE OF WOMEN IN THE NON-AGRICULTURE SECTOR BUT INCREASED OVERALL LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION IS NEEDED

Trinidad and Tobago is closing in on achieving a rate of 50 percent of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector.

For the 10-year period (2000-2009), the rate of female participation in non-agriculture sector averaged 42.65 percent. This, in combination with the fact that the rates did not dip below 40 percent, except for 2001, demonstrated a strong presence of women in the non-agricultural sector. These figures compared favourably with the global rate for female participation in the non-agricultural labour force which approximated 40 percent.

⁶¹ The University of the West Indies.

Labour Force Participation by Sex and Age

Overall, the data reflected a gender bias with men having a higher labour force participation rate which averaged 73 percent over the five-year period from 2009 to 2012. More specifically, during 2011 to 2012, 6,900 females fell outside the labour force in the age range 15-19, while the figure for the age range 20-24 was 192,000. Over the same period, the number of males in the age groups 15-19 and 20-24 were 6,400 and 186,000, respectively. These figures showed that a larger number of the female youth population between ages 15-24 were not participating in the labour force. One possible explanation could be that females delayed seeking employment in order to enrol in tertiary level institutions. However, further study in this area is required to develop appropriate policy recommendations to increase female participation in the labour force.

Indicator: Proportion of Women in Different Sectors of the Labour Market⁶²

MORE MALE PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOUR MARKET THAN WOMEN

The participation rate of men in the labour market has been greater than that of women. Over the period 2007-2011, the proportion of men to women in all industries averaged 3:2 (**Table 3.2**). This difference remained fairly consistent over the period.

⁶² This indicator was added by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago

TABLE 3.2

Proportion of Women as Compared to Men in the Labour Market (2007-2011)

Industrial Group	Year	Persons With Jobs			
		Male		Female	
		Number	%	Number	%
Total All Industries	2007	354,200	60	233,600	40
	2008	353,400	59	244,200	41
	2009	350,000	59	238,400	41
	2010	353,900	60	237,500	40
	2011	356,600	60	239,500	40

Source: CSO

Males dominated the labour force approximately 4:1 in almost every sector except in the following areas: Professionals; Technicians and Associate Professionals; Clerks; and Service Workers. In 2011, women accounted for 53 percent of Professionals; 43 percent of Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers; 65 percent of Technical and Associate Professionals; and 76 percent of Clerks and Service Workers.

Indicator: Sex-Specific Unemployment Rates⁶³

OVERALL DECLINES IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR BOTH SEXES BUT FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT DECLINED AT A SLOWER RATE

During 2007-2011, the unemployment rate for women continued to be higher than that of men by an average of 42.8

⁶³ This Indicator was added by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

percent (**Table 3.3**). It is noted, too, that the male unemployment rate fell by 41 percent between 2010 and 2011, while the female rate fell by 28 percent. Though limited, the data demonstrates the need to provide more job opportunities for women.

TABLE 3.3

Unemployment Rate (percent) by Sex 2007-2011

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)	
	Male	Female
2007	3.9	7.9
2008	3.5	6.2
2009	4.6	6.3
2010	4.9	8.3
2011	2.9	6.0

Source: CSO

Indicator: Sex-Specific Average Monthly Income⁶⁴

AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME FOR FEMALES LOWER THAN THAT FOR MALES

The average monthly income for females was lower than that for males across nearly all occupational groups by an average of 20 percent during 2007-2009 (**Table 3.4**). In conjunction with this country's achievement of gender parity in education, this data suggested that increased opportunities for females through educational attainment did not proportionately materialise into increased employment and equitable salary opportunities compared to males.

⁶⁴ This Indicator was added by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

The data presented in **Table 3.4** shows that the wage gap narrowed over the period. In 2009, the estimated average income for men was 5.6 percent higher than that for females, as compared to 8.6 percent from the previous year. The differences in wages were smallest among Clerical, Agricultural and Elementary occupations. For the occupations that drew larger salaries, the differences were more significant.

TABLE 3.4

Average Monthly Income by Sex 2007-2009

Year	Average Monthly Income All Occupations (TT\$)	
	Male	Female
2007	4,112	3,306
2008	4,640	3,758
2009	4,697	3,762

Source: CSO

Gender wage parity continues to elude women in all occupational sectors, with the exception of public sector administrative type work. The data presented is significant when analysed within the context of higher poverty level among female-headed households and the consequences for breaking the cycle of poverty.

Indicator: Proportion of seats held by women in National Parliament

NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS HELD BY WOMEN TRIPLED SINCE 1990 TO 2012 BUT PARITY IS YET TO BE ACHIEVED

Internationally, women in government are under-represented in most countries worldwide compared to men, although there was an increase globally

in the number of women who held parliamentary seats in 2012. In the Caribbean Region, there was an increase of 9.5 percent in the number of women in these positions between 2000 to January 31, 2013.⁶⁵ Both Dominica and Jamaica have had female Prime Ministers. In Trinidad and Tobago, the number of females in the Political System continues to increase; and in May 2010, the country's first female Prime Minister was elected.

The achievement of this milestone of women politics represents a shift in cultural attitudes about gender roles and has served to encourage more women to take an active part in decision making at all levels of the society so as to effectively influence national development.

National efforts are being made to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into every sector of the country's development. Collaborative global network continues to take place to ensure that women have a real voice in all governance institutions, and that the participation of women at all levels of political governance is both respected and supported from the judiciary to the civil service, as well as in the private sector and civil society. In so doing, women can participate equally with men in public dialogue and decision-making and influence the paths that will determine the future of their families and countries. As such, the GORTT took a concerted step toward encouraging greater participation by

⁶⁵ The Millennium Development Goals Report 2013.

women in political service at the municipal, regional and national levels.

Indicator: Proportion of Positions Held by Women in Local Government ⁶⁶

Like other countries in the Caribbean Region, Trinidad and Tobago is moving decisively towards achieving parity within the political system. The number of women who held seats in the Parliament increased from 11 percent late 1990s to 27 percent at the last general election in 2010 (**Chart 3.1**). In absolute terms, the number of seats held by women in National Parliament over the years has tripled with 12 seats out of 41 held by women in the National Parliament in 2012. In 2010, women made up 36 percent of all Ministerial positions.

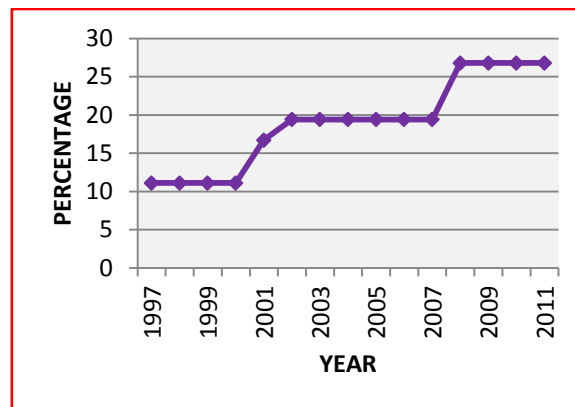
Following the recent 2013 Local Government Elections in Trinidad and Tobago, women held 65 out of 191, or 34 percent, of local government positions. This represented a marginal increase of 0.7 percent from the 2010 elections where women held 54 out of 164 local government positions.

Trinidad and Tobago is committed to increasing women's participation in government at both the national and local levels. This is evident by the country's decision at the 2011 UN General Assembly to initiate a mentoring programme for girls from 11 to 18 years old who were interested in entering the field of politics.

⁶⁶ This indicator was added by Trinidad and Tobago

CHART 3.1

Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliament (1997 - 2011)



Source: CSO

Domestic Violence – a Barrier to Self-Actualisation

Domestic Violence⁶⁷ is a tragic reality that affects the lives of many women in all socio-economic and educational classes. It occurs primarily within the family unit in both developed and developing countries alike. Domestic violence is not limited by cultural and religious barriers, and impedes the right of women to participate fully in society. Women are often victims of incest, rape and domestic violence that can have tragic results such as trauma, physical handicap or even death.

As we move forward in safeguarding our men and women, emphasis must be placed on the effective enforcement of

⁶⁷ Domestic violence in Trinidad and Tobago is defined as any physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, or financial abuse committed by a person against a spouse, child, any other person who is a member of the household or dependent.

the laws like the Domestic Violence Act of 1999 to further demonstrate our zero-tolerance for domestic violence. Government also recognises that a general change in attitude towards gender issues by enforcement agencies and the public was required.

Male Marginalisation – An Emerging Issue?

Both girls and boys have equal access to educational opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago which has resulted, in part, in the laudable achievement of gender parity in school enrolment at the primary and secondary level; and at the tertiary level, female enrolment is found to be higher than that of male.

In moving beyond enrolment levels towards performance of students, it is found that girls tend to outperform boys in the educational system as previously discussed in this chapter and in MDG 2 of this Report. As in other Caribbean countries, the issue of female versus male performance in the educational system has evoked questions and concerns about male marginalisation in Trinidad and Tobago.

While men still hold higher paying jobs and form the major part of the labour force in this country, the concern of male underperformance in school leading to male marginalisation is real given the nexus between education and economic empowerment. Unchecked, this can have long-term negative

consequences such as decreased male participation rates in the labour market, increased poverty levels among males and anti-social and even criminal behaviour.

Lower Wage and Labour Market Participation Rates for Women

Although narrowing, the wage gap between men and women in favour of the former exists and continues to pose a challenge in achieving gender equality in the work place. Lower female participation in the labour market also has implications for elevating and empowering women, economically.

As noted earlier, even though more women than men attained tertiary level education, there was not a commensurate increase in the number of female employed or equitable salary. An IADB study in 2012⁶⁸ noted that while women in Latin America and the Caribbean were better educated they received lower wages. Thus, there is a direct link between poverty and gender.

In Trinidad and Tobago, poverty is higher among females since women's wages are lower and fewer women in this group are in paid employment.⁶⁹ Our policy of inclusion and economic and social empowerment of citizens

⁶⁸ Latin American and Caribbean Women: Better Educated, Lower Paid.
<http://www.iadb.org/en/news/webstories/2012-10-15/wage-gap-between-men-and-women,10155.html>

⁶⁹ ADVOCACY BRIEF: Strengthening Women's Economic Security and Rights.
http://www.unifemcar.org/ge_iss.cfm?SubID=168&link_1

dictates that special attention must be paid to addressing the traditional societal views on the role of women, and structures and systems that stymie labour market opportunities for women and perpetuate gender inequality in the work environment.

The Way Forward

Eliminating Violence against Women

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has taken a stance to combat the harsh realities of domestic violence primarily through legislation. The Domestic Violence Act of 1999, for example, empowers any woman or other person, such as a child or dependant, being faced with domestic violence to seek a protection order. The Act also treats sexual violence as a serious crime which carries a penalty of five or more years.

While this piece of legislation is meant to address violence in its widest sense, women and children continue face instances of abuse.

Through both Government and private sector agencies, a system has also been established to tackle the problem of domestic violence and address these gaps. Together, the work of these entities is expected to lead to further improvements in law enforcement, increased education and awareness on the issue among members of the public, and a wider range of support services

being offered to victims. Some of these agencies are:

- *The Domestic Violence Unit* - a ministerial unit which provides a Domestic Violence Hotline. The National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-SAVE) is a toll free service that is operated on a 24 hours a day, seven days per week (inclusive of public holidays) basis. It provides listening and referral service for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence inclusive of referrals to safe-houses.
- *The National Family Services Division* - a ministerial unit that manages counseling centres, provides counseling and psychological care for victims/survivor of violence and offers gender-sensitive training for public officials. The National Family Services Division utilizes remedial, preventative, developmental and supportive approaches to address, *inter alia*, issues relating to the child and family such as drug abuse, crime, domestic and/or family violence, relationship issues, and sexual abuse. The Division also investigates cases which are referred from the Courts.
- *The Community Police Division* - a ministerial unit which treats with domestic violence cases, in addition to providing safe-houses and assisting in winning legal recourse for victims.
- *The Coalition against Domestic Violence* is one of the main non-

governmental organizations assisting survivors of domestic violence. This entity is an alliance of organisations and individuals working against domestic and other gender-based violence. The Coalition engages in research, public education, counselling and provides legal and educational aid to victims.

- *The Rape Crisis Society of Trinidad and Tobago*, a Non-Governmental Organisation, provides support to survivors of sexual violence. The Society provides counselling services and engages in public awareness programmes.
- *Men against Violence Against Women (MAVAW)*, a social activist group, engages in public awareness programmes and actively participates in reaching solutions to the problem of violence. MAVAW provides assistance to victims and conducts research on the incidence and intensity of violence in relationships.
- *The Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action* is an association which established a training programme on domestic violence for police officers and social workers.

Developing and Implementing Gender Policy Initiatives

In moving forward, there is still much more work to be done in relation to establishing a national regulatory framework to address gender inequality

while at the same time empowering women.

To this end, after widespread public consultations involving key stakeholders and citizens, a Draft *National Policy on Gender and Development* was prepared. It was designed to transform inequitable gender relations with the aim of improving women's status relative to that of men. The intention is to influence state policy in all areas and to identify strategies to facilitate new and equitable relations between women and men.

The Draft *National Policy* recognises the critical role of government in protecting the rights of workers, providing social protection and laying down equitable policy frameworks for entrepreneurship and business. It also provides a framework for including gender perspectives in all activities of government and civil society, thereby promoting the full and equal participation of men and women in the development process.

Government has also embarked upon a *Gender Responsive Budgeting* initiative to ensure that budgets and economic policies equitably address the needs of men, women, boys and girls. This is aimed at closing any social and economic gaps that exist. Important to this cause is the critical role of all Ministries in their capacity to conduct gender analytical research. This involves the identification of specific needs and interests and collecting,

analyzing and disseminating sex-disaggregated data to constitute a baseline against which the differential impact of policy, project and budget commitments on women, men, boys and girls can be monitored.

To date, Draft *Gender Budgeting Responsive Guidelines* have been developed and, after consultation with key stakeholders, are being finalized. The implementation of these Guidelines is expected to further impact on gender equality and empowerment within the country.

Addressing Male Performance in Education

To treat with the issue of declining male participation in tertiary and secondary education, Government commissioned and completed a gender study on the factors affecting male entry and re-entry into the post-secondary and tertiary education system. Recommendations being considered for implementation include: the establishment of a results-based performance management system for the education sector as a whole to provide data for strategic decision-making; the creation of a national database of student statistics to track student progress, retention, drop-out and re-entry; and the provision of incentives for institutions to ensure student retention and success. These measures are expected to be used to encourage institutions to maintain established performance standards for male participation and achievement.

Government, through the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development also implemented the *Defining Masculine Excellence Programme* which was developed as a means of stemming the tide of societal problems including violence associated with the negative concepts and perceptions of masculinity. One of the programme's key objectives is to reduce the incidence of domestic and other forms of gender-based violence. The programme targets males aged 14 years and over and provides them with the skills to facilitate personal and group transformation, develop self-esteem and positive attitudes to life as well as build skills to assume positive leadership roles in all areas of life.

Moreover, in moving forward, the current review of the primary and secondary school curricula presents an opportunity for Trinidad and Tobago to produce a more gender sensitive curriculum to guide young persons on reproductive health and life decisions.

Promoting Equal Work for Equal Pay

As mentioned previously, there still exists a gender gap in Trinidad and Tobago in terms of equal work for equal pay, though the gap has been narrowing. This must be addressed if the country is to achieve even greater success towards gender equality and empowerment.

To foster women's ability to participate in the labour force and earn wages in a fair and consistent manner, special

programmes were designed for women to develop and enhance their leadership skills and qualities. For example, the *Women in Harmony Programme* specifically targets unemployed women 26–45 years who are also single heads of household; and the *Non-traditional Skills Training Programme for Women* targets women 18–55 years and is geared towards assisting in reducing the level of poverty and vulnerability of women to gender-based violence and exploitation.

Gender Equality and Empowerment through Legislation and Law Enforcement

As mentioned earlier, a critical part of achieving gender equality and empowerment has been through legislative transformations. Several pieces of legislation, some of which were in fulfilment of key international conventions, have already been introduced, amended and ratified towards accomplishing this Goal. These include:

- Ratification of the *Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women* in 1990. In this regard, the Government has completed an appraisal of all laws containing discriminatory provisions vis-à-vis women and which required amendment to bring them into conformity with the Convention;
- Passage of the *Counting Unremunerated Work Act* in 1996, thereby completing the ratification of the *Equal Remuneration*

Convention of the International Labour Organisation;

- Support for the creation of a *Convention on Domestic Workers* which was adopted in June 2011; and
- Enactment and amendment of several pieces of legislation which support gender equality and women’s empowerment. These include the:
 - Domestic Violence Act, 1999;
 - Sexual Offences Act, 1986 and the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2000;
 - Public Assistance Regulations, 1997;
 - Maternity Protection Act, 1998;
 - Co-habitational Relationships Act, 1998;
 - Legal Aid and Advice Act, 1976;
 - Equal Opportunities Act 2000; and
 - Trafficking of Persons Act, 2011.

While these legislation exist, as mentioned, in order to achieve even greater success in gender empowerment and equality, emphasis is now needed on law enforcement and the swift delivery of justice when rights are infringed. On-going initiatives towards strengthening law enforcement agencies like reform of the judicial system are also expected to positively impact and thereby enable the fulfilment of this Goal by 2015.

Some of the projects and programmes related to the achievement of this Goal include:

- *Strengthening State Accountability and Community Action to End Gender Based Violence in Trinidad and Tobago* is a collaborative initiative with UN Women. This project focuses specifically on reducing gender-based violence and sexual violence through the strategies of: increasing state actors' competencies; strengthening accountability; and promoting social and cultural change through youth-led and community driven gender responsive social communications. The project is aimed at the development of a multi-sectoral strategic plan to address the protection, prevention and punishment of gender-based violence and sexual violence.
- *Women's City Centre* is a collaborative initiative of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the IADB Project Team El Salvador. This Centre will provide integrated service for women (a one-stop shop) across five major areas, namely: violence against women; sexual and reproductive health; economic autonomy; community education; and child care.
- *Establishment of a Central Registry on Domestic Violence* is an initiative of the Government through the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development to

establish a central data base system of all agencies/organisations that collect data pertaining to domestic violence. The aim of the Central Registry on Domestic Violence is to monitor and supervise systems that would permit retrieval of requisite input data that would be necessary in enabling policy-makers and other stakeholders to:

- Obtain a profile of victims and persons accused;
- Understand the frequency and incidence of domestic violence;
- Identify the groups at risk;
- Develop intervention programmes; and
- Monitor the effectiveness of violence prevention and intervention activities.

Goal 4

Reduce Child Mortality

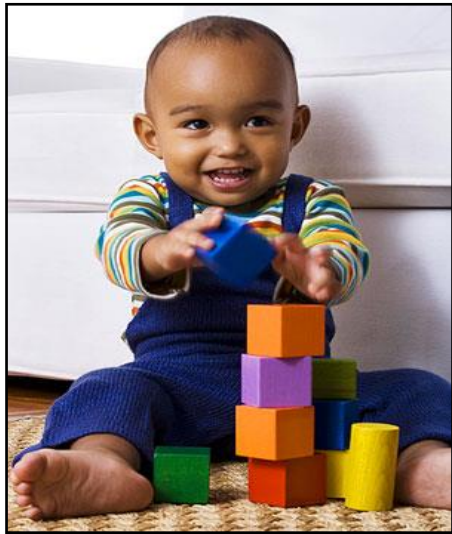


GOAL 4

Reduce Child Mortality

TARGETS	INDICATORS
Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	Under-five mortality rate Infant mortality rate Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles

GOAL 4 Reduce Child Mortality



Target:

Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015 the under-five mortality rate

Introduction

Child health concerns the segment of a population aged 0-14. In Trinidad and Tobago, this cohort accounts for just over 20 percent of the total population with the most vulnerable being aged 0-4, accounting for around 7 percent.⁷⁰

Given the awareness that the health and well-being of the youngest is critical for future national development, the

Government of Trinidad and Tobago has embraced the Goal of reducing child mortality as part of its broader strategy to improve child health overall.

Its strategic approach to the issue includes the essential elements of human development and a fit and healthy nation, through access to quality healthcare and other basic services, with specific emphasis on vulnerable groups, including women and children. More importantly, the Ministry of Health is taking a firm stance in addressing the internal gaps in data collection within the health system, formalising a modern health services structure and updating the policies and procedures to ensure alignment with modern day practices in order to significantly reduce the under-five mortality rate.

The growing importance of this issue is heightened by the fact that, from the reproductive health perspective, the country also faced relatively low fertility rates; the rate was 77.1⁷¹ in 1990, dropping to 46.6 in 2005. The latest data suggests that, in 2008, the rate stood at 54.2, a decrease of 22.9 from the 1990 figure. However, there has been a minimal growth in the general fertility rate from 1.61 in January 2004 to 1.64 in January 2008.

The National Performance Framework 2012-2015 highlighted the Key Result Areas (KRAs) of a “Fit and Healthy Nation” and delivering “First Class Healthcare” to the population.

⁷¹ General Fertility Rate (GFR), CSO. The number of live births that occurs in a year per 1000 women of child-bearing age (15-49 years).

⁷⁰ Census 2011 Demographic Report, CSO

Emphasis is therefore placed not only on good nutrition but also access to efficient and quality healthcare for citizens. The outputs of these KRAs are expected to impact on reducing child mortality. The importance of child health also features prominently in the *Ministry of Health's Strategic Plan 2012-2016* in which child health is listed as a strategic core priority. The prominence placed on child health in Trinidad and Tobago is reflected in the congruence of the MDG target and national target for reducing child mortality.

Trinidad and Tobago's performance has been mixed towards meeting this MDG. The country has been highly successful in providing its population with the necessary immunization to prevent deaths from vaccine-treatable diseases. In particular, immunization coverage for Measles, Mumps and Rubella was 83 percent in 2012.⁷² Also, while there was little net change in the under-5 mortality rate (U5MR) when comparing the 1990 figure to that of 2008, the country has recorded significant gains in reversing the upward trend in this rate since 2003 and is now poised to push forward in bringing the rate closer to the MDG target. Still, the U5MR is yet to reach single-digit figures.

An analysis of the infant mortality rate and the causes of infant mortality revealed that neonatal deaths were the largest contributor to the high U5MR and that greater interventions in maternal and neonatal health care are needed to bring this rate under control.

While the mortality rate of children aged 1-4 was found to be very low and declining, deaths classified as injuries, poisonings and external causes were found to be the top cause of deaths in this age group. Consequently, closer monitoring is needed to ensure child protection from potential cases of violence.

Target: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015 the under-five mortality rate

Effective health policy can be credited with the reversal of the upward trend in child mortality since 2003 and up to the year for which the most recent data were available. However, much more needs to be done to push the rate further down since it remains above the calculated MDG target of 5.4 per 1,000 live births based on the 1990 baseline, as well as the national target of 5 per 1000 live births⁷³. Emphasis has, therefore, been placed on effective maternal and child care management through heightened implementation of policies and procedures and making available more trained human resources.

⁷² Expanded Programme on Immunization Report 2012.

⁷³ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014

Indicator: Under-five mortality rate

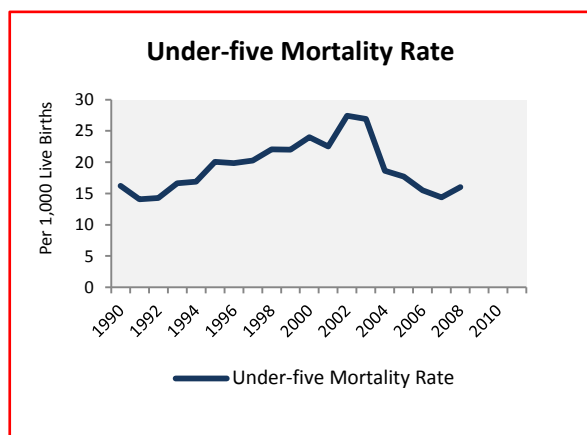
REVERSED INCREASING TREND IN CHILD MORTALITY BUT FURTHER REDUCTION NEEDED

Although children are classified as those aged 0-14, a child's survival to age 5 is a strong indicator of the likelihood of his/her survival to maturity, given that children are most vulnerable in the first few years of their lives. The U5MR, therefore, is a useful indicator of child mortality in general.

In 1990, the U5MR was 16.24 per 1,000 live births. The Rate peaked at 27.4 in 2002 before declining to 16.0 in 2008, representing a decrease of 42 percent, as shown below in **Chart 4.1**.

CHART 4.1

Under-Five Mortality Rate (1990-2008)



Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report 2009

Therefore, the country has recorded a significant gain in reversing the acceleration of this Rate since 2003 and is now poised to push forward in bringing the rate closer to the MDG target.

Notably, a UNICEF Study in Infant and Under-five Mortality in Trinidad and Tobago estimated that the U5MR for 2013 at Public Health Institutions only was 13.2 per 1,000 live births.⁷⁴

The U5MRs (deaths per 1,000 live births) at Public Health Institutions only for the years 2011 to 2013 were:

- ❖ 2011: 19.0
- ❖ 2012: 18.0
- ❖ 2013: 13.2

Source: *UNICEF Study in Infant and Under-Five Mortality Trinidad and Tobago*.

Expanding access to public reproductive and child health care services, instituting measures to retain and recruit additional medical and nursing professionals, and increasing awareness of the importance of ante-natal and child care among the population aided in reducing the U5MR.

The mortality rate of children aged 1-4 was found to be very low and declining, showing an overall decline from 3.6 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 2.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2008 (see **Chart 4.4** below). Deaths classified as injuries, poisonings and external causes were found to be the top causes of deaths in this age group. Consequently, closer monitoring is needed to ensure child protection from potential cases of violence.

Despite the gains in reducing the U5MR, the targeted reduction in the child

⁷⁴ UNICEF Study in Infant and Under-Five Mortality Trinidad and Tobago, 2013.

mortality rate may not be met by 2015. Like many other developed and developing countries, the U5MR is yet to reach single-digit figures.

In a renewed effort to further reduce this Rate, current principal strategies and measures include:

- Developing the *Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures towards improved Maternal and Child Health Care*;
- Implementing an audit system to monitor adherence to these protocols and procedures;
- Expanding and sustaining a cadre of trained professionals in Medical and Nursing Labour Wards, and Antenatal, Perinatal and Postnatal management in secondary care institutions;
- Standardizing methods of data collection, data analysis, data reporting and medical records; and
- Completing the Maternal and Child Health Plan.

These initiatives are intended to transform child health care structure and function and create a modern system to ensure proper procedures in treatment and overall health of the child. This will improve the delivery of care that will positively impact the child mortality rate.

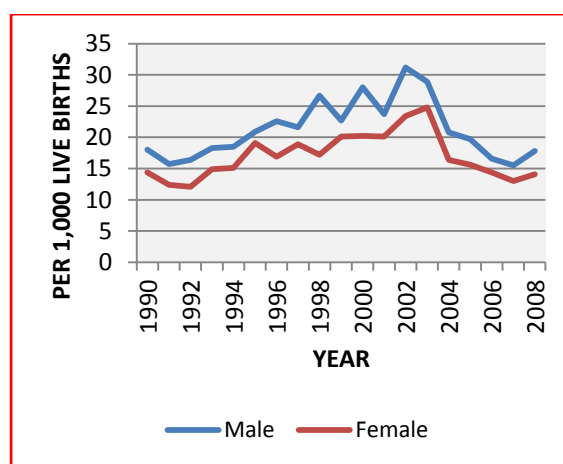
Under-Five Mortality Rate by Sex and Administrative Area

Over the reporting period, both the male and female U5MRs demonstrated an

increasing trend from 1990 to the early 2000s, followed by a general decline. In 2008, the female U5MR was 14.1 deaths per 1,000 live births while the male Rate was 17.8. Disaggregation by sex reveals that the U5MR was consistently higher for male children; averaging 25 percent more than the female rate for the period covered (**Chart 4.2**).

CHART 4.2

Under-Five Mortality Rate by Sex



Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report 2009

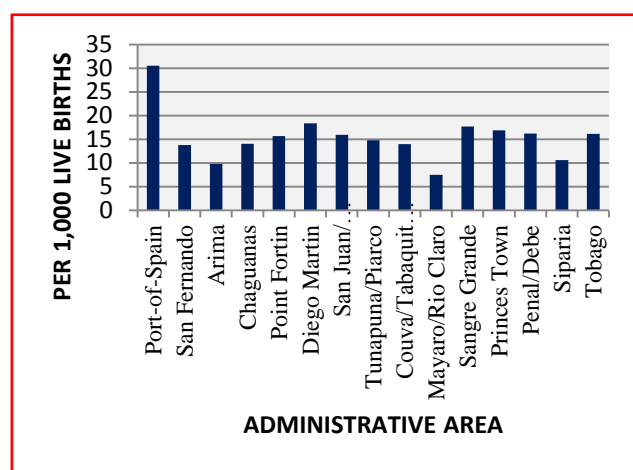
The change of administrative boundaries over the past two decades hindered the comparison of the U5MR in different geographic areas of the country across time. Disaggregation by administrative area for 2008, however, revealed that the capital, Port of Spain, had the highest U5MR of 30.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in that year while the rural district of Mayaro/Rio Claro had the lowest at 7.5 per 1,000 live births (see **Chart 4.3** below).

Excluding Port of Spain, the variation in the rate was relatively small with a standard deviation of approximately 3.1 from the national average of 16.0 deaths

per 1000 live births, suggesting minimal inequalities between geographic areas. In the absence of comparisons across time, however, these observations cannot be taken as definitive trends but rather as a snapshot of the situation for that particular year.

CHART 4.3

Under-Five Mortality Rate by Administrative Area (2008)



Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report 2009

Indicator: Infant Mortality Rate

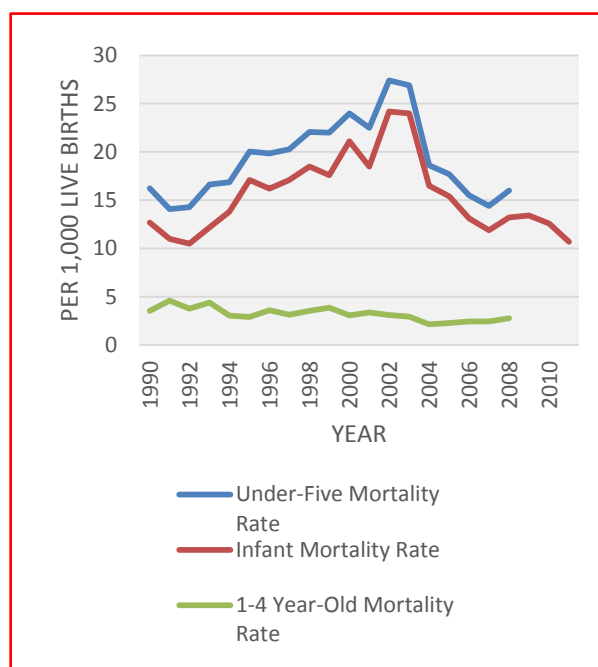
SPECIAL ATTENTION NEEDED TO REDUCE DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR, ESPECIALLY DURING THE PERINATAL AND NEONATAL STAGES

When the U5MR is decomposed into its constituents, the story of child mortality in Trinidad and Tobago becomes much clearer. As illustrated in **Chart 4.4**, the largest contributor to the U5MR has consistently been the infant mortality rate with the deaths of infants under 1 year of age accounting for approximately 83 percent of all deaths of children under five years (<5 years) between

1990 and 2008. The infant mortality rate also declined from a peak of 24.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2002 to 10.7 in 2011,⁷⁵ representing a decrease of 61 percent.

CHART 4.4

Under-Five, Infant and 1-4 Year-Old Mortality Rates



Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report (Data for 2009-2011 are provisional estimates)

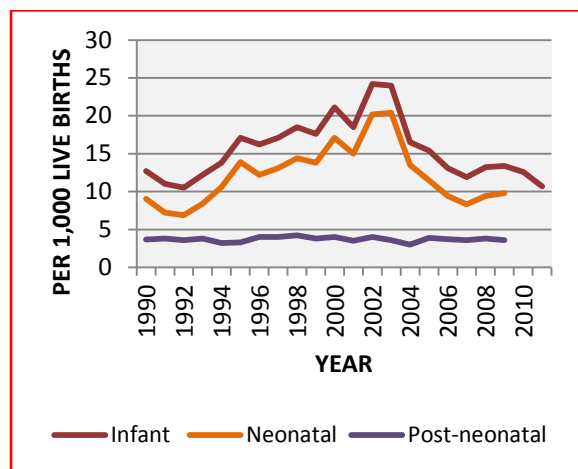
An even more accurate diagnosis is obtained when the infant mortality rate is disaggregated. As shown in **Chart 4.5** below, the majority of infant deaths occur in the neonatal stage, that is, within the first 28 days of life. Neonatal deaths accounted for an average of 77 percent of infant deaths between 1990 and 2009, and 64 percent of the deaths of children under-5 between 1990 and

⁷⁵ Provisional data was provided by CSO.

2008. Additional data suggests that most of these deaths in turn occurred within the first 7 days of life and therefore part of the perinatal period⁷⁶.

CHART 4.5

Infant, Neonatal and Post-neonatal Mortality Rates



Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report (Data for 2009-2011 are provisional estimates)

Like the mortality rate of children aged 1-4, however, the post-neonatal mortality rate, which concerns infants who are older than one month and less than a year, remained low, showing little change from 3.7 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to an estimated 3.6 per 1,000 live births in 2009.

These findings illustrate that Trinidad and Tobago’s greatest challenge lies in the care of new-borns and that children who live for more than a month have a

⁷⁶ The perinatal mortality rate was not included because its computation includes the number of still births and is therefore an inaccurate estimation of the mortality rate within the first seven days of life. Data concerning deaths within the first seven days, however, showed these to be the majority of neonatal deaths (CSO Population & Vital Statistics Reports).

high likelihood of surviving to adulthood.

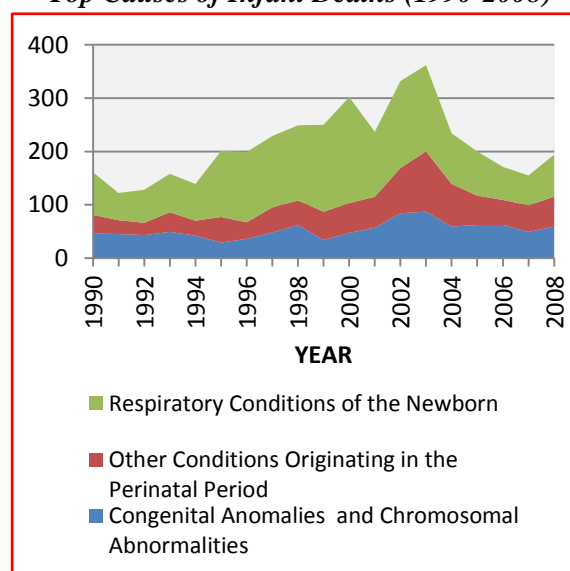
Causes of Child Mortality

Infants

Analysis of the top causes of infant deaths (under 1 year) between 1990 and 2008 supports the conclusion that the majority of deaths were attributed to conditions originating in the perinatal period⁷⁷ (**Chart 4.6**).

CHART 4.6

Top Causes of Infant Deaths (1990-2008)



Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Reports

Chief among these were respiratory conditions of the new-born, including respiratory distress syndrome, intrauterine hypoxia and birth asphyxia, and fetal and new-born aspiration of various substances. This category of conditions accounted for an average of 34.5 percent of all infant deaths over

⁷⁷ Respiratory conditions of the newborn are classified under the broader category of ‘certain conditions originating in the perinatal period’ based on the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Diseases 10 (ICD-10).

the reporting period, accounting for as much as 52 percent in the year 2000.

Congenital anomalies, including malformations of the heart and circulatory system and the nervous system, as well as chromosomal abnormalities, were responsible for approximately 18 percent of infant deaths, and as much as 26 percent in 2006. This made congenital anomalies the second largest cause of infant mortality overall.

Conditions classified as 'other perinatal conditions', including bacterial sepsis of the new-born and haemorrhagic and haematological disorders of the fetus and new-born, were the third top cause of death. These accounted for about 17 percent of all infant deaths between 1990 and 2008. For specific years, however, as in 2004, it surpassed congenital anomalies as the second top cause accounting for 28 percent of infant deaths.

Although great strides were made in the latter half of the last decade to reduce the infant mortality rate, the fact that respiratory conditions of the new-born and other conditions originating in the perinatal period remain among the top three (3) causes of infant deaths, (30 percent and 21 percent, respectively, for the most recent year available), suggests that greater attention must be paid, not only to neonatal care, but more importantly to antenatal care which significantly influences neonatal health. For example, Respiratory Distress Syndrome, which is a consistent contributor to infant death in

Trinidad and Tobago, occurs most frequently in premature infants, children of diabetic mothers and those delivered by caesarean section. Premature births, in turn, are often the consequence of failures to detect high risk conditions during pregnancy.

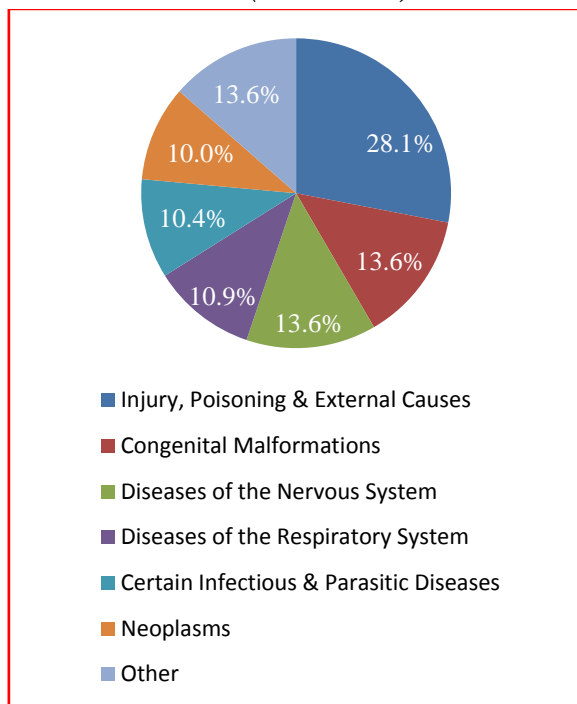
Children Aged 1-4

The mortality rate for children aged 1-4 has been historically low and continues to decline. These deaths have not contributed hugely to Trinidad and Tobago's U5MR. However, the causes of death among this cohort must still be examined to identify any particularly worrying trends.

As **Chart 4.8** below illustrates, almost 30 percent of the deaths of children between the ages of 1 and 4 is the result of causes which fall under the classification of injury, poisoning and external causes. While many, if not most, of these cases may be the result of accidental injuries, closer inspection is needed to ensure the protection of children from acts of violence or abuse. Government has taken decisive action to protect the nation's children through the establishment of the *Children's Authority*, and has already begun to implement several of the recommendations of the Cabinet-appointed *Child Protection Task Force* discussed later in this Chapter.

CHART 4.8

Top Causes of Deaths of Children, 1-4 Year-Olds (2004 - 2008)



Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report

The remaining causes of death account for similar proportions of total deaths in the 1-4 age-group. Congenital malformations, diseases of the nervous system and other causes of deaths each accounts for 13.6 percent. Diseases of the respiratory system, certain infectious and parasitic diseases and cancer (neoplasms) are responsible for 10-11 percent each.

Although the actual numbers of deaths among this cohort may be low, the vulnerability of children warrants that child care continues to be improved upon and expanded to keep these figures as low as possible.

In both the cases of infant mortality and the mortality of children aged 1-4, it should be noted that unlike in many

other countries of the developing world, children rarely die from chronic malnutrition in Trinidad and Tobago as prior initiatives have been hugely successful in treating with diarrhoeal conditions and preventing infectious diseases. Similarly, expansion of the *Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) Programme*, through the provision of anti-retroviral therapy and milk substitutes to all HIV positive mothers, has minimised the HIV transmission rate to infants. Coupled with the provision of the necessary care to children who do contract HIV, these measures have resulted in HIV-related children deaths being extremely low. This issue is discussed in greater detail under the MDG 6.

Still, more investigation is needed into the incidence of diseases affecting children and the occurrence of micronutrient deficiencies as conditions such as protein-energy malnutrition (PEM), iron deficiency and child obesity do exist.

In addressing child mortality, it is also important to note that both infant and under-5 mortality are highest among the offspring of mothers or caregivers who have had no education, or who have attained only pre-school or primary school education.⁷⁸ This shows another risk associated with low educational attainment, which has also been linked to poverty as highlighted under Goal 1. While greater emphasis must be placed on educating mothers

⁷⁸ 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey reanalysed by UNICEF, April 2007.

about caring for their children, in addition to maternal care itself, it is also anticipated that Government's efforts in building human capital through education to elevate persons out of poverty, as previously discussed, will also serve to mitigate this problem in the long-term.

Indicator: Proportion of 1 year old children immunized against measles

NOTABLE SUCCESSES ACHIEVED IN IMMUNIZATION AGAINST MEASLES AND OTHER VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DEATHS

As illustrated in the previous section, infectious diseases are not a significant cause of child mortality in Trinidad and Tobago. In fact, there have been almost no deaths in the country due to vaccine-preventable diseases with no new cases of polio since 1972; measles since 1991; neonatal tetanus since 1997; and rubella since 1999.

With specific regard to measles, the data indicates that the proportion of one-year old children immunized against the disease increased from just 35 percent in the year 2000 to approximately 89 percent in 2006, with 91 percent of 18-month old infants also being immunized.⁷⁹ The number of one-year old infants immunized against measles was estimated at 83 percent in 2012.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

TABLE 4.1
Child Immunization Schedule of Trinidad and Tobago

Age	Immunization Against	Vaccine
3 months	Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenza type B, Poliomyelitis	Pentavalent (DPT/Hep B/Hib), Attenuated trivalent oral poliomyelitis vaccine (OPV)
4-5 months	Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis, Hepatitis B infection, Haemophilus influenza type B, Poliomyelitis V	Pentavalent (DPT/Hep B/Hib)
6 months	Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis, Hepatitis B infection, Haemophilus influenza type B, Poliomyelitis	Pentavalent (DPT/Hep B/Hib)
12-15 months	Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Yellow Fever	Combined Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Attenuated Yellow Fever Vaccine
18 months	Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis, Poliomyelitis	Booster DPT OPV
5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, Measles, Mumps, Rubella	Boosters DPT OPV MMR
9-12 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Yellow Fever	Tetanus, Diphtheria (Td), Yellow Fever vaccine

Source: Ministry of Health

This success is largely due to the nationwide *Expanded Programme on Immunization* which provides free vaccines to children according to the schedule in **Table 4.1** above. Emphasis is especially placed on immunization during the first 5 years of life and is

enforced with enrolment in primary school being conditional on receiving the required vaccines.

It was estimated in 2006 that only 50.2 percent of children were fully immunized according to the Ministry of Health's schedule.⁸⁰ Coverage increased to 92 percent in 2012⁸¹ which has been effective in minimising the threat posed by vaccine-preventable diseases to the lives of children in Trinidad and Tobago.

Further Reducing Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is viewed as a key indicator of the overall health of a community, state or nation and has implications for a country's economic fortunes in the long-run. Moreover, the death of a child is far more consequential for those directly affected. Reducing infant and child mortality is, therefore, an imperative.

As stated earlier, the largest contributor to the U5MR rate has been the infant mortality rate with the deaths of infants under 1 year of age accounting for approximately 83 percent of all deaths in the under-5 age group between 1990 and 2008; and that the majority of infant deaths occurred in the neonatal stage accounting for an average of 77 percent of infant deaths. This illustrated that Trinidad and Tobago's greatest challenges were in the ante-natal and neo-natal care.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Annual Report on Performance 2013, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development.

It is noted that Trinidad and Tobago arrested the upward trend in the infant mortality rate which peaked in 2002, falling drastically from 24.2 deaths per 1,000 live births to 10.7 in 2011. However, the 2011 figure is a minimal decrease from the 1991 figure which stood at 11 deaths per 1,000 live births. Thus, while progress has been made, more work is needed to further increase the survival rate of infants.

The factors affecting child health and infant mortality are wide and involve interrelated issues such as poverty, gender, health status and educational background of parents. Further investigation is required in determining the extent to which these issues affect child health and survival in order to focus policy interventions for better outcomes. As such, a multi-dimensional approach to increasing child survival is necessary, including collaborative efforts among public health agencies and private medical providers, public social services, NGOs, families and communities.

The Way Forward

As Trinidad and Tobago moves forward in combatting child mortality, the Government has adopted a multifaceted approach in addressing the issues based on a combination of legislative and policy reforms and implementation of key projects and programmes. While there have been notable successes thus far, it is recognized that much more needs to be done towards the

achievement of this Goal and the improvement of child health in general. These are discussed further below.

Addressing Child Abuse and Neglect

A key aspect of protecting our nation's children is the establishment of the relevant institutional and governance structures. The *Children's Authority* was established, inter alia, to safeguard children, from neglect and abuse. While several pieces of legislation pertaining to protection of children remain to be proclaimed, the *Children's Authority* represents a step in the right direction in addressing the external causes of deaths for infants aged 1-4.

More recently, in December 2013, Government established the *Child Protection Task Force* which was tasked with making recommendations to accelerate the process of getting the *Children's Authority* fully functional, ensure that relevant pieces of legislation were proclaimed and prevent problems within existing child protection programmes and agencies. The Task Force completed the exercise and its recommendations were accepted and are being implemented. These efforts are expected to serve as further impetus in reducing the under-five mortality rate due to external causes.

A Deeper Understanding of Under-Five Mortality related issues

In order to effectively address some of the root causes of child mortality in Trinidad and Tobago, Government recognises that more investigation is

required into these causes. Examining the incidence of diseases affecting children and the occurrence of micronutrient deficiencies will also play a critical role in understanding these issues and how to tackle them.

The machinery is already in place for investigating these issues in the form of the *Inter-Ministerial Research Council*. This Council comprises key stakeholders in the social sector and is aimed at conducting social research relevant to advancing national development. Through this Body, Government has also forged partnerships with Civil Society and tertiary institutions in conducting developmental research.

Improved Maternal and Child Care

In advancing progress towards this Goal, Government has adopted a comprehensive approach based on deepening the inevitable linkages between maternal and child care. Moreover, the special attention is being paid to infant mortality 1-year and under, particularly during the perinatal and neonatal phases; raising immunization coverage for measles from 85 percent; and further educating mothers in maternal and child care. Consequently, several policy reforms and programmes have been undertaken and, in some instances, implementation heightened.

Policy Reform

- Formulation of a *Childhood Obesity Prevention Policy*

- Revision of the *Maternal and Child Health Policy*
- Finalisation of the *National Breastfeeding Policy*

Some of the projects and programmes related to the achievement of this Goal include:

- Implementation of a *Maternal and Child Health Programme* which includes growth monitoring, social services and nutritional support;
- Launch of a public education campaign pertaining to child health and nutrition;
- Continuation of the health promotion campaign *Combatting Childhood Obesity*;
- Strengthening of antenatal care services through the purchase of necessary equipment, in particular, foetal monitors and refurbishment of primary healthcare centres;
- Establishment of the *Pre-conception and Inter-conception Care Education Programme*;
- Establishment of a *Children's Life Fund* to provide lifesaving surgery to children in need;
- Implementation of a pilot programme *How to Nurture Baby* for expectant parents;
- Implementation of the Programme *Right Start - Breast is Best - Mothers supporting Mothers*;
- Development and implementation of *Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Obstetrics and Midwifery*
- Administration of the pneumococcal vaccine to children (as of 2012,

38,188 children had been vaccinated);

- Expansion of laboratory and X-ray services for antenatal care through the *Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV Programme*;
- Expansion of access to immunization via the *Expanded Programme for Immunization*;
- Establishment of a *National Plan of Action Committee* to monitor the progress on selected indicators toward improved maternal and child health;
- Continuation of the *School Health Programme* which conducts hearing and vision screening of 1st year infants, and school inspection and monitoring;
- Provision of free health care at public institutions for children under 16 years;
- Continuation of the *National School Feeding Programme* which provides free breakfasts and lunches to children in need, ensuring access to the required daily levels of nutrition;
- Construction of the *Couva Children's Hospital*;
- Implementation of a *Trinidad and Tobago Maternal and Child Health Coalition Programme* to achieve improved reproductive, maternal and children outcomes among all stake holders; and
- Developing a *Strategic Plan for Non Communicable Diseases*.

Goal 5

Improve Maternal Health



GOAL 5

Improve Maternal Health

TARGETS	INDICATORS
Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	Maternal mortality ratio Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	Contraceptive prevalence rate Unmet need for family planning

GOAL 5 Improve **Maternal Health**



Target:

- Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio
- Achieve by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

Introduction

Our vision of socio-economic transformation will not be realised without particular care and attention to the health of the nation, especially that of maternal health. The overarching aim for maternal health in Trinidad and Tobago is to have a society where women enjoy the highest attainable levels of health and that no family suffers the loss of a mother due to

preventable or treatable causes. Improving maternal (and child) health is among the priorities listed under the purview of the Ministry of Health as part of the wider goal of providing access to high quality healthcare services and first class hospitals as contained in Government's MTPF 2011-2014.

While the target for the proportion of births attended by skilled health professionals has already been met, Trinidad and Tobago is working assiduously to improve maternal health and achieve the MDG and national targeted Maternal Mortality Ratio⁸² (MMR) of 14 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2015 as articulated in the National Performance Framework 2012-2015. Moreover, the country is well on its way to achieving the second target – universal access to reproductive health – as over 90 percent of the population already has access. Government is continuously seeking to improve systems and procedures at health care institutions, increase access to high quality health services as well as to enhance the infrastructure of the health sector. Additionally, the implementation of policies like the revised *Maternal and Child Health Policy* and *Standard Operating Procedures for Obstetrics and Midwifery* will contribute to meeting this Goal.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as, “a state of physical,

⁸² The Central Statistical Office of Trinidad and Tobago, the primary Government data collection agency, uses the term 'maternal mortality rate' when referring to the maternal mortality ratio as defined by the Millennium Development Goals.

mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”, while maternal health refers to “the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period”.⁸³ According to the WHO, an average of 800 women dies daily due to avertable complications that are related to pregnancy and childbirth. Haemorrhage, high blood pressure, infection, unsafe abortion and obstructed labour are the main factors that directly contribute to maternal morbidity and mortality.

In general, the lack of skilled health personnel attendance at birth, cost of health services, insufficient medical equipment and supplies, sub-optimal health care and systems, inadequate access to education and low income level all increase the risk of maternal mortality. Moreover, other causes include the lack of policies or enforcement of policies pertaining to women's rights, socio-cultural traditions, inadequate antenatal and postnatal care, inefficient record keeping and inadequate family planning services.

The health of the population and, in particular, maternal health is crucial to the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago. Indeed, the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan stated, "Study after Study has taught us that there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women. No other policy is as likely to

raise economic productivity, or to reduce infant and maternal mortality. No other policy is as sure to improve nutrition and promote health, including the prevention of HIV/AIDS. No other policy is as powerful in increasing the chances of education for the next generation."⁸⁴

Target: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

As stated in the MTPF 2011-2014, health is a priority in this country's development agenda. The loss of human capital can affect care giving, innovation, the labour force and productivity of the country.

Notwithstanding the recognition of the importance of maternal health and Government's dedication to reducing the maternal mortality ratio in Trinidad and Tobago, there still remains a serious challenge in reducing the maternal mortality ratio over a sustained period. During the period 1990 to 2010, the ratio has fluctuated widely from year to year making it difficult to discern trends upon which policies and interventions can be based.

⁸³ World Health Organization. Retrieved from on 24/02/2014.

⁸⁴ Annan, Kofi, "Empowerment of Women the Most Effective Development Tool", United Nations Press Release 28/02/2005. Retrieved from on 24/02/2014

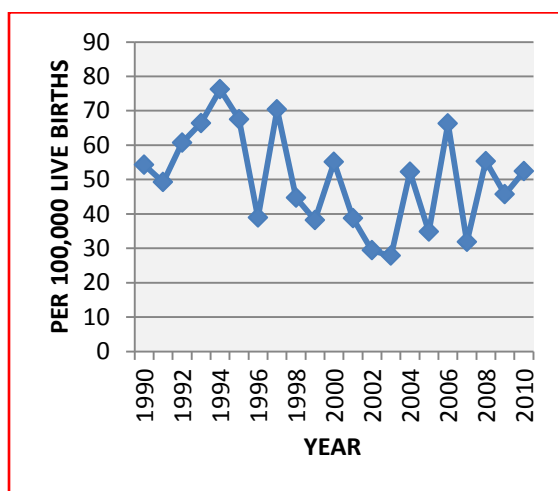
Indicator: Maternal Mortality Ratio

WIDE ANNUAL FLUCTUATIONS IN MMR

The MMR is defined as the number of deaths of women due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth per 100,000 live births in that year. It is calculated by dividing the total number of recorded or estimated maternal deaths by the total number of recorded or estimated live births in that particular year and then multiplying by 100,000.

CHART 5.1

Maternal Mortality Ratio (1990 - 2010)



Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report 2011

Data for the 2011 and 2012 MMR for Public Health Institutions were 22.2 and 20.0, respectively.

Source: Trinidad and Tobago Annual Performance Report 2013

As depicted in **Chart 5.1** above, the MMR has fluctuating widely from year to year over the period 1990 to 2010; exhibiting a general downward trend between 1994 and 2003, and a general upward trend between 2004 and 2010.

In reviewing the downward trend data, it is noted that the MMR peaked in 1994 at 76.2 per 100,000 live births and fell to its lowest rate in 2003 at 27.8, representing a decline of 63.5 percent. In the downward trend, the MMR also declined from a high of 66.3 in 2006 to 31.8 per 100,000 live births in 2010. This represented a decline of 52 percent.

It should also be noted, however, that data from the public health institutions indicated that the MMR rate declined from 22.2 in 2011 to 20.0 in 2012.⁸⁵

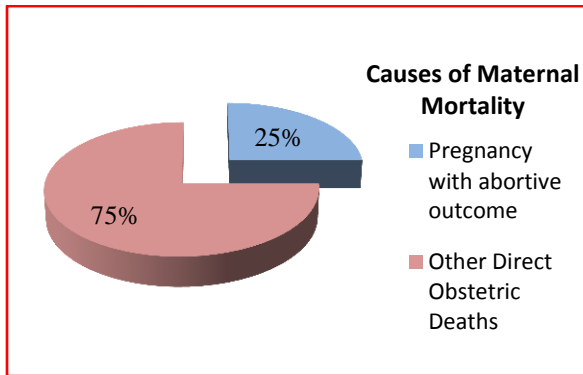
The Ministry of Health has noted the fluctuations in the MMR during the period 1990 to 2010 and has taken a firm stance in designing and implementing a complete framework using policies, programmes and projects in order to arrest the upward trend and reduce the MMR. The Ministry of Health has begun other strategies to reduce the MMR which include updating the *Maternal and Child Health Policy*. These initiatives are discussed in greater detail later in this Chapter under the section *The Way Forward*.

Further analysis of maternal deaths during the period 2004 to 2008, revealed that out of the 44 maternal deaths that occurred, 11 were due to pregnancy with abortive outcome, whereas 33 were categorized as other direct obstetric deaths. This is shown in **Chart 5.2** below.

⁸⁵ Annual Report on Performance 2013, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development.

CHART 5.2

Causes of Maternal Mortality (2004 - 2008)

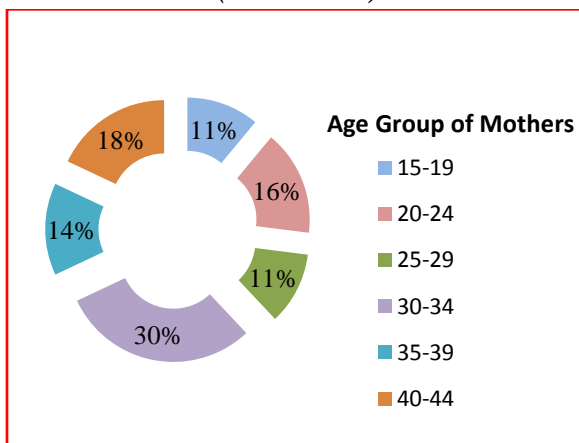


Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report 2009

The majority (30 percent) of maternal deaths occurred among women in the 30-34 years age-group while the minority (11 percent) of maternal deaths occurred within both the 15-19 and 25-29 age-groups as shown in **Chart 5.3**. The second largest percentage or 18 percent of maternal deaths were in the 40-44 age-group. The 20-24 and 35-39 age-groups represent 16 percent and 14 percent of maternal deaths, respectively.

CHART 5.3

Maternal Mortality and Age Group of Mothers (2004 - 2008)



Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report 2009

Indicator: Proportion of Births Attended By Skilled Health Personnel

99 PERCENT OF BIRTHS ATTENDED BY SKILLED PERSONNEL

Trinidad and Tobago has achieved the targeted proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. However, although more than 95 percent of women receive perinatal care and 99 percent of birth attendants are skilled personnel (**Table 5.1**), the MMR has fluctuated.

TABLE 5.1

*Person in Attendance at Live Birth (1999 - 2008)**

YEAR	Personnel Type	Percentage
1999-2008	Skilled Personnel (Doctors & Midwives)	99
	Other Person	1
Total		100

Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report 2009

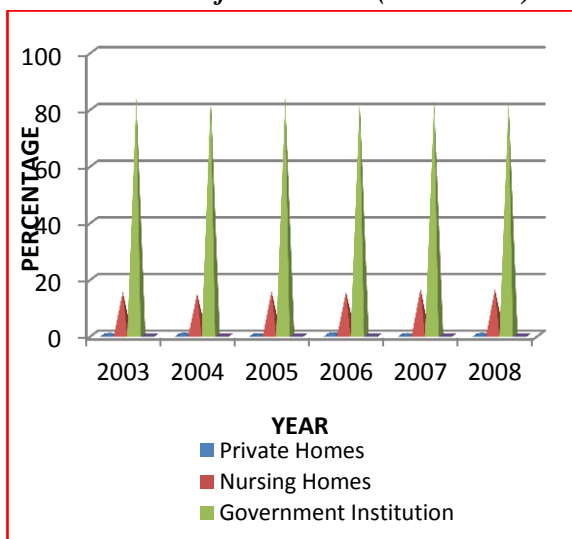
The table above illustrates that over the period 1999 to 2008, consistently, 99 percent of the persons in attendance at live births was skilled personnel such as doctors and midwives, whereas one percent represented the attendance of other persons.

Currently, in Trinidad and Tobago there are 114 public health facilities. From 2003 to the most recent year for which data is available, the majority of occurrence of live births has been at Government institutions in Port of Spain, San Fernando, Mount Hope,

Tobago, Arima, Tacarigua, Couva, Princess Town, Mayaro, Sangre Grande and Point Fortin (**Chart 5.4**) For this time period, over 80 percent (83.5 percent) of live births took place at Government institutions while a minority of approximately 0.1 percent of live births occurred at other places. An average of 15.63 and one percent of live births occurred at nursing homes and private homes, respectively. Given the high percentage of live births at State institutions and the fluctuating MMR despite an almost 100 percent attendance by skilled personnel at these live births, reducing the MMR to the targeted 14 per 100,000 live births by 2015 remains a challenge.

CHART 5.4

Occurrence of Live Births (2003- 2008)



Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report 2009

Target: Achieve by 2015 Universal access to reproductive health

Universal access to reproductive health refers to the ability to achieve sexual

and reproductive health through healthcare, that is, the methods, techniques and services that contribute to health and wellbeing by preventing and solving reproductive health problems. All individuals should have equitable access to the appropriate healthcare needed. Trinidad and Tobago is well on its way to achieving this target by 2015 as over 95 percent of women attend antenatal clinics at least once during their pregnancy.⁸⁶

However, several challenges exist. Poverty remains a barrier to accessing reproductive healthcare. The Survey of Living Conditions 2005 noted that poorer households were more often found to be headed by women than by men.⁸⁷ Female-headed households were disproportionately represented among the poor accounting for 38 percent of the poorest households compared to the national average of 33 percent.⁸⁸

Poverty is a factor when it comes to the number of children a woman has – poor women tend to have more children and start childbearing at an earlier age than women of higher income.⁸⁹ This is tied to the level of educational attainment which parallels socio-economic status.

Women with low educational levels who are poor and become pregnant early, including teenagers, are less likely to access reproductive healthcare from

⁸⁶ Health in the Americas, 2012 Edition: Country Volume, Pan American Health Organization, 2012.

⁸⁷ Analysis of the Trinidad and Tobago Survey of Living Conditions, Kairi Consultants Limited, 2007.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Health in the Americas, 2012 Edition: Country Volume, Pan American Health Organization, 2012.

early stages in their pregnancies for several reasons. These include lack of financial resources and the stereotyping of such women by the community and by healthcare workers when they visit healthcare facilities.

Moreover, girls and women who become pregnant may try to hide it from family members and as such do not access reproductive healthcare until later in their pregnancies.

Indicator: Contraceptive prevalence rate and unmet need for family planning

AVERAGE CONTRACEPTIVE PREVALENCE RATE INCREASING

The contraceptive prevalence rate is the percentage of women – married or in-union – aged 15-49 who are currently using, or whose sexual partner is using, at least one method of contraception, regardless of the method - modern or traditional. Modern methods include female and male sterilization, oral hormonal pills, the intra-uterine device (IUD), the male condom, injectables, the implant, vaginal barrier methods, the female condom and emergency contraception. Traditional methods include the rhythm (periodic abstinence), withdrawal, lactational amenorrhoea method (LAM) and folk methods.

Contraceptive prevalence is one of the proxy indicators for access to reproductive health. The average contraceptive prevalence rate was 38

percent in 2000 and 42.5 percent in 2006.⁹⁰ In 2008, the contraceptive prevalence rate remained at 42.5 percent.⁹¹ Presently, there are challenges in data collection related to contraceptive use. In-depth research is needed into the cultural and social norms associated with utilizing and accessing contraceptives.

To address these issues, the Ministry of Health, through its *Population Programme*, implemented a condom management strategy to improve the availability and accessibility of condoms in the public sector clinics. Accordingly, for the period 2008 to 2012, a total of 4,431,256 male condoms and 89,784 female condoms were distributed across the country by the Ministry of Health.

It should be noted that for the period 2011 to 2012, the Ministry increased its distribution of male condoms by 25 percent from 811,330 to 1,017,502; and for females, distribution rose from 19,005 to 28,527, representing a 50 percent increase over the same period.

In addressing the issue of family planning, the *Population Programme* has expanded its services to cater to the needs of males and has also established services for adolescents, including health promotion material such as its calendar with an annual theme reflective of sexual and reproductive health. The *Programme* also provides

⁹⁰ 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 3, UNICEF, April 2007.

⁹¹ 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 3, UNICEF, April 2007.

cervical screening for women and counselling on Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters, including family life.

Sustaining Reductions in the MMR

Stabilising the MMR at low rates and creating the conditions for its sustained reduction over time pose a challenge to the country's development prospective.

In Trinidad and Tobago, antenatal healthcare is available to all pregnant women free of charge via the public health system network. This provision has resulted in high utilisation of pre-natal health services. Many pregnant women also choose to attend private antenatal clinics and pay a fee for service.

A wide range of services are provided at the antenatal clinics. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2006, around 98 percent of attendees received blood pressure measurement, urine testing for bacteriuria and proteinuria, and blood testing to detect syphilis and severe anemia. To improve the nutritional status of women during pregnancy and to reduce the occurrence of anaemia, iron and folic acid tablets are made available to all pregnant women at all public antenatal clinics at no charge. The women are also educated on issues such as the stages of pregnancy, nutrition during pregnancy, and are encouraged to practise exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months.

The health authorities, in collaboration with private partners, have been addressing the issue of improving access to reproductive health. In addition to the provision of free pre- and post-natal services at the nation's hospitals and health centres, the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT) provides sexual and reproductive healthcare to men, women and youth through information and counselling and access to reproductive services through its clinics in strategic locations in both Trinidad and Tobago. A significant element of FPATT's programme is its outreach services to more remote areas as well as to marginalized groups.

The Way Forward

It is widely acknowledged that the quality of treatment received by a pregnant woman impacts on the survival and future development of her unborn child. In fact, monitoring the health of the mother and the development of the unborn infant is a critical element in predicting potential complications during pregnancy or birth. This is one reason why Trinidad and Tobago is among many countries that adopt Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programmes.

More importantly, the Ministry of Health is continuously designing and implementing an array of initiatives to enhance the current MCH programme to improve the early intervention and treatment in order to prevent untimely

deaths among women. These initiatives include:

- Updating the *Maternal and Child Health Policy*;
- Developing and implementing *Standard Operating Procedures for Obstetrics and Midwifery*;
- Strengthening ante-natal and post-natal care services through the purchase of additional equipment, in particular, fetal monitors, and refurbishment of primary healthcare centers;
- Increasing the training complement for midwives to ensure that pregnant women obtain the professional care in the pre-natal, intra-natal and post-natal period;
- Intensifying programme monitoring and evaluation; and
- Conducting a detailed analysis of maternal mortality needs with resultant specific and effective interventions to improve maternal health.

It is recognised by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago that the achievement of several of the Millennium Development Goals hinges on the ability of women and children to access health services. This is in keeping with Article 12 of the *Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women* which states that “Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services,

including those related to family planning.” It goes further, “Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph I of this article, States Parties shall ensure to women appropriate services in connection with pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, granting free services where necessary, as well as adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation.”

Maternal health is, therefore, not an isolated issue and cannot be treated as such. It is linked to the health of the population and infant health. Moreover it is interconnected with wider socio-economic concerns, including productivity linked to economic growth, gender equality, poverty, level of education and even crime.

In light of the above, the Ministry of Health will continue to maintain its firm stance in designing and implementing a complete framework using policies, programmes and projects in order to reduce the MMR.

Goal 6

*Combat Hiv/aids,
Dengue, Diabetes and
Hypertension*



GOAL 6 (revised)

Combat HIV/AIDS, Dengue and Hypertension⁹²

TARGETS	INDICATORS
Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	<p>New HIV Positive Cases at Public Health Locations</p> <p>HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years</p> <p>Condom use at last high-risk sex</p> <p>Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS</p>
Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	<p>Proportion of Population with Access to Anti-retroviral Drugs</p> <p>Number of Deaths due to AIDS</p> <p>Proportion of Women with Access to Anti-retroviral Drugs</p>
Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of Malaria, Tuberculosis, Dengue, Diabetes and Hypertension	<p>Incidence and death rates associated with malaria</p> <p>Incidence and death rates associated with Tuberculosis</p> <p>Incidence and death rates associated with Dengue</p> <p>Incidence and death rates associated with Diabetes and Hypertension</p>

⁹² This Goal has been modified by Trinidad and Tobago

GOAL 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, Dengue, Diabetes and Hypertension



Targets:

- Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it
- Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of Malaria, Tuberculosis, Dengue, Diabetes and Hypertension

Introduction

In Trinidad and Tobago, Malaria has almost been eradicated and the death

rate associated with Tuberculosis (TB) has been low. Emphasis has, therefore, been placed on combatting Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes and hypertension. These illnesses threaten not only the health of significant segments of the population but also the economic well-being of society as they increase the nation's disease burden and reduce its labour productivity. They threaten the country's medium-term goal of becoming a knowledge-based economy, by depriving the country of healthy, productive human capital, similar to the effects of infant and maternal mortality.

Considerable progress has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS. After a consistent rise in the HIV incidence rate, an aggressive multidimensional strategy has yielded positive results as the number of newly diagnosed infections decreased among the general population from 2008 to 2011. While the overall HIV incidence has slowed, a concern surrounds the increased prevalence among the youth cohort (15-24 years). This is especially worrisome since the results of surveys show that comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS among this cohort has increased and they are more likely to use condoms than adults. However, it should be noted that the magnitude of this increased incidence of HIV is not as significant so as to prevent its reversal with effective, targeted policies, some of which have already been formulated and are being implemented.

Concomitantly, there has been a decrease in the numbers of HIV infected infants born to HIV positive mothers, with Tobago achieving a zero percent infection rate among infants. The number of deaths from AIDS has also declined sharply in the context of the broad expansion of access to anti-retroviral therapy by pregnant women and by the wider population.

Government's policies and targets pertaining to this Goal have been outlined in the Medium Term Policy Framework 2012-2014, the National Performance Framework 2012-2015 as well as successive National Strategic Plans (NSP) for HIV and AIDS; the latest of which spans the period 2013-2018. These documents also reveal the considerable extent to which Government has subscribed to the accomplishment of this Goal.

In the MTPF 2012-2014, for example, the delivery of quality healthcare services is set as one of five national priorities. The intention is to build a fit and healthy nation thereby facilitating productivity among citizens. This priority is being addressed, in part, through more efficient and effective healthcare and improved access to health services for citizens, including the HIV infected and those with NCDs.

Government went further in embracing MDG 6 by adopting the Goal as a key result area for national achievement, namely to contain the spread of HIV/AIDS, along with more effective

management of NCDs.⁹³ A preventative approach to tackling NCDs continues to be promoted through awareness campaigns, encouraging participation in sport and recreational activities and adopting healthier lifestyle choices, all of which have been identified as areas for national monitoring and measurement in the NPF 2012-2015.

The NSP 2013-2018 further detailed the country's approach to combatting HIV/AIDS. The Plan has three overarching goals congruent with those of the MDGs, namely: to reduce the incidence of HIV infections; to mitigate the negative impact of HIV and AIDS on persons living with HIV and affected by HIV and AIDS; and to reduce HIV and AIDS related discrimination. Several national targets for fighting the disease

Targets of the National Strategic Plan 2013-2018

1. Reduce the incidence of new infections to zero in infants and less than 500 per annum in young people and adults
2. Reduce the prevalence of HIV infection to less than 1 percent within the overall population
3. Halve the rate AIDS related mortality
4. Reduce HIV and AIDS related stigma and discrimination by 75 percent
5. Reduce the direct and indirect costs associated with preventing and treating HIV and AIDS as a result of reduced numbers of HIV infected individuals.
6. Increase in comprehensive knowledge of HIV and reduction in risk behaviours
7. Achievement of Goal 6 of the MDGs which is to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

⁹³ National Performance Framework 2012-2015, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development.

were also developed as shown in the box above.

Beyond combatting HIV/AIDS, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has recognized the urgency of tackling the vector-borne disease - dengue fever, and the Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases of diabetes and hypertension given the serious threat they pose to the health of citizens and the wealth of the country. Consequently, MDG 6 has been modified to include targets for these diseases to better suit the Trinidad and Tobago context.

Malaria, which was included in the original MDG 6, remains under control in Trinidad and Tobago. Also, the expansion of tuberculosis treatment has kept the death rate associated with this disease low. Still, the incidence of TB must be addressed to ensure continuous success. Similarly, the dengue death rate has been kept at a minimum due to structured interventions, although outbreaks continue to pose challenges. NCDs such as diabetes and hypertension remain difficult to combat and require continued attention.

A concerted, sustained national response has thus been launched to tackle these diseases with notable success in many areas. Emphasis has been placed on improving health care services, increasing education and awareness and strengthening the policy and legislative framework.

Furthermore, there has been consistent and effective collaboration among Government, Civil Society and Private Sector bodies. This collaboration has contributed to a strong supportive environment in addressing these diseases. In moving forward with more intensive effort, it is expected that the country will draw closer to the full achievement of this Goal.

Target: Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS

Trinidad and Tobago has pursued massive and persuasive education and awareness campaigns on an on-going basis for many years in order to halt and reverse the spread of HIV. These have been successful overall in slowing the spread of the disease in the general population and in increasing the number of persons being tested. However, more has to be done to address stigmatization faced by at-risk populations as well as in halting the spread of the disease among the youth population.

Indicator: New HIV Positive Cases at Public Health Locations

OVERALL DECLINE IN HIV INCIDENCE FOR GENERAL POPULATION BUT STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH TESTING REMAINS

At the end of 2011, 30,346 people were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in

Trinidad and Tobago.⁹⁴ Although great strides have been made in combating the disease, HIV/AIDS remains the eighth most important cause of mortality in the country with approximately three new cases of HIV infection diagnosed daily.⁹⁵

With a total population of approximately 1.3 million, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is calculated to be 1.5 percent. Consequently, the epidemic in Trinidad and Tobago has been classified as generalized, with HIV prevalence in the adult population surpassing the benchmark of 1 percent. It is also characterized as concentrated since prevalence in at least one of the key at-risk populations exceeds 5 percent.

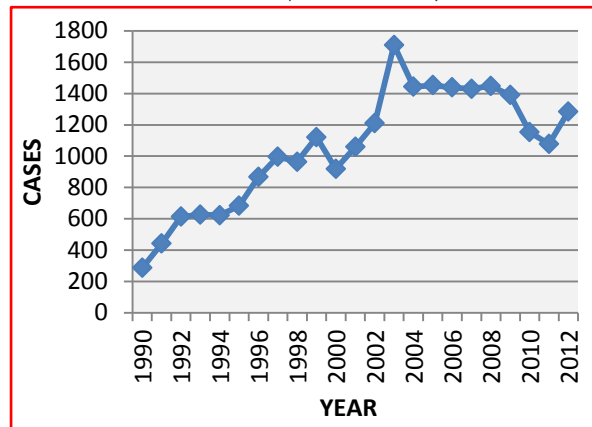
Since the first cases of AIDS were reported in 1983, there had been a worrying general upward trend in the incidence of HIV infections in Trinidad and Tobago. This was captured by new cases reported annually at public health locations (**Chart 6.1**); peaking at 1,709 new infections in 2003.

The data for the period 2004 to 2011, however, is encouraging. There has been a general decline in reported HIV positive cases detected through screening and testing sites offering same day testing and counselling; the number of persons tested annually rose to 55,221 in 2011 from 26,147 in

2007.⁹⁶

CHART 6.1

New HIV Positive Cases at Public Health Locations (1990 - 2012)



Source: Ministry of Health

Notably, the overall downward trend from 2004 coincided with the shift to a more concerted and comprehensive national approach to combatting HIV/AIDS as outlined in the country's first National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS, now in its second cycle. The NSPs are coordinated and led by the National AIDS Coordinating Committee which was formed in 2003.

The past two decades have also witnessed changes in the HIV positive male to female ratio for the total population. Up until the mid-1990s, HIV prevalence was significantly greater among males with a ratio of about 2:1, thereafter narrowing to 1.2:1 between 2000 and 2005, and equalizing over the following two years. Since 2008 and

⁹⁴ National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2013-2018
⁹⁵ Trinidad and Tobago Global AIDS Progress Report 2012 (formerly UNGASS)

⁹⁶ Trinidad and Tobago Global AIDS Progress Report 2012.

onward however, there has been a reversal in the metric with a small shift as more females are being recorded as HIV positive with a ratio of approximately 1:1.1.⁹⁷

This reversal in the numbers suggests that the HIV incidence rate is slightly higher among women than men. However, it should be noted that, in general, women are more likely to access testing than men in Trinidad and Tobago and, therefore, more likely to be diagnosed as HIV infected.

On the other hand, a greater proportion of all men who are screened are diagnosed as positive for the disease. This could be explained by men's tendency to get tested only when illnesses present themselves.⁹⁸ Consequently, it is quite probable that more men than the recorded number are HIV positive but are unaware of their HIV status. Also, treatment and care site level data suggest that the male to female ratio is 1:1.⁹⁹

These statistics underscore the need to continue and expand on strategies and programmes to halt the spread of the disease.

Indicator: HIV Prevalence Among Population Aged 15-24 years

INCREASED TESTING AMONG YOUTH COHORT BUT MORE RESPONSIBLE SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR NEEDED

As noted earlier, while the HIV prevalence is decreasing overall, there remains a concern regarding its spread among the youth population.

Most At-Risk Persons: Youth

The status of Most At-Risk Populations (MARPs) remains a source of concern for Government. This is especially so for the young, aged 15-24, who account for 16.6 percent of cumulative HIV cases reported between 1983 and 2010.¹⁰⁰

Young people are also at risk given the trends in youth lifestyles in Trinidad and Tobago with studies estimating that by age 15, a significant proportion of adolescents are already sexually active.¹⁰¹ Apart from behaviour, there are also challenges in providing preventive services to youth due to societal considerations which further contributes to the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases among this group.

⁹⁷ National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2013-2018

⁹⁸ Trinidad and Tobago Global AIDS Progress Report 2012 (formerly UNGASS)

⁹⁹ The Ministry of Health

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2013-2018

TABLE 6.1

**HIV Prevalence within Population 15-24 Years
(Per 100,000 Persons) (2009-2011)**

Indicator	2009 Cumulative Value	2010 Cumulative Value	2011 Cumulative Value
No. of PLHIV (15-24 yrs.)	3,475 (Cumulatively diagnosed from 1983 to end year)	3,654 (179 newly diagnosed)	3,841 (187 newly diagnosed)
Total No. of persons aged 15-24 at year end	259,929	261,438	212,618
Prevalence Rate	1,300	1,400	1,800

Source: Ministry of Health; CSO

As **Table 6.1** illustrates, the number of newly diagnosed cases for the 15-24 age-group increased from 179 to 187 between 2010 and 2011. HIV prevalence rate within this cohort of the population increased from 1,300 per 100,000 persons (or 1.3 percent) in 2009 to 1,800 per 100,000 persons (or 1.8 percent) in 2011. This increase was recorded despite the decrease in HIV incidence reported for the general population over the same period.

Other At-Risk Persons

In Trinidad and Tobago, like many other countries, at-risk populations include not only Men who have Sex with Men (MSM), Sex Workers (SWs) and substance abusers, but also prisoners and migrants. These vulnerable populations face stigma and discrimination associated with HIV which deters access to prevention and treatment services. Through advocacy and human rights principles,

Government intends to increase awareness of the issues and ensure the rights of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, including the at-risk populations. Policy and legislative interventions will also be used to create an enabling environment for HIV prevention among vulnerable groups. These will serve to address problems contributing to the spread of the disease like alcohol consumption and drug trafficking as discussed later in this Chapter.

Most At-Risk Persons (by Sex)

Disaggregation of the cumulative cases of HIV between 1983 and 2010 revealed a greater HIV prevalence among young females compared to their young male counterparts in a ratio of approximately 2:1.¹⁰² This can be partially explained by factors including age-mixing with older partners, concurrent partnerships, transactional sex, the lack of ability to negotiate condom use with partners and higher poverty levels among young women.¹⁰³

Most At-Risk Persons: Men who have Sex with Men

An assessment of the vulnerability and risk among MSM is ultimately limited by inadequate data collection, although steps are being taken to rectify this problem. It was estimated in 2006, however, that there was an HIV prevalence of 20.4 percent within this

¹⁰² Trinidad and Tobago Global AIDS Progress Report 2012 (formerly UNGASS)

¹⁰³ Ibid.

segment of the population.¹⁰⁴ Assessments have also highlighted that stigma and discrimination in Trinidad and Tobago have resulted in a situation where MSM limit their access to HIV prevention, care and support services.

Most At-Risk Persons: Sex Workers

SWs have thus far been largely beyond the HIV assessment radar and, consequently, HIV prevalence in this group is unknown. Like MSM, however, stigma and discrimination act as barriers to their access to sexual and reproductive health services, HIV/AIDS information and social support.¹⁰⁵

Most At-Risk Persons: Substance Users

Substance users were 19.8 percent or six times at greater risk for contracting the HIV virus than the entire population based on survey data acquired between 1996 and 2002. Their vulnerability stemmed from poor educational attainment along with the use of cocaine. Socially displaced drug users were, in particular, at a higher risk of HIV infection since 25 percent of the sample¹⁰⁶ was HIV positive.

Apart from the system of response to the HIV/AIDS challenges already in place, emphasis will be placed on interventions to effect behaviour change and on the promotion of good sexual and reproductive health in order to

reduce the vulnerabilities of this at-risk population.

Indicator: Condom Use at Last High Risk Sex

CONDOM USE IS MORE PREVALENT AMONG YOUTH THAN OLDER PERSONS

The most recent data shows that among the youth aged 15-24, 62 percent reported using a condom at their first sexual encounter. This figure was found to be higher than that of the cohort aged 25-49 which stood at 39 percent.¹⁰⁷ It should be noted, however, that persons in the 15—24 age cohort were more likely to report condom use than older persons.

These figures point to the challenges faced in mitigating the spread of HIV in Trinidad and Tobago with condom use ultimately being quite low. In particular, condom use among men in Trinidad and Tobago has been hindered by the need to project and maintain an image of male machismo while female condom use has been limited due to a lack of both access and knowledge.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Data was obtained from 121 female substance users admitted to an all-female rehabilitation centre in Trinidad and Tobago between 1996 and 2002.

¹⁰⁷ Ministry of Health, 2007

¹⁰⁸ National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2013-2018

Indicator: Proportion of Population Aged 15-24 years with Comprehensive Correct Knowledge of HIV/AIDS

MORE YOUTH ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT HIV/AIDS

There have been encouraging signs regarding the proportion of the population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS. Between 2008 and 2012, this figure increased from 56 percent to 63 percent.¹⁰⁹ Although this is a small increase, it is a movement in the right direction and provides the platform for further educational efforts to combat HIV/AIDS among youth.

Further, a 2009 study of MARPs confirmed that over 80 percent of SWs, drug users, homeless people and youth knew that either proper use of condoms or abstinence were the best means of protection against HIV.¹¹⁰

The data suggests that the massive education and sensitization programme undertaken by the State has begun to curb the spread of the disease. Government intends to continue promoting healthy sexual attitudes among the youth, both within schools and out of school, in consultation and partnership with parents and other key stakeholders.

¹⁰⁹ Trinidad and Tobago Global AIDS Progress Report 2012 (formerly UNGASS)

¹¹⁰ Ibid

Target: Achieve by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

Trinidad and Tobago, by and large, is not an injecting society and HIV transmission has been predominantly driven by sexual activity, more specifically, heterosexual contact. Information dissemination, treatment and prevention strategies have positively impacted on condom use, widespread knowledge of HIV/AIDS and access to anti-retroviral drugs and consequently, AIDS morbidity.

Indicator: Proportion of Population with Access to Anti-retroviral drugs

INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS USING ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUGS

Anti-retroviral drugs are provided free of charge to persons living with HIV (PLHIV) and AIDS in Trinidad and Tobago. Initiatives to increase access to treatment have been highly successful with the percentage of eligible adults and children receiving ARV therapy sharply rising from an estimated 46 percent in 2006¹¹¹ to 75 percent in 2010, and 73 percent in 2011¹¹².

There are currently eight treatment sites in the country and national capacity has been increased through improved laboratory surveillance. Treatment and

¹¹¹ Estimates were derived from a UNAIDS modelling software called Spectrum

¹¹² Trinidad and Tobago Global AIDS Progress Report 2012 (formerly UNGASS)

care were further expanded with the successful implementation of the community-based home care project in one county of the country.

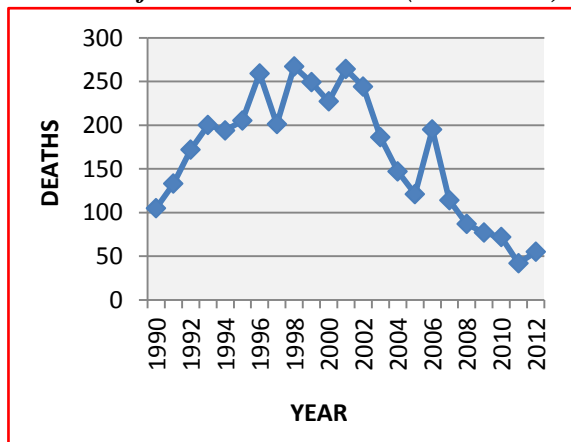
Indicator: Number of Deaths Due to AIDS

IMPROVED ACCESS TO TREATMENT RESULTED IN LARGE REDUCTION IN DEATHS DUE TO AIDS

Strategies and programmes to increase access to treatment have had positive results. This is evidenced by the dramatic reduction in the number of deaths due to AIDS over the last decade, from a peak of over 250 in 2001 to a low of 42 in 2011, despite only moderate reductions in HIV incidence over the same period (Chart 6.2). Even more impressive has been the reduction of the number of deaths to below the recorded number in 1990.

CHART 6.2

Number of Deaths Due to AIDS (1990 - 2012)



Source: Ministry of Health

Indicator: Proportion of Women with Access to Anti-retroviral Drugs

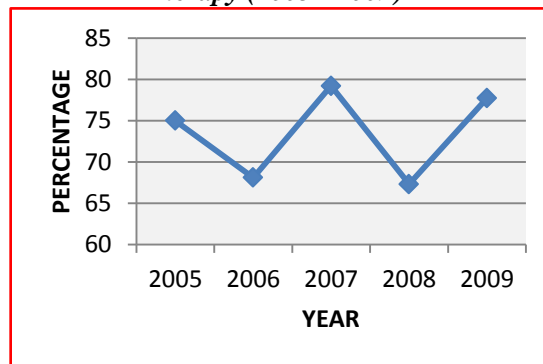
INCREASED ACCESS BY WOMEN TO ANTI-RETROVIRAL DRUGS

Mother-to-child transmission was the predominant cause of new HIV infections in children. In Trinidad and Tobago, tremendous success has been achieved in minimizing infections via this route through the *Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Programme*. This programme has made ARV drugs universally available at all public sector health institutions.

As presented in Chart 6.3, the proportion of pregnant women receiving ARV therapy is particularly high with an average of 73.5 percent between 2005 and 2009. Estimates for 2010 and 2011 were 81.3 percent and 81.9 percent, respectively, indicating that Trinidad and Tobago could reach all patients in the near future.¹¹³

CHART 6.3

Proportion of Pregnant Women Receiving ARV Therapy (2005 - 2009)



Source: Ministry of Health

¹¹³ Trinidad and Tobago Global AIDS Progress Report 2012 (formerly UNGASS)

More importantly, the provision of ARV therapy has yielded positive results. In 2011, it was estimated that HIV transmission from mother to child was 7.6 percent of live births from HIV positive mothers in Trinidad; and in Tobago, there have been no reported cases of HIV infected infants for several years.¹¹⁴ It should be noted that programmatic data, which incorporates greater screening and is considered to be more realistic, shows that 0-2 infants are identified as HIV positive on a yearly basis. While this is a tremendous achievement, with the *PMTCT Programme* being strengthened and expanded, it is anticipated that more pregnant patients will access ARV therapy and that Trinidad and Tobago will move closer to reaching a zero transmission rate on a consistent basis.

Target: Have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse, the incidence of Malaria, Tuberculosis, Dengue, Diabetes and Hypertension

Indicator: Incidence and Death Rates Associated with Malaria

MALARIA HAS BEEN LARGELY ERADICATED

Unlike many other countries of the developing world, malaria has not been a significant health challenge, having been largely eradicated in Trinidad and Tobago.

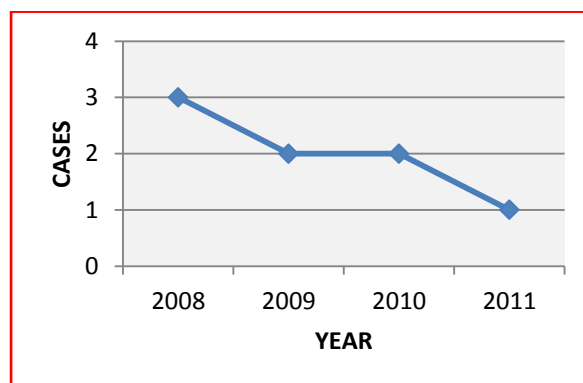
Chart 6.4 illustrates this low incidence

¹¹⁴ National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2013-2018.

with an average of two cases per year between 2008 and 2011, and with no more than three cases in any one year.

CHART 6.4

Incidence of Malaria (2008-2011)



Source: Ministry of Health

Further, when cases of malaria do arise, they tend to occur among foreign visitors and immigrants to Trinidad and Tobago, or residents who have contracted the disease while travelling abroad. Notably, none of these cases identified have been fatal, which is indicative of the health care system’s capability to effectively treat with sporadic instances of the disease.

Indicator: Incidence and Death Rates Associated with Tuberculosis

LOW INCIDENCE AND DEATH RATES ASSOCIATED WITH TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis has been identified as a national health concern and has thus received targeted attention through the *National Tuberculosis Control Programme*. This entails implementing aspects of the World Health Organisation’s “STOP TB” Strategy aimed at stopping the disease by 2015. Elements of the strategy being

implemented include pursuing high-quality *Directly Observed Treatment Short (DOTS) Course* expansion and enhancement; addressing the higher vulnerability of HIV infected persons to contracting TB; strengthening primary health care system; and engaging all healthcare providers in combating TB.

Since 2011, strategies to curb the disease have also included the development of a model for the integration of TB/HIV treatment and piloting it in at least one primary care clinic; training for primary health staff in joint screening and management of TB/HIV; strengthening community support and participation in the piloted DOTS programme; and raising public awareness about TB prevention and access to screening and treatment services.

These initiatives have resulted in an Average Annual Rate of Decline (AARD)¹¹⁵ in TB incidence of 19 percent over the period 2000 to 2010. Though significant, this figure falls short of the regional average of 29 percent. It is anticipated, however, that with the expansion of TB prevention and screening services the AARD will further decline.

Notably, there is a significant relationship between the incidence of HIV/AIDS and TB with 25 to 30 percent

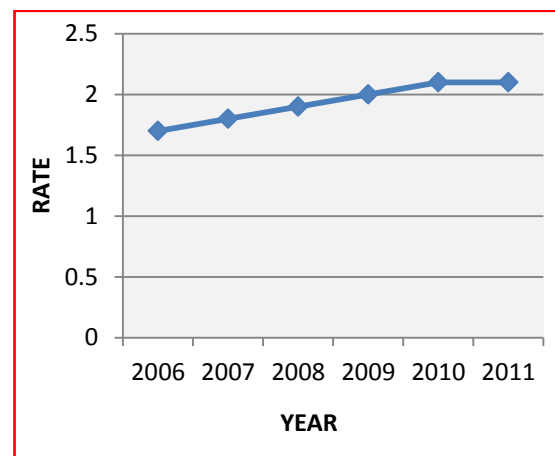
¹¹⁵ The AARD is the estimated percentage decline over the 10 year period 2000-2012. According to the WHO, to achieve the target of halting by 2015 and beginning to reverse the incidence of tuberculosis the country must have an AARD greater than 0 percent.

of HIV screened TB cases was found to be co-infected.¹¹⁶

As pictured in **Chart 6.5**, TB treatment has had a positive impact in Trinidad and Tobago as evidenced by the low average TB mortality rate of 1.9 per 100,000 persons over the period 2006 to 2011. However, the overall increase in the rate from 1.7 per 100,000 persons in 2006 to 2.1 in 2011 is cause for concern, especially given the national target of 0.6 per 100,000 by 2015.¹¹⁷

CHART 6.5

Tuberculosis Death Rate (2006-2011)



Source: UN Stats Millennium Development Goals Indicators

Indications of treatment coverage are also given by the percentage of estimated HIV-positive incident TB cases who received treatment for both TB and HIV. This figure was given as 60.5 percent in 2010.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁶ National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2013-2018

¹¹⁷ Ministry of Health Strategic Plan: Fiscal Years 2012-2016, p. 65

¹¹⁸ Trinidad and Tobago Global AIDS Progress Report 2012 (formerly UNGASS)

It is expected that initiatives such as the expansion of the DOTS, which began in 2010, and further expansion and upgrading of treatment services will aid in reversing the observed increase in the TB mortality rate.

Indicator: Incidence and Death Rates Associated with Dengue

LOW DEATH RATES DUE TO DENGUE BUT GREATER EFFORT NEEDED TO MINIMIZE FLUCTUATIONS IN ITS INCIDENCE

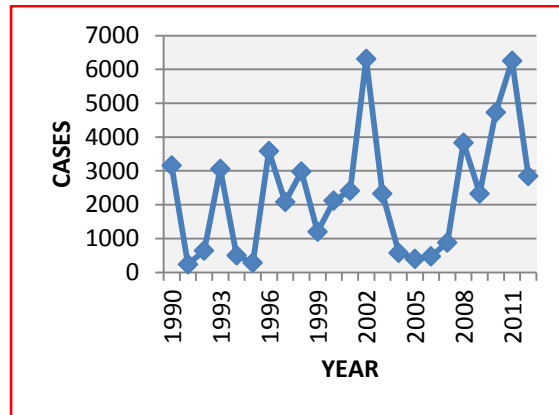
A vector-borne disease spread by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, dengue is now viewed as being endemic to Trinidad and Tobago.

The number of dengue cases recorded annually over the past two decades has fluctuated dramatically between highs of 6,314 and 6,254 cases in 2002 and 2011, respectively, to lows of a few hundred cases recorded intermittently in the 1990s and each year over 2004 to 2007 (**Chart 6.6**).

Faced with this challenge, efforts to minimise the incidence of dengue continues to be undertaken. Preventative measures include the regular spraying of communities' surroundings with insecticide to eradicate the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, house to house inspections by health officials and public education campaigns.

CHART 6.6

Incidence of Dengue Fever (1990 - 2012)

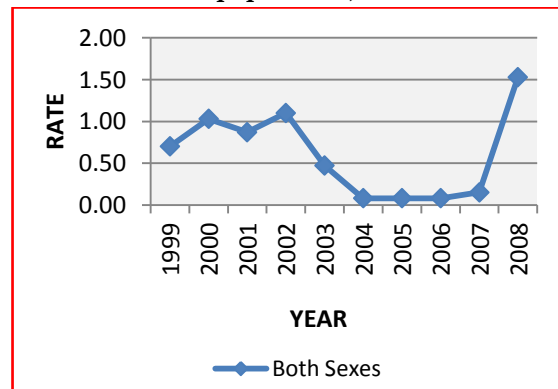


Source: Ministry of Health

Much more success has been achieved in the treatment of dengue cases. Dengue mortality rates have been consistently low for the period 1999 to 2008 with an overall average of 0.6 deaths per 100,000 persons. The rate declined to near zero during 2004 to 2007, but increased to approximately 1.58 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2008, the highest ever recorded during the period (**Chart 6.7**).

CHART 6.7

Dengue Mortality Rate (Per 100,000 Mid-year population)



Source: CSO

Indicator: Incidence and Death Rates Associated with Diabetes and Hypertension

REDUCTIONS IN INCIDENCE AND DEATHS RATES ASSOCIATED WITH DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION BUT MORE EFFORT NEEDED

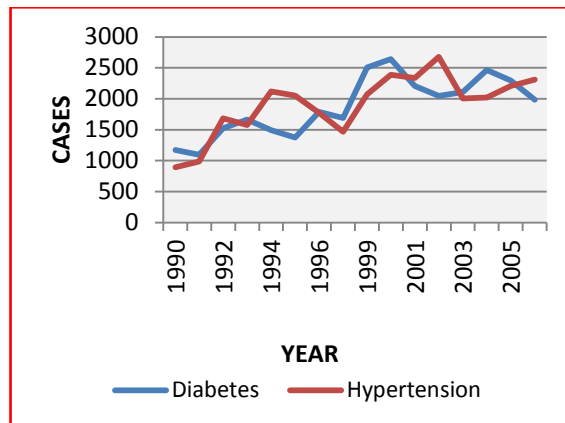
Diabetes and hypertension, two chronic non-communicable lifestyle diseases, are closely linked to each other, with diabetics having a greater likelihood of developing hypertension. These diseases are causes of major concern as both are among the top five causes of death in Trinidad and Tobago.¹¹⁹

As illustrated in **Chart 6.8**, the incidence of diabetes and hypertension in the country has been rising steadily with a 69 percent increase in the diabetes incidence rate from 1,175 new diabetes cases reported in 1990 to 1,984 cases in 2006; and a 158 percent increase in the hypertension incidence rate from 893 new cases in 1990 to 2,310 cases in 2006.

On average, 1878 new cases of diabetes and 1,910 new cases of hypertension were reported annually over the period 1990 to 2006. There were some fluctuations over these years, however, with a peak of 2,639 new cases of diabetes reported for 2000; and a peak of 2,676 new hypertension cases in 2002. Similarly, there were notable reductions in the incidence rates for many years during the reporting period as the rates fluctuated.

CHART 6.8

Incidence of Diabetes and Hypertension (1990 - 2006)

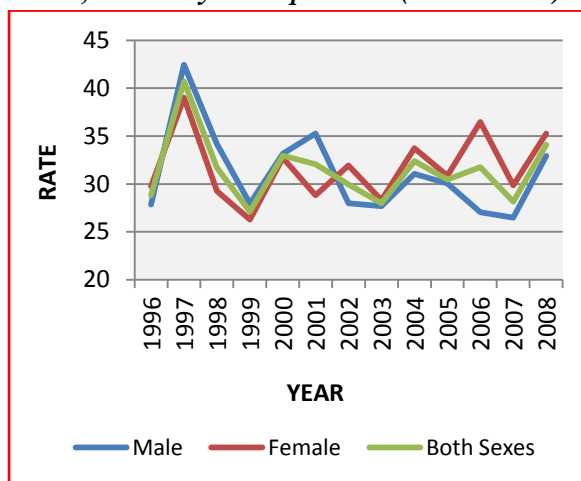


Source: CSO

Although quite high, the death rate associated with hypertension has remained fairly constant, with an average of 31.44 per 100,000 persons overall (**Chart 6.9**) over 1996 and 2008, excluding a peak of 40.71 per 100,000 persons in 1997.

CHART 6.9

Death Rates Associated with Hypertension per 100,000 Mid-year Population (1996 - 2008)



Source: CSO

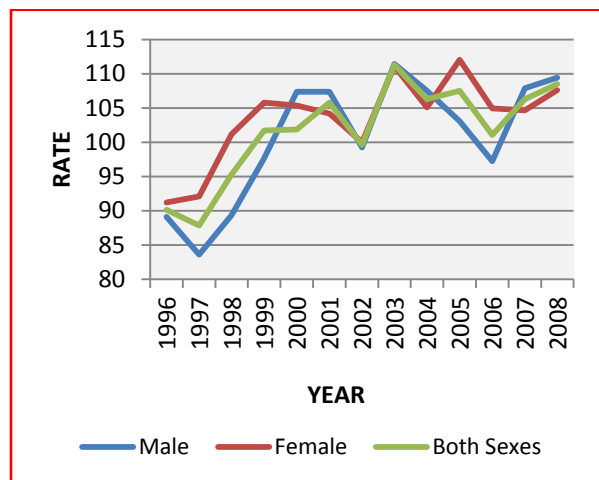
¹¹⁹ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014.

The data disaggregated by sex revealed that, generally, the discrepancies between the death rates of females and males have been minimal. The greatest difference occurred in 2006 with 36 deaths per 100,000 females compared to 27 deaths per 100,000 males.

By contrast, the death rate associated with diabetes showed a noticeable increase of about 20 percent from 90.14 per 100,000 persons in 1996 to 108.51 per 100,000 persons in 2008 (Chart 6.10). More recent data shows that the rate climbed to 118.4 per 100,000 persons in 2012.¹²⁰

CHART 6.10

Death Rates Associated with Diabetes per 100,000 Mid-year Population (1996 - 2008)



Source: CSO

Data for the Death Rate associated with Diabetes for 2012 was 118.4 per 100,000 persons.

Source: Trinidad and Tobago Annual Performance Report 2013

Similar to hypertension, no consistent pattern was observed in the differences between the rates for men and women although the female rate was greater for seven of the 11 years. On average, however, the female diabetes mortality rate over the period 1996-2008 was greater than that of males, which stood at 102.99 and 98.54 per 100,000 persons, respectively.

Modifying Behaviour and Attitudes towards HIV/AIDS and other Lifestyle-related Diseases

HIV/AIDS

Trinidad and Tobago has made significant strides in reducing the incidence of HIV and deaths resulting from AIDS. The State has invested heavily over the years to combat the disease but challenges still remain. The higher incidence of HIV among the youth and the reversal of the trend whereby women are now infected at a higher rate than men are worrisome.

Despite massive public awareness and sensitising programmes, stigma and discrimination against people living HIV and AIDS and at-risk groups still exist which act as a deterrent to some persons accessing testing and treatment.

Further reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS will require not only increased targeted investment but changes in people's attitude towards the disease.

¹²⁰ Annual Report on Performance 2013, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development.

Malaria, Tuberculosis, Dengue, Diabetes and Hypertension

The challenges encountered in reducing the incidence of malaria, tuberculosis, dengue, diabetes, and hypertension are tied specifically to the very nature of these diseases in Trinidad and Tobago.

With malaria having been largely eradicated from the country decades ago, few challenges have been encountered in maintaining a low incidence rate although vigilance must be maintained in vector control to prevent resurgence.

Although TB is both treatable and curable, screening and the access of early treatment and care have been obstructed by the stigma, discrimination and fear associated with the disease. Control of the disease is further complicated by its close relation to the incidence of HIV/AIDS. However, training and updates for primary health staff in joint screening and management of TB/HIV is expected to mitigate this problem.

In the absence of a vaccine to combat dengue and with inevitable limits on the coverage possible by spraying of insecticides, greater focus is required on modifying public behaviour. Despite continued public education and awareness campaigns, poor practices such as blocked drainage and open water storage vessels remain. These practices create breeding ground for the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the vector which transmits the disease. This situation is only made worse by the exogenous climatic conditions of the

wet/rainy season and high temperatures in Trinidad and Tobago.

Through the Ministry of Health, routine visits to homes within communities will be heightened during the wet/rainy season in order to examine conditions and mitigate the risk of these homes becoming breeding grounds for the deadly mosquito. This, coupled with continued education and awareness campaigns is expected to further impact behaviour change and reduce the incidence of the disease.

Similarly, behaviour modification is the major obstacle in combating the incidence of diabetes and hypertension despite efforts to encourage healthy lifestyles. Additionally, citizens have not fully utilized the range of health services available to them.

The Way Forward

Reversing the Spread of HIV/AIDS and the Incidence of other Major Diseases

Combating HIV and AIDS is a complex task given the multidimensional nature of the factors contributing to its spread. A scaling up of efforts is now required aimed at modifying behavioural patterns, particularly sexual behaviour, in both the general population and among most-at-risk populations. While public education and awareness campaigns have had some success, behaviour has not changed sufficiently to dramatically reduce the HIV incidence rate.

The response to 2018 as outlined in the NSP emphasizes prevention across all modes of transmission, adopting a life cycle approach and focusing on:

- Framing a stronger enabling environment for safe sexual health practice for all in Trinidad and Tobago. This includes approving the *National HIV and AIDS Policy* as well as reviewing and revising legislation that may discriminate against key populations who are more vulnerable to HIV infection;
- Preventing new HIV and sexually transmitted infections through behaviour change and communication programmes and combination prevention programmes, with a focus on youth aged 15-24 and key at-risk populations; and
- Improving understanding of the scale, nature and causes of poor sexual health and HIV infection through strengthened clinical and behavioural surveillance and a unified monitoring and evaluation system.

Similarly, stigma and discrimination against persons living with HIV and AIDS and at-risk groups persist although there have been signs of gradual change. The unfortunate consequence of this stigma and discrimination is that of driving the epidemic further underground with persons being reticent to get tested or to access anti-retroviral therapy.

Government will, therefore, continue to promote positive attitudes and

compassion towards PLHIV and key at-risk groups through increasing awareness and understanding amongst the general population, including the workplace; community strengthening; and collaborating with faith-based organisations.

Ensuring access to treatment has also been hindered by the centralization of HIV/AIDS treatment sites in the country. But, progress is being made in increasing the number of sites; to date, eight public treatment sites are located across Trinidad and Tobago.¹²¹ Importantly, even where treatment access is widespread, the inconsistent adherence to anti-retroviral therapy by patients curtails the effectiveness of this type of intervention. Steps are being taken, however, to remedy these problems. Assuring universal access to treatment and support for persons living with HIV, their families and orphaned children continues to be a priority in combatting the disease.

Data collection on HIV/AIDS also remains a significant challenge with limitations on the technological capacity for testing, storing and processing information from such tests. The lack of mechanisms to collect data from the private health sector also obstructs the analysis of the epidemic in Trinidad and Tobago. Measures to strengthen the surveillance capacity of the healthcare system have, therefore, been important aspects of the fight against HIV/AIDS.

¹²¹ Ministry of Health.

It is expected that with the NSP 2013-2018, which is being implemented, these issues will be diminished. Strategies are being pursued under five priority areas, namely: prevention; optimizing diagnosis, treatment, care and support; advocacy and human rights; strategic information; and policy and programme management. These priorities are being implemented through key projects and programmes which are categorised under three broad areas: (1) expansion and strengthening of health care services; (2) introduction and expansion of education and awareness campaigns; and (3) programme policy development and legislative changes. These are highlighted below.

Expansion and Strengthening of Health Care Services

Some of the measures being undertaken to improve health care services include:

- Establishment of the *Healthcare Worker Mentorship Programme* to minimize transmission of HIV from mother to child;
- Implementation of a *National HIV Treatment and Care Delivery System* such as expanded access to ARV treatment;
- Expansion of laboratory services, surveillance and management of HIV including the installation of an *HIV Patient Electronic Information System* at the Paediatric HIV Clinic;
- Establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago HIV and AIDS

Training Centre;

- Expansion of access to treatment for chronic diseases through the *Chronic Disease Assistance Programme* (CDAP) which provides free medication, blood glucose meters, and testing strips for diabetics;
- Increasing access to treatment for cardiovascular ailments through the *Adult Cardiac Surgery Programme* for persons unable to afford such treatment;
- Enhancement of access to medical services in rural areas through the *Community Outreach Family Medicine Programme* which provides mobile testing and other health services;
- Setting of nutritional and dietary guidelines for use in schools;
- Establishment of an *Integrated Management Strategy* for dengue prevention;
- Training of personnel to treat with dengue and TB/HIV; and
- Continuation of the *Directly Observed Treatment Short Course*, an internationally recommended strategy for tuberculosis control.

Education and Awareness Campaigns and Programmes

Disseminating information and sensitising the population are key aspects of combatting the spread of diseases and lifestyle related ailments. Some initiatives in this area include:

- Implementation of an HIV Sensitization Plan for staff of the

Ministry of Health and the Regional Health Authorities;

- Conduct of HIV sensitization workshops on the theme *Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in the Work Place*;
- Implementation of the *Healthy Eating, Active Living* campaign aimed at reducing childhood obesity in Trinidad and Tobago;
- Conduct of a public awareness programme about the Tobacco Control Act;
- Implementation of a health promotion campaign targeting the reduction of modifiable risk factors including obesity, tobacco and alcohol use, physical inactivity, unhealthy eating practices and the promotion of self-monitoring and management of NCDs;
- Strengthening of community support and participation in the DOTS Programme;
- Raising public awareness about TB prevention and increased access to screening and treatment services;
- Implemented the *Fight the Fat* campaign in all Regional Health Authorities and selected Communities; and
- Development and implementation of a *RAP Youth Sexual Programme* as part of a pre-Carnival programme on sexuality. It was implemented within the North West and North Central Regional Health Authorities.

Policy Development and Legislative Changes

Developing appropriate policies and enacting legislation are regarding as integral to the health care agenda. These include:

- Implementation of the *HIV in the Workplace Policy* to combat stigma and discrimination;
- Implementation of the *HIV Testing Policy* to provide a framework for greater access to safe and ethical testing services for the population;
- Development of a policy to promote healthier lifestyles, with emphasis on sport, nutrition and exercise to tackle the growing problems of obesity, diabetes, hypertension and HIV/AIDS;
- Development of a model for the integration of TB/HIV treatment, piloted in at least one primary care clinic;
- Conduct of a data collection exercise via the *STEPS Risk Factor Survey*¹²² in order to acquire key data that would inform key policies and programmes for the treatment of NCDs (an exercise was conducted in 2011);
- Review of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago and their impact on PLHIV; and
- Proclamation of sections of the

¹²² The WHO STEPwise approach is a method used to collect, analyze and disseminate data for chronic disease risk factors in WHO member countries.

Tobacco Control Act to ban smoking in confined public spaces.

Goal 7

*Ensure Environmental
Sustainability*



GOAL 7

Ensure Environmental Sustainability

TARGETS	INDICATORS
Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	
Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	Proportion of land area covered by forest Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂) emissions, total, per capita (metric tonnes) Consumption of ozone-depleting substances Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected Proportion of species threatened with extinction
Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility
By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	Proportion of urban population living in slums

GOAL 7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability



Targets:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
- Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to drinking water and basic sanitation.
- By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

Introduction

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is steadfast in its commitment to people-centred involvement in sustainable and environmentally sound development, which will engender a heightened sense of collective responsibility amongst all

citizenry. It is envisioned that by 2033, Trinidad and Tobago will be a place where people enjoy a high quality of life within a safe and healthy environment. To do this would require a strategy of decentralization, devolution of power, geographic diversification of economic activity and constitutional reform to ensure greater people participation in governance.

When referring to sustainable development it should be noted that it is based on the Brundtland Report (1987) and involves the three interconnected pillars of Economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability. That report defines sustainable development as *“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”* It is, therefore, on this basis that an overarching approach to development is clearly articulated in the Medium Term Development Framework 2011-2014, which guides Government’s shared priorities and cross cutting interventions within the national development framework.¹²³

The Millennium Development Goals recognize that environmental sustainability is a critical component of global, economic and social well-being.¹²⁴ In the same vein, Trinidad and Tobago is committed to the development of a new growth dynamic that transforms the existing consumption-based economic growth into an environmentally-friendly model using economic stability, social sustainability

¹²³ Ministry of Planning and Sustainable, Corporate Communications Unit supplemental publication 2013: *“Vision and Action – Making Sustainable Development Happen in Trinidad and Tobago.”*

¹²⁴ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *“Working for Sustainable Development in Trinidad and Tobago”*, June 2012.

and environmental protection as its foundational sustainable development pillars.

Thus, promoting biological diversity,¹²⁵ maintaining water and air quality, conserving and increasing our forest cover, and promoting green initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint and conserve resources are important policy considerations for the environment as the country develops.

Trinidad and Tobago has already met some MDG targets as they relate to the 'Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances' and the 'Proportion of the Population Using an Improved Sanitation Facility'. The targets for the 'Proportion of Land Area Covered by Forest' and the 'Proportion of Dwelling Units using an Improved Drinking Water Source' are significantly advanced and are likely to be met by 2015. However the country is still currently addressing the challenge to implement measures to reduce the levels of absolute carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Trinidad and Tobago is committed to continuing environmental sustainability efforts in order to achieve the goal by 2015.

With respect to the proportion of the urban population living in squatter settlements, the Government has embarked on a number of housing initiatives geared towards improving the livelihoods and dwelling spaces for the low income households. As such, the target is likely to be achieved by 2020.

¹²⁵ Biological diversity is defined as the variability among living organisms; this includes diversity within species (genetic diversity), between species and of ecosystems.

To this end, Trinidad and Tobago has established an institutional framework and other initiatives to ensure protection of the environment. These coalesce around legislative and policy reform as well as projects and programmes aimed at balancing social and economic transformation, with environmental conservation at their core.

Making Sustainable Development Happen in Trinidad and Tobago

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is deliberate in its efforts to propel this diverse nation with sustainable development at the core of its national policy agenda. It is recognized that all plans for national development relating to resource allocation and utilization must incorporate the concept of sustainability in order to ensure long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability.

As the nation pursues its growth and development path, there has been an increased recognition that the overall goals of environmental conservation and economic development must take place in a more harmonious and synchronized manner. The ProEcoServ Programme,¹²⁶ which is a new initiative of the GORTT in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, integrates ecosystem assessment, scenario development and economic valuation of ecosystem services into national

¹²⁶ The Project for Ecosystem Services (ProEcoServ) Programme is a project funded under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) which is an independently operating financial organization that provides grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. The UNEP and Department of Life Sciences at UWI supports this effort.

sustainable development planning.

Trinidad and Tobago has representation on a number of multilateral environmental fora, one of which is in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20 Conferences on Sustainable Development) and is also represented at the

meetings of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the country is party to several regional and multilateral environmental agreements, which facilitate the development of the institutional framework for sustainable development. **(Table 7.1)**

TABLE 7.1 Multilateral Environmental Agreements Ratified by Trinidad and Tobago, with the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources and Ministry of Food Production as responsible Agencies

TITLE	Ratification/ Accession	Entry into Force
Atmospheric Conventions		
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	24 June 1994	21 March 1994
Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC	28 January 1999	16 February 2005
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	28 August 1989	22 September 1988
Montreal Protocol	28 August 1989	1 January 1989
Land and Biodiversity-related Conventions		
World Heritage Convention	16 February 2005	17 December 1975
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar)	21 April 1993	21 December 1975
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1 August 1996	21 December 1975
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	19 January 1984	1 July 1975
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	5 October 2000	11 September 2003
Cartagena Convention	24 January 1986	11 October 1986
International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	18 September 1962	2 October 2005
Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol	24 January 1986	August 1999
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	8 June 2000	26 December 1996
Waste and Chemical Conventions		
LBS Protocol	28 March 2003	13 August 2010
Rotterdam Convention	16 December 2009	24 February 2004
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal	18 February 1994	5 May 1992
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	13 December 2002	17 May 2004
Marine Conventions		
International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	30 March 1999	21 March 1969
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	17 October 2007	16 November 1994

Source: Compiled by the Socio-Economic Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development

Sectoral Initiatives

There are a number of environmental laws, policies and development plans all geared towards addressing the issues relating to environmental sustainability at the sectoral levels. **Table 7.2** represents several of these sector policy instruments which guide the national sustainable development thrust.

TABLE 7.2 Sector Policy Instruments	
Sector	Policy Instrument
Housing and Settlements	National Spatial Development Strategy 2013-2023
	National Physical Development Plan 1984
Agriculture	Fisheries Policy (2007)
	National Food Production Action Plan 2012-2015
	Agriculture Incentive Programme
Environment	National Climate Change Policy (2011)
	National Environmental Policy (2006)
	National Wetland Conservation Policy (2002)
Forestry	National Protected Areas Policy (2011)
	National Forest Policy (2011)
Biodiversity	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Trinidad and Tobago (2001)
Climate Change	National Tourism Policy (2010)
	National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation in T&T 2006-2020
	National Wildlife Policy (2013)
Greening Business Operations	Green Government Policy (2011)
Water and Sewerage	National Integrated Water Resources Management Policy (2005)
	National Water Resources Policy
Energy	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy Framework
	National Energy Policy (Green Paper)

Assessing Environmental Performance

Countries are assessed based on their ecological resources utilization levels which are mapped out as ecological footprints. The Ecological Footprint is a data-driven metric that tells us how close we are to the goal of sustainable living. The Global Footprint Network¹²⁷ is an agency that advances the work on sustainability and, according to its 2007, data for Trinidad and Tobago's ecological footprint was 3.09 global hectares per person, compared to a world average of 2.7 global hectares per person. However, with a biocapacity¹²⁸ of 1.57 global hectares (gha) per person, Trinidad and Tobago ends up with an ecological deficit of 1.52 gha/persons. The negative ecological remainder suggests that the demand for biological resources such as productive land and water resources used to produce food, energy, clothing and the like, outstrips the earth's capacity to replenish these resources.

Another useful sustainability measuring tool is the Environmental Performance Index¹²⁹ (EPI) (which replaced the Environmental Sustainability Index) which benchmarks the ability of nations

¹²⁷ The Global Footprint Network is a 501 member country non-profit organization established in 2003. It is an international think tank working to advance sustainability through use of the Ecological Footprint a resource accounting tool that measures how much nature we have, and how much we use.

¹²⁸ Biocapacity is the capacity of ecosystems to produce useful biological materials and to absorb waste materials generated by humans, using current management schemes and extraction technologies.

¹²⁹ EPI ranks how well countries perform on high-priority environmental issues in 2 broad policy areas: protection of human health from environmental harm; and protection of ecosystems.

to protect the environment over the next several decades. Trinidad and Tobago's performance is reflected in the ranking of 54 out of 163 countries studied in 2010. The 2014 EPI ranked this country 79 of 178 countries.

This drop in ranking is largely due to the country's growing industrial sector and attendant increase in greenhouse gas emissions. These indices show significant variations based on the international assessments conducted but are still useful benchmarks to note as we advance along our development path.

Conserving Biological Diversity

Trinidad and Tobago's biodiversity plays an important role in the ecosystem services that support human well-being. Directly, these include the provision of freshwater, flood regulation/erosion control, eco-tourism recreation, shoreline protection and the provision of food.

Currently, Trinidad and Tobago is guided by the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2001, which is in the process of being revised.¹³⁰ As a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity since 1996, Trinidad and Tobago has accomplished many of its conservation objectives using the NBSAP as the principal instrument for its

¹³⁰ The NBSAP to be revised in accordance with the decision X/2 of the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties, held in Aichi Prefecture, Japan, October 2010. A revised and updated Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Targets were adopted for the 2011-2014 period, with implementation to commence by 2014.

implementation. The Ministry of Environment and Water Resources is the focal point for the Convention while the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) is the National Executing Agency charged with ensuring the necessary steps are taken to promote biodiversity conservation.

Trinidad and Tobago ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in 2000, which cemented its commitment to protect the country's biodiversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. As part of its international commitments under the various environmental protocols, Trinidad and Tobago has developed a number of sectoral policy instruments which center around the issue of environmental preservation and conservation **Table 7.2**.

Target: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources

Indicator: Proportion of Land Area Covered by Forest

OUR FOREST COVER IS ON THE REBOUND

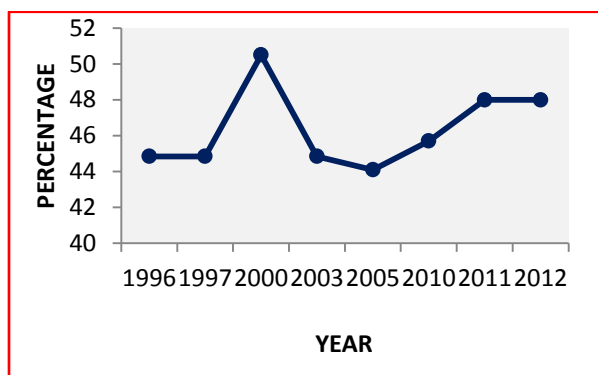
The proportion of *forest cover*¹³¹ is slowly

¹³¹ Forest cover is defined as the percentage of a fixed area covered by the crown of an individual plant or delimited by the vertical projection of its outermost perimeter.

on the road to recovery, moving from 44.1 percent in 2005 to 48 percent in 2012 (**Chart 7.1**). This was in part due to the success of the *National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme*. This Programme works through community groups, such as Fondes Amandes, to repair, preserve and protect the nation's forest, watersheds, wetlands, flora and fauna.

CHART 7.1

*Proportion of Land Area Covered by Forests
1996 -2012*



Source: Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

Other reforestation work continues through the *Northern Range Reforestation Programme* under the purview of the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to conservation and sustainable use of our biological resources and supports the need for effective implementation of policies to monitor, regulate, manage and improve the environment.

As such, the Government recently approved the *National Forest Policy*¹³² which builds on the previous policy framework for forest management and enhances other national policies, particularly the *National Environmental Policy* (NEP) (2006), the *Protected Areas Policy* (2011) and the most recently developed *National Wildlife Policy* (2013). These policy instruments are supplemented by national strategic plans such as the NBSAP and the National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation. The key challenge which the *National Forest Policy* seeks to address is the maintenance of forest ecosystems in light of competing demands for land.

Recent Initiatives

GEF Project Implementation Framework

The Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources was been involved in the development of a *Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Project Implementation Framework*¹³³ which now affords Trinidad and Tobago the opportunity to apply for access to \$2,790,000 USD of GEF grant funding for a four-year project to improve its forest and protected areas. These funds will facilitate implementation of the *National Forest and Protected Areas Policies* (2011) with some of the major outputs as follows:

¹³² Government of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, National Forest Policy, February 2011

¹³³

- Development of national legislation for wildlife conservation, national parks and other protected areas;
- Development of a national protected areas system plan;
- Designation of five areas in the new protected areas system;
- Development of an ecological research and monitoring programme to guide protected areas management;
- Development of management plans for the five pilot protected areas sites; and
- Development of a strategic plan for sustainable financing of the system of protected areas; among others.

Two-Year Moratorium on Hunting

The Government, through the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, has implemented a two-year moratorium on hunting in Trinidad and Tobago effective October 1, 2013.¹³⁴ This is in keeping with its integrated approach for the sustainable management of game species and in the emergence of increasing numbers of illegal hunting camps in state forests. During the moratorium, steps are being taken to remove all illegal hunting camps on state lands.

Penalties and fines in the *Conservation of Wildlife Act* is currently being reviewed with a view to amending the existing legislation so that the penalties and fines will serve as a greater deterrent to committing illegal hunting, and

consumption and distribution of game and protected species.

Indicator: Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Absolute Emissions

STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT

Trinidad and Tobago accounts for 0.1% of greenhouse gases as it relates to global absolute emissions.¹³⁵ An important consideration in the discussion on Carbon Dioxide emissions is the fact that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources support the use of absolute CO₂ emissions as a credible environmental indicator, in gigagrams (Gg) or metric tonnes. In that regard, absolute emissions recorded for 2008 stood at 80,823.35 Gg compared to 25,397.2 Gg for the baseline year of 1990.¹³⁶ This places Trinidad and Tobago at 72nd place in the world with respect to annual total CO₂ emissions.¹³⁷

With respect to emissions by sector, the revised 1996 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidelines were utilized to analyze greenhouse gas (GHGs) emitted from five sectors: energy; industrial processes; waste; agriculture; and land use, land use change and forestry.

¹³⁵ The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, *The National Climate Change Policy*, 2011.

¹³⁶ Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, *Environmental Policy and Planning Division*.

¹³⁷ Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, "Re-fueling T&T's Economic Engine: A New Policy for Energy, 2011-2015. [International Energy Agency, 2003].

Overall, there has been an observed increase of the GHGs emitted which is consistent with increased socioeconomic development. Over the period 1990-2006, GHGs emissions have approximately quadrupled for the energy sector moving from 16,806 Gg in 1990 to 63,455Gg in 2006. There has also been an increase of the GHGs emissions in the transportation sector from 1,313 Gg in 1990 to 3,617Gg in 2005, which correlates with an increase in the number of vehicles for the same period.

The main contributors to the increased GHGs emitted from the industrial processes sector were iron and steel, and ammonia and cement production. Emissions in this sector increased from 5,500 Gg in 1990 to settle at 10,785 Gg in 2008. The same increasing trend has been observed for the waste sector with the net annual emissions almost tripling from 15.96 Gg in 1990 to 47.16 Gg in 2008. In the agriculture, forestry and land use sector, there was an observed net storage of carbon mainly due to the relatively large forest cover in Trinidad and Tobago as well as good forest management practices.¹³⁸

The State recognizes the need to address these emissions in accordance with the decisions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The decisions include adopting mitigation actions or those related to the avoidance or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions which must be supported

by the requisite legislative backing.

In 2011, the Government approved the *Green Government Policy* which provides a series of recommendations to all Government Ministries and agencies on how to 'green' their everyday operations. The Policy encourages the use of measures and practices that facilitate cost effectiveness and promote energy efficiency, wise use of resources and pollution prevention which ultimately minimize the adverse effects of Government's operations on the environment.

Additionally, the *National Climate Change Policy* and the *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy* have been formulated in pursuance of a low-carbon development path for Trinidad and Tobago. In this regard, a project entitled *The Elaboration of a Strategy for the Reduction of Carbon Emissions for Trinidad and Tobago* has been undertaken with oversight by the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources. The objectives of this ongoing project are to facilitate the:

- Institutional Strengthening for more effective and increased participation by government ministries and agencies in Trinidad and Tobago for the development of Sectoral Carbon Reduction Strategies;
- Development and elaboration of a strategic and policy framework for carbon reduction emissions for the electrical power generation, industrial and transport sectors in Trinidad and Tobago; and

¹³⁸ Trinidad and Tobago Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, April 2013.

- Development of an implementation framework for the Sectoral Carbon Reduction Emissions Strategy.

At present, the development of a business-as-usual scenario for the power generation, industrial and transport sectors is being developed. Further, cost benefit analyses are also being undertaken for potential mitigation measures.

The Government, in devising a low-carbon development path, has seen the need for the integration of adaptation strategies into the national planning function. It is recognized that the impacts of climate change are expected to be cross-sectoral, transcending the bio-physical and socio-economic systems. As such, preparedness through adaptation planning is critical to achieving the objective of sustainable low carbon growth towards the development of a green economy and in accordance with the MDGs.

In addition to those initiatives that are directly related to the reduction of greenhouse gases, the Government is taking concrete steps to diversify not only the energy sector but the wider economic structure in order to reduce the country's carbon footprint. Government's economic development policy centers around the expansion of the services sector, development of the creative sectors, greater adaptation and use of technology, and innovation, all with the potential for building competitiveness and economic diversification.

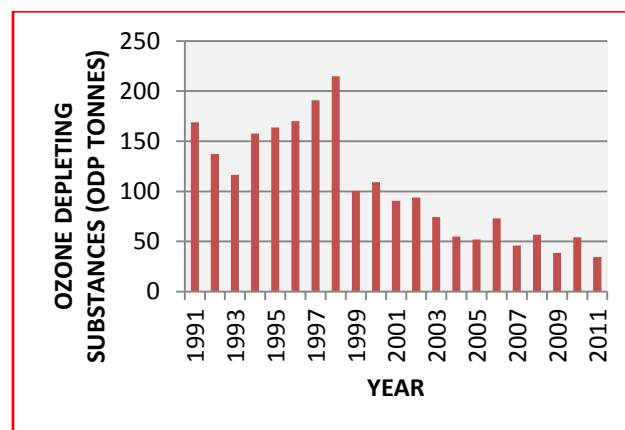
Indicator: Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances¹³⁹

USE OF OZONE DEPLETING SUBSTANCES SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED

Over the years, legislative amendments and reform of several national policies have resulted in substantial decline of the consumption of ozone-depleting substances. Consumption of ozone depleting substances declined from a high of 220 ODP tonnes in 1998 to 34.34 ODP tonnes in 2011 (**Chart 7.2**). This was due to the full phase-out of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in Trinidad and Tobago and the use of less ozone depleting substances such as Hydrochlorofluorocarbons and non-depleting alternatives in refrigeration, air conditioning and pest control sectors.

CHART 7.2

Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODP Tonnes) (1990 - 2011)



Source: United Nations Environment Programme Ozone Secretariat

Further, as part of Trinidad and

¹³⁹ Measured in Ozone Depleting Potential Tonnes or ODP Tonnes 1990-2011.

Tobago's obligations under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol (see **Table 7.1** above), an extensive amount of work has also been undertaken by the National Ozone Unit of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, on the phasing-out of the ozone depleting substances. The Unit, which was established in 1999, is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that Trinidad and Tobago meets its obligations under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Currently, work is being undertaken on the phasing-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) based on Trinidad and Tobago's HCFC Phase-out Management Plan. Moreover, hydrocarbon refrigerant training for the air-conditioning and refrigeration sector is ongoing as well as training on the use of alternatives to methyl bromide for pre-treatment and quarantine purposes. The National Ozone Unit continues to actively engage in training and sensitization activities with its key stakeholders in order to ensure that more ozone-friendly practices are adopted.

Indicator: Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits

FOCUS ON ENFORCEMENT OF MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS TO ADDRESS DEPLETED FISH STOCK

The proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits continues to be a challenge. As shown in **Table 7.3** below,

the safe biological limits for many commercially important species of fish have already been surpassed. This was due, in part, to inappropriate fishing practices and outdated legislation which contributed to the improper management of fisheries stock.

In an effort to address the outdated legislation, the Institute of Marine Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago has commenced the process of revising the country's marine and environmental laws and policies through a review of its regional and international legal instruments (conventions, protocols, resolutions and guidelines).

TABLE 7.3
Proportion of Fish Stocks within Safe Biological Limits

Species/Fishery	Status
Tuna & Bonitos	Fully-/Over-exploited
King Mackerel (Kingfish)	Over-exploited
Spanish Mackerel (Carite)	Fully-/Over-exploited
Shrimp	Over-exploited
Billfish	Over-exploited
Sharks	Fully-/Over-exploited
Herring & Jashua	Unknown
Weakfish (Salmon)	Fully-/Over-exploited
Croaker	Fully-/Over-exploited
Snapper	Fully exploited
Cavalli & other Jacks	Unknown
Other	Unknown

Source: CSO

In order to address the issue of improper management of the fisheries stock, the Fisheries Monitoring, Surveillance, and Enforcement Unit of the Fisheries Division continues to be better outfitted with the necessary resources to enforce

management regulations as they relate to fishing practices.

Concrete measures have already been taken to institute better management practices. Catches are inspected upon landing in the long-line fishery and, as of 2011, vessel monitoring systems have been installed on vessels larger than 24 meters in length.¹⁴⁰ A new licensing system has been in effect since July, 2013 which grants fishing rights to owners of vessels based on their compliance with management regulations; in order to qualify for a license there must be no evidence that they have engaged in illegal, unregulated or unreported fishing practices.

With respect to the issue of trawling,¹⁴¹ the Government has taken serious steps to curb its deleterious effects on marine life. In September, 2013, the Ministry of Food Production mandated a ban on trawling in local waters for non-artisanal trawlers in the face of declining seafood stocks and environmental damage caused by wide-range dragnets. This was supported by the implementation of a closed season for trawling activities; an amendment of regulations governing the Fisheries Act; and the appointment of a multi-sectoral committee to consider a relief package which could be offered to displaced fisherfolk who would be affected by the change in legislation and the ban on trawling. Thus, the serious

¹⁴⁰ International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) 2012. Trinidad and Tobago joined ICCAT in 1999.

¹⁴¹ Trawling is defined as a method of fishing that involves the manual or mechanized towing or pulling of a trawl net through the water or the bottom of the sea bed.

emphasis placed on enforcement and restrictions on poor fishing practices can only redound to the benefit of the fisheries and the environment in the not too distant future.

Target: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

Indicator: Proportion of Terrestrial and Marine Area Protected to Maintain Biological Diversity

ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED TO ESTABLISH, RECOVER AND BETTER MANAGE PROTECTED AREAS

During the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Parties agreed to 20 Aichi Biodiversity targets. Target 11 stated that:

“By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”

The National Protected Areas Policy¹⁴² (2011)

The Policy proposes the establishment of a System of National Parks and Protected Areas in Trinidad and Tobago within the context of the following six (6) categories of management:

1. Scientific Reserves
2. National Parks
3. Natural Landmarks
4. Nature Conservation Reserves
5. Scenic Landscapes
6. Recreation Parks

Specifically, the policy provides a course of action for programmes concerned with the protection of the country's natural heritage and the provision of outdoor recreation activities. It incorporates and integrates the intent of Government policy in a number of related areas including environment, conservation, forestry, tourism and recreation as it relates to the administration of national parks, heritage sites and protected areas.

The policy identifies the deficiencies in the existing legislation to protect the country's national resources and provides the basis for legislation necessary to provide a clear mandate to protect and properly use the outstanding natural heritage areas of the country.

While Trinidad and Tobago is in still the process of developing a national target for the proportion of terrestrial and marine areas to be protected, it has developed a *National Protected Areas Policy* that ensures conservation of full diversity of natural ecosystems whilst enabling the sustainable use of these resources. This policy instrument is supported by the *National Wildlife Policy* and the *National Forest Policy* which all speak to the interventions to preserve and protect the natural environment.

Currently, the total terrestrial protected area¹⁴³ under jurisdiction of the State is

approximately 164,167 hectares which represents approximately 32 percent of the combined land area of Trinidad and Tobago. With respect to marine protected areas (MPAs), the Buccoo Reef Marine Park is the only legally declared MPA. It is 7km² in size and is equivalent to about 0.1% of the Archipelagic Waters under the jurisdiction of the State.¹⁴⁴

There exist several categories of terrestrial protected areas, including 36 Forest Reserves, 13 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 11 Nature Reserves and 3 Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs).¹⁴⁵ The 36 Forest Reserves have been classified as production forests and protection forests. The protection of forests is managed for timber production and other forest products, conservation of soil, water and biodiversity. The Forest Reserves comprise game sanctuaries (21,428 hectares (ha)), watersheds (8,344 ha), nature reserves (458 ha) and other protection forests (42,986 ha). **Table 7.4** below shows the proportion of land and marine areas designated for biodiversity protection.

¹⁴³ The protected areas include nature reserves, game sanctuaries, and forest reserves.

¹⁴⁴ Ministry of Environment and Water Resources.

¹⁴⁵ An ESA is defined as a part of the environment that is a significant part of a country's natural heritage, and of great importance to the sustenance of life. An ESA may even include areas with natural assets, which if destroyed could severely affect the economy of the country or even the possibility of life for endangered, vulnerable or endemic species of animals or plants, which are dependent on the area.

TABLE 7.4**Proportion of Terrestrial and Marine Area Protected to Maintain Biological Diversity**

	Total Area Under National Jurisdiction (k.m.)	Area Designated for Biodiversity Protection (k.m.)	Proportion of Total Area Designated for Biodiversity Protection (%)
Land	5,128	221	4.31
Marine	73,633	5.85	>0.001

Source: *Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) Rules*

In recognition of the fact that more has to be done to protect and maintain Trinidad and Tobago's rich biological diversity, an *Action Plan for the Programme of Work on Protected Areas* was formulated and is under the purview of the Forestry Division as the lead agency for execution. The Plan establishes protected areas (PAs) in Trinidad and Tobago for the conservation of genetic diversity, species, ecosystems and natural habitats. It would also be used as a tool for the maintenance and recovery of viable populations of rare or threatened species in their natural environment. The Plan supports the national implementation of the protected areas under the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁴⁶ of which Trinidad and Tobago is a member.

As a testimony to Trinidad and Tobago's deepened commitment to cherish and protect its biodiversity, Tobago Main Ridge Forest Reserve is on the tentative list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site

¹⁴⁶ Trinidad and Tobago ratified its membership to the Convention on Biodiversity on August 1st 1996.

because it is on record as the world's oldest legally protected forest reserve geared specifically towards a conservation purpose.¹⁴⁷

Indicator: Proportion of Species Threatened with Extinction

DECLINES IN SPECIES THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION HALTED

TABLE 7.5**Threatened species in Trinidad and Tobago in 2013 (totals by taxonomic group)**

Threatened species in Trinidad and Tobago in 2013 (totals by taxonomic group)	
Mammals	2
Birds	4
Reptiles	5
Amphibians	8
Fishes	25
Other Inverts	10
Plants	1
Total	55

Source: *International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List*

In 2013, data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List indicated that 55 species were becoming endangered in Trinidad and Tobago as detailed in **Table 7.5** above. The Government has taken decisive action to arrest further decline in 'sensitive' species. In order to aid the protection and conservation of threatened, vulnerable, rare or endangered species, the Environmental

¹⁴⁷ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/5646/>

Management Authority has declared a total of five species as Environmentally Sensitive Species in accordance with the Environmentally Sensitive Species Rules 2001. These include the:

- *Trichechus manatus* (West Indian Manatee) (2005);
- *Pipile pipile* (Trinidad Piping Guan or Pawi) (2005);
- *Campylopterus Ensipennis* (White-tailed Sabre Wing Humming Bird) (2005);
- *Leopardus pardalis* (Ocelot) (2007); and
- *Phytotriades auratus* (Golden Tree Frog) (2007).

In addition, five species of sea turtles are being designated as ESSs. These are the:

1. *Chelonia mydas* (Green Turtle);
2. *Eretmochelys imbricate* (Hawksbill Turtle);
3. *Dermochelys coriacea* (Leatherback Turtle);
4. *Caretta caretta* (Loggerhead Turtle); and
5. *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Olive Ridley).

Since their designation as environmentally sensitive species, the level of awareness and protection is preventing further devastating declines in the turtle population. One of the strategies used to raise awareness for the protection of sensitive species is the engagement of local communities. One such community group, Nature Seekers, is a community-based conservation organization which was

established in 1990 to protect nesting leatherback turtles in Trinidad and Tobago. Through their main project, the Matura Turtle Conservation Programme, they have demonstrated the importance of community involvement in the conservation efforts and have received numerous awards for their considerable and successful efforts in protecting their charges.

Target: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to drinking water and basic sanitation

Indicator: Proportion of Population Using an Improved Drinking Water Source

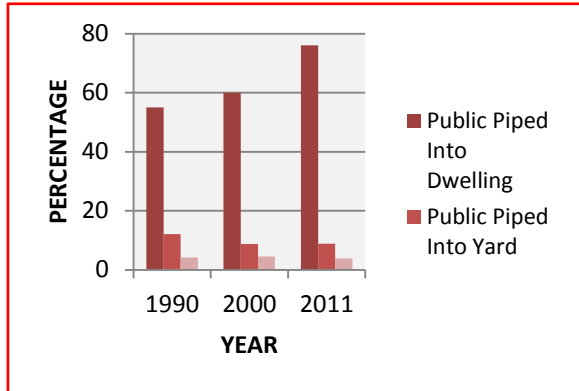
MORE PERSONS BENEFITING FROM IMPROVED PIPE BORNE WATER SUPPLY TO THEIR HOMES

Census data for the period 1990 to 2011 showed an increase in the number of households with access to pipe borne water in their homes (see **Chart 7.5** below). In 1990, this percentage stood at 55 percent of households and by 2011, it had increased significantly to 76 percent. With respect to pipe borne water in the yards of households, the data showed a decrease from 12.1 percent in 1990 to 8.9 percent in 2011. This was as a result of more households benefitting from water piped to their homes. The percentage of households with 'private piped into dwellings' remained relatively

unchanged.

CHART 7.5

Proportion of Dwelling Units Using an Improved Drinking Water Source

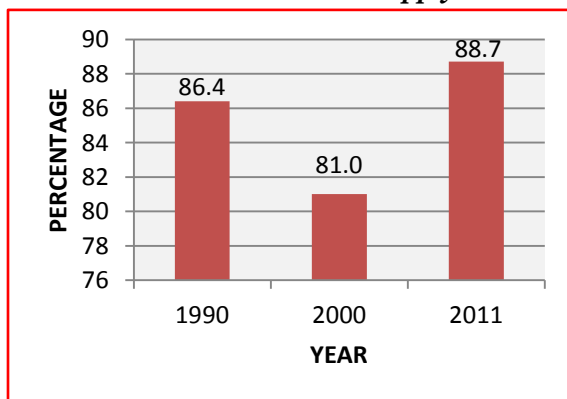


Source: CSO

The percentage of dwelling units with access to chlorinated water stood at approximately 89 percent in 2011 - an overall increase of 8 percent from 2000 (**Chart 7.6**). The development and execution of the Water and Wastewater Master Plan has resulted in the improvement of the water supply to the population.

CHART 7.6

Proportion of Dwelling Units with Access to a Chlorinated Water Supply



Source: CSO

The Water and Sewerage Authority as

the executing agency of the Master Plan, has embarked on the renewal and expansion of the water supply infrastructure which involves improvement works in the water treatment facilities; drilling of wells; and increased supply capacity of the Desalination Company of Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, a pipeline installation initiative has been undertaken in 55 communities under the *National Social Development Programme*. These, and other initiatives, auger well for the continued improvement of the water supply to the population.

Indicator: Proportion of Population Using an Improved Sanitation Facility

SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS USING IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES

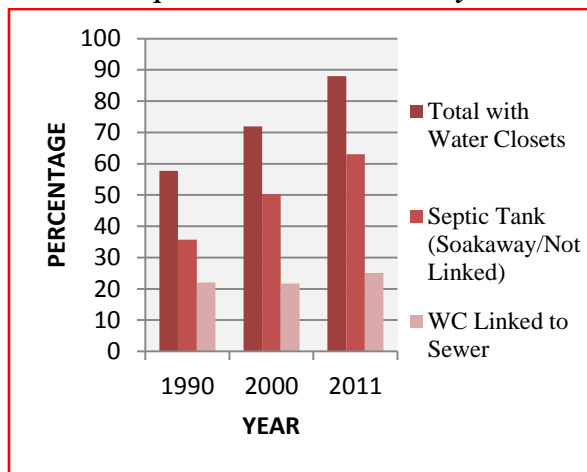
Chart 7.7 below indicates that, during the period 1990 to 2011, there were significant increases in the percentage of households in Trinidad and Tobago that had access to water closets¹⁴⁸ (WCs). In the year 2011, 88 percent had access, which represented a significant increase from 57.7 percent in 1990. However, most of these households had closets that were either linked to soakaways or not linked to soakaways or sewers. As such, a *National Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Programme* was developed to improve the environmental conditions and

¹⁴⁸ Water closet is defined as an enclosed room or compartment containing a toilet bowl fitted with a mechanism for flushing.

reduce the uncontrolled discharge of untreated wastewater into the environment.

CHART 7.7

Proportion of the Population Using an Improved Sanitation Facility



Source: CSO

Target: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Indicator: Proportion of Urban Population living in squatter settlements

ACTIVELY PURSUING INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE LIVELIHOODS AND DWELLING SPACES IN SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS

While the squatting population in Trinidad and Tobago is relatively small, the issue of squatting remains of grave concern as successive governments grapple to find solutions to provide decent livelihoods and dwelling spaces for low-income or no-income households. The inability to legitimately acquire dwelling units has

led to squatting on vacant parcels of state land, in many cases, in high-risk, environmentally unsafe areas. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) estimates Trinidad and Tobago's squatting population to be in excess of 250,000 people. These persons reside in over 250 squatting communities on state land in Trinidad and Tobago which accounts for approximately 23,000 squatting households¹⁴⁹ (see **Table 7.6** below).

TABLE 7.6

Number of Squatter Dwelling Units in Regional Corporations and Municipalities of Trinidad

Regional Corporations and Municipalities	No. of Squatter Dwelling Units
Port of Spain	455
Mayaro/Rio Claro	793
Sangre Grande	3080
Princes Town	1129
Penal/Debe	602
Siparia	1571
San Fernando	623
Arima	157
Chaguanas	1957
Point Fortin	529
Diego Martin	3157
San Juan/Laventille	2758
Tunapuna/Piarco	3269
Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo	2528
TOTAL	22610

Source: CSO, 2011 Population and Housing Census

The Land Settlement Agency, an entity under the purview of the MHUD, is mandated to prevent or contain further squatting on state lands and to regularize certain squatters under the provisions of the State Land

¹⁴⁹http://news.co.tt/public_html/article.php?story=20120521180042698

(Regularisation of Tenure) Act No.25 of 1998¹⁵⁰.

In November 2012, the Land Settlement Agency launched *The Land for The Landless – Residential Lots Programme* in an attempt to assist low income households in acquiring land with further assistance to be provided during the building phase of the low-cost housing unit. To date, 500 housing lots have been allocated to Trinidad and Tobago nationals as part of the first phase of the Programme. It is expected that this Programme would acutely address the extensive list of over 129,000 applicants who are currently awaiting housing through the MHUD and its executing agency, the Housing Development Corporation (HDC).

Another Government administered intervention is the *Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme* which commenced in fiscal 2011 with an investment of US\$50 million comprising US\$40 million of IADB Loan funding and US\$10 million of state funding. This Programme is Phase 2 of the *National Settlement Programme* which seeks to enhance the quality of life of low and middle income groups, and thus promote the equitable development of wholesome and sustainable communities in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Programme comprises three components: Squatter Regularisation and Upgrading (US\$25 million); New

Home and Home Improvement Subsidy (US\$17 million); and Sector and Institutional Strengthening (US\$8 million). It is geared towards the development of low income housing units and the overall upgrade of squatter communities.

*According to the Social Sector Investment Programme 2013 Report*¹⁵¹, the Government provided housing for many citizens who were living in unfavourable conditions. During the first quarter of fiscal year 2012, over 150 families received keys to their new home from the Housing Development Corporation. Housing grants were also made available to citizens for home improvements and repairs. Over 600 homeowners benefited from this financial assistance including those needing emergency relief as a result of natural and other disasters.

The Home Improvement Grant (HIG) team also conducted outreaches to assist persons with disabilities; over 100 persons benefited. Overall, the programme benefited 1,624 persons, at an estimated expenditure of TT\$24 million, on average TT\$15,000 per beneficiary. Additionally, approximately TT\$22 million were disbursed to provide 1,241 persons with home improvement subsidies.

Further, three urban communities in Port-of-Spain are to benefit from the *Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative (ESCI)*, another development

¹⁵⁰<http://www.mphe.gov.tt/agenciesdivisions/lisa.html>

¹⁵¹ <http://www.finance.gov.tt/content/Social-Sector-Investment-Programme-2013.pdf>

project between the IADB and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The urban sector activities to be undertaken include urban regeneration, flood prevention and solid waste management. The ESCI, launched in 2011, is an attempt to reduce the challenges to the sustainability of emerging cities in a structured and integrated manner as a result of rapid urbanization.¹⁵²

In recognition of the fact that the rise of squatter settlements is in part due to unplanned and unregulated land use, the Town and Country Planning Division of the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development, in conjunction with the National Planning Task Force, have developed a new National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) for Trinidad and Tobago within the national planning framework.

The outcome of the NPDP is the National Spatial Development Strategy (NSDS) 2013-2023 which enunciates the spatial dimensions of major land use and national and sectoral goals. It sets the platform to guide more detailed regional and local planning at the municipal level as well as land use elements of the growth pole strategies.

Moreover, the NSDS has been developed to ensure equity in development of major facilities, infrastructure and services while

preserving a high quality natural environment. Within this planning framework which has a ten-year lifespan, the country is well poised to achieve the target to significantly improve the lives of squatter communities by 2020.

Climate Change and Trinidad and Tobago's Mitigation Response

In our quest towards a more balanced approach to development that includes ensuring environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation strategies must also be developed and executed as part of the overall strategy for sustainable development.

In that regard, it is befitting to discuss in brief the issue of climate change which is regarded as the major overriding global environmental issue of our time, especially in light of its peculiar negative effects on Small Island Developing States such as Trinidad and Tobago. As noted in the Prime Minister's statement earlier in this report, SIDS' progress in reaching the MDG targets can be obliterated by the unfettered effects of climate change.

Climate change is associated with variations in the distribution of weather patterns and other related environmental phenomena. Its far-reaching influence is predicted to shift weather patterns, increase levels of unpredictability of precipitation, increase incidence of flooding, and contaminate coastal freshwater

¹⁵² <https://guardian.co.tt/news/2012-12-09/billion-dollar-development-east-port-spain>

reserves.

As such, climate change threatens multiple sectors like agriculture, human health, coastal zones, water resources, and human settlement. Moreover, as a Small Island Developing State in the Caribbean, our country is particularly not exempt from vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and sea level rise.

The direct cause of global warming and climate change is increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. The most significant of these gases is carbon dioxide, which is emitted from various sectors, including the energy and transport sectors.

On November 28th 2009, the 20th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) reached a ground breaking agreement on a Commonwealth Climate Change Declaration.¹⁵³ The Declaration, signed in Trinidad and Tobago, called for continued implementation of all six elements of the *2007 Lake Victoria Commonwealth Climate Change Action Plan*.

It also stressed that a global climate change solution was central to the survival of peoples, the promotion of development and facilitation of a global

transition to a low emission development path.

The six elements of the 2007 Lake Victoria Action Plan are:

1. Strengthening the quality of and participation in climate change negotiations
2. Promoting action through Commonwealth networks to deepen consideration of the economic and human aspects of climate change
3. Improved land use management and sustainable use of forest resources
4. Work on the issue of transported exports
5. Support for natural disaster management in member countries
6. Technical assistance to least developed countries and small states

As such, Government remains committed to the Declaration and employing the necessary policy shifts required to execute appropriate programmes to balance economic growth and sustainable development. Cognisant of the intricate relationship between sustainable development and the environment, Government has devised targeted interventions to respond to this rising concern, which is stated below.

Key Climate Change Initiatives

Several projects and programmes and have been initiated to address climate change concerns in Trinidad and Tobago. These include:

- The Project *Mainstreaming Climate Change into National Development and Feasibility of Carbon Capture and Storage in Geological Formations* analysed the policy and legislative gaps for national climate

¹⁵³<http://secretariat.thecommonwealth.org/files/216541/FileName/BriefingNote-ClimateChange.pdf>

change policy implementation and made recommendations for filling gaps. The recommendations are currently being implemented;

- The Project *Carbon Reduction Strategy* is aimed at identifying policy and technology intervention options in the power generation, transportation and industrial sectors with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in these sectors. The results of this study will provide input in arriving at a long term reduction objective;
- The *Low Emissions Capacity Building Programme* is aimed at building capacity to measure, report and verify greenhouse gas emissions in emitting sectors;
- The *Clean Development Mechanism* aimed at pursuing projects to reduce carbon emissions has been initiated;
- The *Greening of the Priority Bus Route* is geared towards transforming the PBR into a green route through the conversion of electricity generated street lights to solar powered units;
- The project to convert buses, maxi taxis and other state vehicles to compressed natural gas has commenced; compressed natural gas emits less carbon dioxide than the gasoline and diesel powered units;
- An active and operational Ministerial Committee on the Elaboration of a Strategy for Carbon Reduction in Trinidad and Tobago has been established to provide oversight for the

implementation of the national climate change policy;

- In 2013, the IADB issued to Trinidad and Tobago grant funding in the amount of US\$360,000 for a climate change mitigation and adaptation technical cooperation project entitled *Understanding the Economics of Climate Change Adaptation*;
- A study is underway to determine the feasibility of undertaking solar energy projects
- The European Union is funding a project to determine options for wind power on the North East coast of Trinidad and Tobago; and
- The Caribbean Climate Innovation Centre, launched in January 2014, is the first of its kind in the Caribbean to promote entrepreneurship in areas of climate change. This is the first phase in a five-year project undertaken by the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute in collaboration with the Scientific Research Council of Jamaica in an agreement with the World Bank.

The Way Forward

Balancing Economic Development and Environmental Conservation

As discussed below, Trinidad and Tobago has made substantial progress as it relates to legislative and policy reforms associated with environmental sustainability as well as the implementation of many relevant

projects and programmes. However, there exist challenges which Government is committed to resolving through the development of comprehensive and coordinated strategies.

The continuation of the expansion of the energy sector while ensuring a reduction in the country's carbon footprint has been one such challenge. To this end, the *Energy Efficiency Policy* has been developed to ensure there is a balance of both economic development and environmental conservation. Further, Trinidad and Tobago joined the *Low-Emission Capacity Building Programme*¹⁵⁴ to support the on-going efforts in developing a framework for Low Emission Development.

There remains great concern with respect to the issue of enforcement of national legislation relating to the dumping of toxic industrial waste, undesirable agricultural practices and lead pollution. As such, Government is committed to strengthening the enforcement mechanism to address these issues.

The issues of poor land practices, pollution as well as misuse of water as a result of a growing population, and increased industrial activities and threats due to climate change variability would be addressed through

¹⁵⁴ The Low Emission Capacity Building Programme is part of the larger Green, Low-Emission Climate Resilient Development Strategy of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

the implementation of the *National Integrated Water Resources Policy*. This Policy framework would facilitate proper watershed management and protection of the environment.

With respect to the coastal environment, there is an Inter-coastal Zone Management Committee which has been established to develop a coastal zone management policy framework, strategy and action plan for Trinidad and Tobago.

In addition, the National Spatial Development Strategy 2013-2023 for Trinidad and Tobago is envisioned to articulate a more strategic approach to the integration of national socio-economic and spatial planning towards the sustainable development of the country. As the highest level of spatial planning, the NSDS will provide the broad policy agenda for the country over the next 20 years.

Moving towards Environmental Sustainability

Protecting and conserving the natural resources is critical to advancing economic development and improving the quality of life of our citizens. The legislative and policy reform measures essential to this transformation are:

Legislative Review

- Enactment of subsidiary legislation under the Environmental Management Act to address noise and water pollution;

- Introduce of new legislation dealing with industrial pollution, waste management;
- Finalisation of and approval for air pollution legislation;
- Enactment of the 2013 Planning and Facilitation of Development Bill and National Spatial Development Strategy which underscores preservation of the environment as an integral component of the development planning process;
- Operationalization of the National Environmental Fund (Green Fund) grant facility in order to fund community environmental projects focused on remediation, reforestation and conservation of the environment;
- Passing of the Forestry, Protected Areas and Wildlife Conservation Bill which has been disseminated for public comment; and
- Amendment of the Certificates of Environmental Clearance (Designated Activities) Order 2001 to include all quarries and the approval of a Quarry Policy for Trinidad and Tobago.

Policy Reform

Several policies relating to environmental sustainability have already been developed and include the:

- Climate Change Policy along with a Carbon Reduction Strategy, Renewable Energy Policy and Energy Efficiency Policy;
- National Forest Policy along with

the Protected Areas Policy and the National Wildlife Policy which involve the establishment of a Forest and Protected Areas Management Authority;

- National Integrated Water Resources Policy to chart a new direction for improving the quality of and equity in accessing water and improved sanitation, as well as promoting water conservation and optimal use of the nation's resources; and
- Integrated Solid Waste/Resource Management Policy to facilitate the integration of socio-cultural, environmental and economic objectives, pursue waste prevention and minimization, promote awareness and involvement, and facilitate partnerships between public, private, and community stakeholders.

In addition to the policies listed above, the National Energy Policy Green Paper is currently being finalized.

The impact of the legislative agenda and policy environment in respect of environmental sustainability can only be felt through the successful implementation of appropriate institutional systems, projects and programmes. The numerous initiatives being undertaken or planned for implementation speak to Government's commitment to ensure that Trinidad and Tobago plays its role in preserving the environment. In addition to the initiatives discussed earlier to mitigate

climate change concerns, some of the other projects and programmes related to the achievement of this Goal include:

- *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Schools and Communities Project* (pilot) involves training and installation of solar distillation units in 25 selected schools, and installation of photovoltaic exterior lighting in 15 Community Centres;
- *National Energy Communication Campaign* to build public awareness and promote energy efficiency;
- *Establishment of a Regional Renewable Energy Research Centre* which is being done in collaboration with the United States Department of Energy;
- *Analysis of Waste to Energy Potential in Trinidad and Tobago* which is part of the an IADB-assisted Sustainable Energy Programme;
- *Reforestation Programme* seeks to involve more NGOs and community groups currently undertaking reforestation and conservation efforts with the aim of replanting 400 hectares of forest each year for ten years;
- *Public Awareness Programmes* to sensitize and educate the public on environmental issues and appropriate responses;
- *Integration of Environmental Studies in the School Curricula*;
- *Marine Fisheries Research Project* seeks to foster better conservation of fish stocks by enabling data

collection on pelagic fish stocks, gillnet studies, coastal zone management and the upgrade of information management systems;

- *Development of a Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Programme* aims to improve the environmental conditions in Trinidad and Tobago by reducing the uncontrolled discharge of untreated wastewater into the environment; and
- *Water and Wastewater Master Plan* to improve the water supply to the population including supplying a 24/7 water supply to all customer households by 2015.

Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to satisfying the demands of economic development and improving the quality of life of citizens while ensuring environment sustainability.

Goal 8

*Develop A Global Partnership
For Development*



GOAL 8

Develop a Global Partnership for Development

TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system</p> <p>(Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally)</p>	<p><i>Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.</i></p>
<p>Address the special needs of the least developed countries</p> <p>(Includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction)</p>	<p><u>Official development assistance (ODA)</u> Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income</p> <p>Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation)</p> <p>Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied</p> <p>ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes</p> <p>ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes</p>
<p>Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)</p>	<p><u>Market access</u> Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty</p> <p>Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries</p>

TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term</p>	<p>Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product</p> <p>Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity</p> <p><u>Debt sustainability</u> Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative)</p> <p>Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives</p> <p>Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services</p>
<p>In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries</p>	<p>Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis</p>
<p>In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</p>	<p>Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants</p> <p>Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants</p> <p>Internet users per 100 inhabitants</p>

GOAL 8 Develop a **Global Partnership for Development**



Introduction

The Foreign Policy Framework

The process of globalisation and liberalisation has not only integrated trade, financial flows, information networks, cultural activities and technologies, but has made countries so interdependent that conflicts or crises, even in remote destinations, have direct consequences for all nations. At the same time, the global agenda for sustainable development is far from being achieved. It is in this regard the primary function of Trinidad and Tobago's Foreign Policy has been

the pursuit of the national development agenda, namely promoting sustainable development, peace and citizen security.

The pillars of this country's foreign policy are: (i) consistent and effective relationship with the United States of America; (ii) closer cooperation and collaboration with Latin America; (iii) a resurgent relationship with the European Union; and (iv) a new discovery in our relationship with Africa and Asia.

Trinidad and Tobago's continued economic prosperity is also linked to regional and international partnerships. In recognition of the growing influence of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa as emerging economies increasingly impacting the global economic and trade arena as evidenced by their membership of the Group of Twenty, the diplomatic presence in these countries will be strengthened. Trinidad and Tobago has sought to build and strengthen global partnerships for trade and development by improving the capacity and competence of institutions involved in trade and foreign policy negotiations. In addition, new partnerships will continue to be sought in emerging markets to encourage the flow of ideas, skills and technology for the benefit of our people.

International Economic Relations

Trade is an important driver of economic growth for Small Island

Developing States and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is also cognizant of the key role that trade policy has and continues to play in diversifying the export base; increasing global trade share; and effectively integrating the economy into the global trading system. Trinidad and Tobago's *Trade Policy and Strategy 2013-2017* will ensure that the benefits of international trade contribute to the country's socio-economic development. This will be achieved by expanding and diversifying production, exports (goods and services) and markets. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been established comprising representatives from various key ministries to oversee the implementation of the policy and an National Export Strategy will be also be developed to complement this Trade Policy.

Promoting Multilateralism and Regional Integration

Trinidad and Tobago also commits itself to improving multilateralism in areas where it has the expertise and will work collectively with others to promote sustainable and effective partnerships for development. Over the medium term, the foreign policy agenda, among other strategies, seeks to maintain, develop and enhance relations with strategic countries at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels and to participate actively in the multilateral arena, especially within the United Nations system. Especially within the UN System, small countries like Trinidad and Tobago will find the

leverage to influence global developments. This entails the forging of strategic alliances to address common issues and to anticipate future situations. Our commitment will, therefore, continue to be facilitated through relations with partners in CARICOM, the Association of Caribbean States, the Organisation of American States, the United Nations, multilateral financial institutions, and the signing of various bilateral and multilateral agreements.

There is the acknowledgement by the Association of Caribbean States of the initiative of the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote economic advancement in the Caribbean region through the creation of a structured Convergence process. The objectives of this process are to: allow greater facilitation of the movement of capital and services; promote the establishment of mechanisms to protect investments within the region; integrate capital markets; develop infrastructure to improve logistics and explore with international financial institutions the reorientation of their policies in order to support the less developed countries with regard to shifts in the international economy; and maintain macroeconomic stability.

This is essentially the Caribbean Sea Convergence model being advanced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs where the new perception of convergence is 'a new economic space' where there is partnership not just across the

Caribbean Sea space, but also between the public and the private sectors. It is the forging of a right partnership to achieve the goals of production integration, competitiveness and distribution. This country believes that creating a new economy of the Caribbean Sea is a politics-driven process requiring a partnership approach.

In furthering regional integration, Trinidad and Tobago has noted that it is not economical for Member States of the Caribbean Community to have diplomatic missions in every country and, therefore, it is prudent for the region to have shared diplomatic spaces. It has been suggested by this Country that CARICOM States, as small nations, can partner with each other thereby saving costs and at the same time promoting our own countries whilst promoting the region as a whole through the establishment of CARICOM Desks. In this way, the entire region can be represented in a particular capital where such representation is limited.

Trinidad and Tobago has also been in the forefront on the deliberations surrounding the post-2015 Development Agenda and played a key role in building consensus at the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings for the Third International Conference on Small Island Development States scheduled to take place in Samoa in September, 2014. Trinidad and Tobago is a member of the United Nations Open Working Group on

Sustainable Development Goals and made statements on behalf of the CARICOM. Our involvement in the sustainable development debate also see support for the efforts of the Alliance of Small Island States in bringing to the international stage the wide range of issues affecting these countries. This engagement and collaboration is continuing within the meetings of the Global Preparatory Committee for the 2014 SIDS Conference and in the Commonwealth Biennial Small States Conference.

Target: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

The twin forces of globalisation and trade liberalisation have significantly changed the way business is conducted and have made it increasingly complex for small economies to grow and develop in the rapidly intensifying competitive global environment. Creating new trade agreements and maintaining existing ones are vital components for the facilitation of trade and economic growth. Trinidad and Tobago was instrumental in the adoption by the member states of the United Nations of the Small Arms Trade Treaty. This is an imperative for creating an ideal, safe and secure business environment to attract foreign investment.

In fact, the establishment of regional trading blocs has become the new paradigm in the international trading arena. To this end, Trinidad and Tobago, as part of CARICOM, has signed bilateral trade agreements with the following countries:

- Colombia;
- Costa Rica;
- Cuba;
- Venezuela; and
- The Dominican Republic.

Further, Trinidad and Tobago, as a member of CARICOM, signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union in October 2008, to facilitate, inter alia, Trade in Services, and is in the process of negotiating the CARICOM-Canada trade agreement. This EPA enables Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers' significant leverage in the European Union market, whereby, market access will be granted to 27 member states within the Union.

In an effort to fulfill Government's policy objectives of expanding South/South dialogue and greater engagement of our Latin American partners, Trinidad and Tobago signed a Partial Scope Agreement with Panama in June, 2011 which came into effect in 2013. Having ratified this Agreement, Trinidad and Tobago's manufacturers are now able to benefit from reduced tariffs and greater market access for products such as aerated beverages, asphalt, bitumen, lubricants, blocks, tiles, aromatic bitters, agricultural products, and

apparel. Chapters on services and investment have been included in the Agreement and will be expanded in the near future.

In addition, Trinidad and Tobago is currently negotiating a Partial Scope Agreement with Guatemala. The successful completion of negotiations for this Agreement will allow Trinidad and Tobago to obtain greater preferential access with the removal of custom duties into the Guatemala market on products, such as canned chicken sausage, peanut butter, groundnuts, pepper sauce, lubricating grease, clay tiles, building bricks, co-axial cable, automatic circuit breakers and steel band instruments.

Trinidad and Tobago has also signed Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT's) with the following countries:

- Canada;
- Cuba;
- France;
- Switzerland;
- China;
- Spain;
- Germany;
- India;
- Korea;
- Mexico;
- United Kingdom; and
- The United States of America.

In relation to the financial system, under the Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP), recommendations for further enhancing the regulatory and supervisory

environment were outlined by the International Monetary Fund.

With these recommendations in mind, the legislative and regulatory architecture governing the financial system were improved through the:

- Passage of the Financial Institutions Act (FIA), 2008 which provides for consolidated supervision and information sharing between the Central Bank and other authorities (both domestic and foreign) involved in financial sector supervision. It requires the mandatory application by all licensees, both on an individual and consolidated basis, of capital adequacy requirements as well as limits on large exposure and connected lending. It also requires the issuance of new or updated guidelines on corporate governance, impaired assets and consolidated prudential reporting; and
- Establishment of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) under the FIU Act of 2009 and the renewal of the Financial Obligations Regulations in 2010 served to strengthen the framework for Anti-money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing.

Target: Official Development Assistance

TABLE 8.1

Grant Resources Allocated To Trinidad and Tobago From 1975

Conventional/ EDF	Duration	Value € Mn	Focal Areas
Lome I/4 th EDF	1975 - 1980	10.3	
Lome II/5 th EDF	1980 - 1985	10.5	
Lome III/6 th EDF	1986 - 1991	15.0	Agriculture, Human Resources, Tourism
Lome IV/7 th EDF	1991 - 1995	18.1	Road Infrastructure, Rural Development, Private Sector Development
Lome bis/8 th EDF	1997 - 2003	14.7	Economic Diversification, Poverty Alleviation
Cotonou/9 th EDF	2003 - 2007	17.9	Tertiary Education, Health (HIV/AIDS)
10 th EDF	2008 - 2013	25.9*	Economic Transition, Good and Effective Governance

Source: Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development

**indicative*

European Union

Trinidad and Tobago's main bilateral Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Donor is the European Union (EU).

The EU has provided grant funds to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago since 1974 under the Lomé Conventions and now under the Cotonou Agreement. Each Convention/Agreement is for a 20-year period between the European Commission and the Member States of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP). Funding is disbursed in 5 year cycles under the European Development Fund (EDF). **Table 8.1** above summarizes the grant resources allocated to Trinidad and Tobago since 1975 to present.

The EU has also provided support to Trinidad and Tobago under the Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol (AMSP) countries in the sum of £43.289 million for the period 2007-2010.

Inter-American Development Bank

Trinidad and Tobago is also a member of the Inter-American Development Bank and has benefited from a development partnership with the Bank since 1968. The Bank is currently the largest single source of external funding for this country's Development Programme. Specific areas of support from the IADB are specified within the framework of Trinidad and Tobago's Country Strategy. As at December 31,

2013, the Bank has given grant funding in the amount of approximately US\$52.6 million.

Since 1995, Official Development Assistance (ODA) received by Trinidad and Tobago has been less than one percent of Gross National Income (GNI). This was largely due to favourable economic conditions experienced by the country arising out of buoyant energy prices during this period. Consequently, in January, 2008, Trinidad and Tobago graduated to net-contributor country status within the UNDP system. Also, in accordance with OECD/DAC rules, Trinidad and Tobago graduated from the list of ODA recipients in 2011.

TABLE 8.2

ODA received by Trinidad and Tobago/GNI

YEAR	ODA received in Small Island Developing States as a proportion of GNI, %
1995	0.51
1996	0.31
1997	0.62
1998	0.24
1999	0.41
2000	-0.02
2001	-0.02
2002	-0.10
2003	-0.03
2004	-0.02
2005	-0.01
2006	0.07
2007	0.1
2008	0.05
2009	0.03
2010	0.02

Source: OECD

Assistance to help build trade capacity

Trinidad and Tobago's relatively favourable economic position in the years prior to the global economic downturn has rendered the country ineligible for ODA. The minimal amount of ODA flows utilised in building trade capacity was generally in the form of technical assistance which has been difficult to cost (see **Table 8.2** above).

Such assistance has been provided mainly by the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Inter-American Development Bank and the OECD via the *Hub and Spokes Project* which helped to build capacity in trade policy formulation, negotiation and implementation.

With assistance from the IADB, the Government implemented a Trade Sector Support Programme (TSSP) in 2003. TSSP loan funding and technical assistance were aimed at improving the country's international trade performance as well as to stimulate and enhance business and investment.

Under the TSSP, the Public Service Change and Transformation Plan and the Strategic ICT Plan were completed in 2012. Other activities in 2012 include the commencement of the EPA Communication and Technology Strategy, implementation of the Curriculum Development Study – International Trade Professional Programme and the continuation of the consultancy for the implementation of

the Single Electronic Window for Trade and Business Facilitation. The TSSP ended in 2012.

Target: Address the special needs of least developed countries

Since its independence in 1962, Trinidad and Tobago has been committed to regional integration and engaging in partnership for the development of the other members of the Caribbean Community. This approach emerged from an early recognition that Caribbean countries are open and vulnerable economies and subject to internal and external shocks. The members of the Caribbean Community are Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Haiti, Jamaica, Grenada, Guyana, Montserrat, St. Lucia, Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The objectives of the Caribbean Community are to improve standards of living and work; the full employment of labour and other factors of production; accelerated, coordinated and sustained economic development and convergence; expansion of trade and economic relations with third States; enhanced levels of international competitiveness; organization for increased production and productivity; achievement of a greater measure of economic leverage; effectiveness of Member States in dealing with third States, groups of States and entities of

any description; and the enhanced coordination of Member States' foreign and foreign economic policies and enhanced functional cooperation.

Over time, the type of assistance provided by Trinidad and Tobago has been of a financial and non-financial nature and has supported countries in times of natural disasters/hurricane, severe flooding, fiscal support, capacity building and debt relief.

Special Development Fund

Since 1970, the country has been a major contributor to the Special Development Fund (SDF) administered by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The SDF is a key element in the aid architecture for the Caribbean and the role and operations of the CDB for the benefit of the Borrowing Member States. It is an instrument for addressing deep-seated issues of poverty, vulnerability and human development in the countdown to the Millennium Development Goals timeframe of 2015.

At the end of 2012, the agreed contribution of Trinidad and Tobago to the SDF was put at US\$35.8 million.

Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative

A major initiative of Trinidad and Tobago was the significant debt relief that it provided through bilateral and multilateral fora such as the Paris Club. Specifically, this country provided approximately US\$423.15 million to its

debtors as illustrated below in **Table 8.3**. The majority of the debt owed to Trinidad and Tobago was incurred under the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility, which is a scheme that was established to facilitate the settlement on a multilateral basis of payments of eligible transactions. It should be noted Trinidad and Tobago provided this debt relief during a period of severe hardship as the country had entered into an adjustment programme that was supported by an International Monetary Fund Standby Arrangement (1987).

TABLE 8.3

Debt Relief Provided by Trinidad and Tobago

YEAR	Debt Relief (US\$M)	Notes
1988	53.00	Rescheduling of accumulated debts of US\$452.5 million and write off of US\$ 53.0 million.
1996	358.20	Debt stock write off was equivalent to 6.2 percent of T&T's GDP in 1997. As a result of the write off, the total debt owed to T&T declined to US\$ 176.9 million.
2001	9.50	The amount written off was T&T share under the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF)
2003	1.45	T&T's share of debt relief as member of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.
	423.15	

Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago

Caribbean Development Fund

Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory to the Agreement establishing the CARICOM Development Fund (CDF). The CDF was established in 2008 for the purpose of providing financial or technical assistance to disadvantage countries, regions and sectors in CARICOM. Ultimately the Fund is to contribute to the sustainable economic development and social progress of CARICOM Member States, individually and jointly. As at December 31, 2012, the total assessed contribution to the CDF was US\$100 million of which US\$91.8 million has been received. Trinidad and Tobago made its full contribution of US\$46.7 million (US\$9.66 million came from the Petroleum Fund), representing approximately 51 percent of the total contribution received.

Caribbean Trade Support Programme

In addition to this country's contribution to regional initiatives to assist least developed countries in the CARICOM region, there was also the CARICOM Trade Support Programme. The CTSP was established to alleviate the adverse impact of recessionary condition which economies of CARICOM Member States were experiencing and to redress the intra-regional imbalance between Trinidad and Tobago and its partners by building capacity to improve efficiencies and expand export capabilities.

The CTSP, which ran from 2003-2009, provided interest loans to borrowers/approved enterprises in CARICOM countries other than Trinidad and Tobago. The loans were granted on a technical assistance basis, to enable the firms to procure the services of regional consultants to undertake diagnostic appraisals of their business operations and make recommendations on measures to be taken to achieve the objectives of their business development objectives. At the close of the Programme in 2009, total loan disbursed was US\$239,050.

Target: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States

As the global debate on the post 2015 development agenda and the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States commences, Trinidad and Tobago broadly agrees that an integrated development agenda that examines the outcomes of the MDGs and incorporates the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be a priority. The special needs of small island development must also be reconciled keeping in view at all times that countries are at different stages of development and that global development initiatives must not be punitive but developmental.

Trinidad and Tobago participated actively in the Inter-regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2014 SIDS

Conference held in Barbados during August 26-28, 2013. This country participated in discussions at both the Ministerial and the expert level.

This country's delegation made the point that innovative solutions and new approaches which build on the foundations laid by the Barbados Programme of Action and its Mauritius Strategy for Implementation are required in order to address the sustainable development challenges facing SIDS. We also underscored the similarities in the issues facing the countries of the three SIDS regions related to, inter alia, food security, fisheries, alternative energy development, climate change, biodiversity, waste management and disaster risk reduction. The country made a strong call for a focus on the development of the human imagination and innovative collaborative approaches through a social compact in support of the sustainable development of SIDS.

Trinidad and Tobago was also instrumental in obtaining the support of fellow Heads of delegations for an agreement on the prioritization of the following issues for SIDS in the context of the draft outcome document:

- Climate change;
- Sustainable energy, including the development of alternative sources of energy;
- Sustainable Agriculture for Food Security;
- Sustainable Tourism;

- Integrated Water Resources Management;
- Ocean Governance with sustainable use of marine resources;
- Resilience and Disaster Risk Management; and
- Effective management, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

It should be noted, that with the exception of sustainable tourism, these priorities are already well-defined in the context of the draft outcome document.

Trinidad and Tobago will seek to ensure that issues of high importance are addressed in a balanced manner throughout the document, including the issues of youth, women and ageing as well as the institutional arrangements at the United Nations level for addressing the issue of SIDS.

In the deliberations of the UN General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Trinidad and Tobago spoke on behalf of CARICOM at the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Sessions on thematic areas of Energy, Human Rights and Climate Change which took place in November and December, 2013 and January, 2014, respectively,

Target: Deal comprehensively with the Debt problems through national and international measures to make it sustainable in the long term

The debt management objectives of Trinidad and Tobago are to:

- Minimize over the long-term the cost of meeting its financing needs, while containing its exposure to risk;
- Facilitate the development of a well-functioning domestic capital market, with the creation and maintenance of local interest-rate yield curve; and
- Ensure that debt management policy is consistent with the objectives of monetary policy, fiscal policy and other macroeconomic policies.

The Debt Management Strategy for the medium-term will continue to focus on the establishment of a risk management framework and the development of an efficient market for government securities. The strategy will involve, *inter alia*:

- Achievement of an optimal level of debt that offers fiscal sustainability, external sustainability and solvency in the short-, medium- and long-term; and
- Careful monitoring and management of contingent liabilities.

Trinidad and Tobago's Gross Public Debt averaged 37 percent of GDP over the period 2003-2011. In 2012, the total public debt was 46.0 percent of GDP and by 2013, the figure was 48.6 percent. The average projected for the medium-term 2014-2018 is estimated at 55 percent. The projected Debt to GDP ratio for the next five years is still within the Reinhart and Rogoff debt threshold of 30 percent to 60 percent for the country to still be classified as moderate risk.

The Government is mindful that keeping the public sector debt at sustainable levels is a key policy measure for the medium-term. In this regard, assistance was sought from the Commonwealth Secretariat in 2012 towards effective debt management, through the implementation of the Commonwealth Secretariat Debt Recording Management System as the primary software to underpin the analytical work of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy and the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago in relation to the Public Debt.

The Debt Recording Management System is an integrated tool for recording, monitoring, analysing and reporting public debt which is constantly evolving to match the ways in which debt management is reshaping itself. To date, it is in operation in 59 countries both within and outside the Commonwealth and this system will allow Trinidad and Tobago to minimize risks within its debt portfolio and achieve savings through lower debt servicing payments while helping the

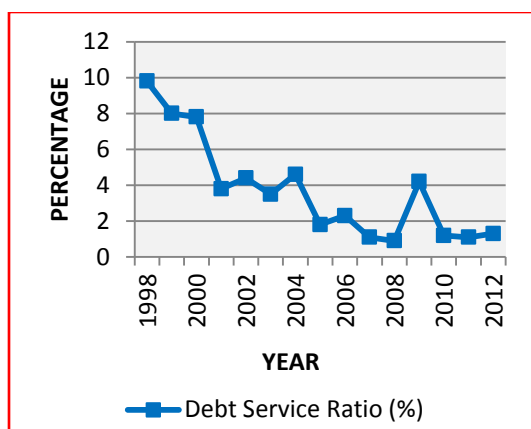
relevant government agencies (Ministry of Finance and the Economy and Central Bank) to bring the debt burden to manageable levels by the analysis of the impact of debt relief and restructuring.

Indicator: Debt Service as a Percentage of Exports of Goods and Services

Over the last 5 years, debt service as a percentage of exports has been relatively low and stable ranging approximately between 1 - 4.2 percent. In 2009, the ratio was 4.2 percent which represented the highest percentage increase over the period from 2007-2012 (**Chart 8.1**).

CHART 8.1

Debt Service as a Percentage of Exports of Goods and Services (1998 - 2012)



Source: Trinidad and Tobago's 2012 IMF Article IV Reports

Target: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Trinidad and Tobago, while not in receipt of foreign assistance in the provision of essential drugs to its national population, does have a domestic programme to achieve such an objective. The Chronic Disease Assistance Programme, established in 2003, provides citizens with free prescription drugs and other pharmaceutical items to combat the following health conditions:

- Diabetes;
- Asthma;
- Cardiac Diseases;
- Arthritis;
- Glaucoma;
- Mental Depression;
- High Blood Pressure;
- Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (Enlarged Prostate);
- Epilepsy;
- Hypercholesterolemia;
- Parkinson's diseases; and
- Thyroid diseases.

There are over 250 pharmacies throughout the country that provide medications through CDAP and 47 drugs are available. New prescription drugs may be added to the list from time to time. The average annual cost of the Programme is US\$62 million. There has been general satisfaction, in some cases 88 percent, with the Programme

by the stakeholders: Pharmacies, Physicians and Patients.

Target: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

One of Trinidad and Tobago’s major objectives is to be an interconnected, technologically advanced society with modern information and communication systems driving innovation, growth and social progress. Telecommunication services and Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) are critical elements in driving this objective, and our country is well poised for such.

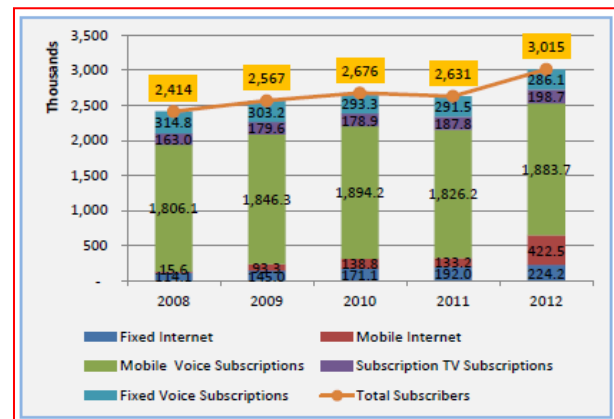
In 2004, the Telecommunications Act of Trinidad and Tobago was proclaimed and this opened the telecommunications sector to competition. Subsequently, in 2006, a major new mobile provider entered the market and a fixed-term licence was granted to another provider for fixed broadband and cable services. In the cases of both cellular subscriptions and internet users, there has been significantly noted growth. The number of internet users increased steadily from 33 users per 100 persons in 2007 to approximately 68 users per 100 persons in 2011.¹⁵⁵

For the year ending December, 2012, the number of subscriptions within the

fixed voice, mobile, voice, fixed Internet, mobile Internet and subscription television market segments totalled approximately 3.0 million. This represents an increase of 14.6 percent or 384.5 thousand more subscriptions than 2011. **Chart 8.2** below illustrates total industry subscriptions for the period 2008-2012.

CHART 8.2

Market Share of Total Subscriptions for the period 2008-2012



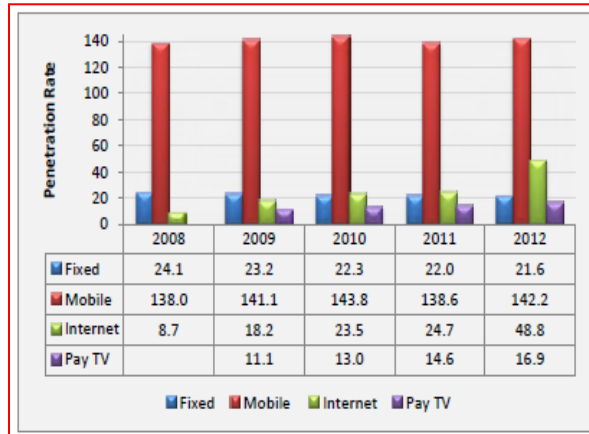
Source: Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

The penetration rate is defined as the number of subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. The penetration rates for the Internet, Mobile and subscription TV markets increased, while the penetration rate for fixed voice for the 2012 period continued to decline. Mobile services, with a rate of 142.2, continued to record the highest penetration rate. Internet was the second highest with a penetration rate of 48.8 whilst fixed telephony and Subscription television service followed with penetration rates of 21.6 and 16.9, respectively (**Chart 8.3**).

¹⁵⁵ Ministry of Public Administration.

CHART 8.3

Penetration Rate of Subscriptions from 2008-2012



Source: Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

Development of ICT can prove to be an important prerequisite to promote social and economic transformation that enables sustainable economic growth and human development and, as such, the Government has recognized the growing importance and potential of ICTs for this country.

In the Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2014, ICT is identified as Pillar 4 - *Connecting T&T and building the new economy* - of the seven interconnected pillars for sustainable development. It is also designated as one of the seven business clusters emerging out of the Action Agenda for the Diversification Conference held in 2012. The notion of an ICT cluster creates a nuanced space for Public and Private sector collaboration to develop the sector to its maximum potential.

The Government has completed a National ICT Plan 2014-2018 (SmarTT). This plan builds on its predecessor **fastforward**, the 2003-2008 National ICT Plan. SmarTT builds on the foundation laid by *fastforward* and is the first instalment of a larger ICT roadmap.

Other historical elements on the journey of developing our ICT sector include:

- ttconnect established in 2005;
- iGovTT established in 2009;
- e-Connect and Learn (eCAL) established in 2010; and
- TTBizlink established in 2011

The legislative framework for our ICT sector includes the following;

- Data Protection Act and regulations; Cybercrime Bill;
- Cybercrime Security Agency Bill; Electronic Transfer of Funds Crime (Amdt.) Act;
- Electronic Evidence Bill; and
- Exchequer and Audit (Amdt.) Bill.

To continue fostering an ICT sensitive and cyber ready environment in our country, under the Commonwealth Connect Programme and Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative, Trinidad and Tobago has secured technical assistance. This will facilitate capacity building for a number of projects within the judiciary, legal fraternity and law enforcement, as well as conduct of an in country assessment.

Having a supportive environment has allowed the exploration of ICTs productive potential. ICT has a certain duality which allows it to act as an enabler and as a sector. Outside of ICT cluster development and the provision of enabling platforms for the other clusters, additional strategies to mainstream ICT as thriving sector in national development include a Global Services Programme. This is based on an investment loan for promoting exports and investment in the global IT-enabled services sector in Trinidad and Tobago and is a promising step towards developing our country's ICT sector.

The Way Forward

Trinidad and Tobago's development strategy underscores the importance of meaningful and decisive engagement with the community of nations and strategic positioning at the regional, hemispheric and wider global levels. To this end, Government is committed to

implementing initiatives to achieve this goal.

Strengthening the trade and financial system has been high on the national agenda. However, the main challenge in improving the system is a lengthy consultation process in the development of updated legislation. Government is committed to developing strategies that will continue to promote involvement of all stakeholders in amending legislation.

Trinidad and Tobago's economy features significant non-energy exports and employment generated by micro, small and medium sized enterprises. Challenges in such an economy lie in including these enterprises in global partnerships and in increasing their integration into new technologies and ICT. Government is, therefore, giving priority to moving the economy up the value chain by improving competitiveness and expanding both local and foreign investment through global alliances.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

Reflecting on Key National Milestones and Their Influence on the Trinidad and Tobago's Development Agenda

Upon the adoption of the MDGs, Trinidad and Tobago, like many other countries, modified the goals, targets and indicators to suit the development needs of the country. The modifications for Trinidad and Tobago relate to Goals 2 and 6 and are listed in the table below.

MODIFICATIONS TO MDGS – ADDITIONAL INDICATORS	
GOALS/ TARGETS	INDICATORS
GOAL2: ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRE-SCHOOL, PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION Target 2A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary level schooling	NET ENROLMENT IN PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION
	NET SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RATE
	TERTIARY EDUCATION PARTICIPATION RATE
GOAL 6: COMBAT HIV/AIDS, DENGUE, DIABETES AND HYPERTENSION¹⁵⁶ Target 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS Target 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it	NEW HIV POSITIVE CASES AT PUBLIC HEALTH LOCATIONS
	NUMBER OF DEATH DUE TO AIDS
	INCIDENCE ASSOCIATED WITH DENGUE FEVER
	INCIDENCE OF DIABETES
	INCIDENCE OF HYPERTENSION
	DEATH RATES ASSOCIATED WITH DIABETES
	DEATH RATES ASSOCIATED WITH HYPERTENSION

¹⁵⁶ Targets to be developed for selected indicators in this Goal

These adaptations were crucial inputs to the national development agenda as reflected in the Medium Term Policy Framework (MTPF) 2011-2014. Of the five priority areas identified in the MTPF 2011-2014¹⁵⁷ the following two areas were directly aligned with the MDGs:

- Quality Healthcare Services and Hospitals (MDGs 4, 5 and 6);
- Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development (MDGs 1 and 2).

To drive the national development agenda, specific programmes, policies and legislative changes were adopted as highlighted in the table below:

MDG Goal	Key Projects/Programmes/Policies and Legislative Changes
Goals 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social Service Programme ● Accelerated Housing Programme ● Land for the Landless Policy ● Squatter Settlements Regularization ● Home Improvement and New Housing Subsidies ● Skills Development Programme ● Scholar and Advanced Training Programme ● Seamless Education System Programme
Goal 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1990 ● Passed the Counting Unremunerated Work Act in Parliament in 1996, thereby completing the ratification of the Equal Remuneration Convention of the International Labour Organization (ILO). ● Supported the creation of a Convention on Domestic Workers which was adopted in June 2011.
Goals 4, 5 and 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health Sector Reform Programme (Training and Physical Investments)

¹⁵⁷ The five national priorities were: Crime and Law and Order; Agriculture and Food Security; Healthcare Services and Hospitals; Economic Growth, Job Creation, Competitiveness and Innovation; Poverty Reduction and Human Capital Development.

MDG Goal	Key Projects/Programmes/Policies and Legislative Changes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Programme for Chronic Diseases • Special Programme for HIV/AIDS • Establishment of Training Facilities for Nurses at El Dorado • Formulated a Revised Maternal and Child Health Policy • Developed and implemented Standard Operating Procedures for Obstetrics and Midwifery.
Goal 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Green Fund • Fondes Amandes Hillside revegetation • National Tree Planting initiatives • Water and Wastewater Rehabilitation Programme • Establishment of a Solid Waste Management Policy • Established a Climate Change Policy • Green Communities Spaces Strategy
Goal 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade Sector Reform Programme • Passage of the Financial Institutions Act (FIA), 2008 • Establish of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) under the FIU Act of 2009 • Establishment of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago • Establishment of a single electronic window (TTBizLink)

Moreover, the MDGs were able to further influence the establishment of country specific targets to 2015, as identified in the MTPF 2011-2014. These targets have facilitated the prioritization of development efforts and have accelerated the establishment of a system of managing for results through a National Performance Framework.¹⁵⁸ The MDGs have also influenced the generation of data at the administrative (regional) level as exemplified in the Trinidad and Tobago Human Development Atlas (2012).

¹⁵⁸ Some of the targets in the MTPF (2011-2014) were modified in the NPF (2012-2015).

In relation to partnership and coordination arrangements, Government has begun the consultative process towards the establishment of a Civil Society Board in order to incorporate the views of Civil Society in national development plans, including those socio-economic issues addressed in the MDGs. An Economic Development Board and a Council for Competiveness were also established in order to guide economic growth and diversification using Public Private Partnership (PPPs) arrangements.

APPENDIX II

Going Beyond 2015 and the Current Set of MDG Targets:

Trinidad and Tobago's official position regarding the Post 2015 development agenda is that there should be a single agenda. This agenda should ensure that the Millennium Development Goals are considered within context of the Sustainable Development paradigm so that integration and congruence can be achieved.

To this end, the country articulated, after national consultations, ten thematic areas which are believed to have captured the development challenges and vulnerabilities of not only Trinidad and Tobago but also other Small Islanding Developing States (SIDS). SIDS are inherently vulnerable to environmental changes due to their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base and vulnerability to external economic shocks. This uniqueness must be considered when determining how progress towards development is to be measured and assessed.

Trinidad and Tobago proposes that these issues be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. The ten thematic areas identified are highlighted in the table below. The first four have been recognized as priorities.

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
1.	Poverty Reduction & Gender Equality:		Human Capital Development	<p>Outcome 1: Access to adequate and affordable housing;</p> <p>Outcome 2: Self Reliant and Sustainable Communities;</p> <p>Outcome 3: An Efficient and Effective Social System for the poor and vulnerable;</p> <p>Outcome 4: Elimination of gender based violence;</p> <p>Outcome 5: Reduce income inequality.</p> <p>Indicator: Poverty Rate</p> <p>Target 1: 2 percent reduction per year from 2011 to 2015 in the.</p> <p>Indicator: Poverty Gap</p> <p>Target: reduce from 4.6 percent to 3.5 percent by 2015</p> <p>Indicator: Gini Coefficient</p> <p>Target: 0.39 to 0.21 by 2015</p>	<p>Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2015;</p> <p>National Performance Framework (2012-2015);</p> <p>Annual Report on Performance 2012.</p>	<p>Poverty reduction has been identified as a main priority for Trinidad and Tobago. All citizens have a right to a decent standard of living and a life of poverty threatens social stability and the ability of citizens to fully participate in meaningful economic and social activities. Strategies identified to address the issue include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering the poor through education, training and promoting entrepreneurship; • Strengthening social safety network systems.

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>Indicator: HDI Ranking</p> <p>Target: Increase by 15 points by 2015</p>		
2.	Food Security:			<p>Objective 1: Increase the production of food locally;</p> <p>Objective 2: Reduce the food import bill;</p> <p>Objective 3: Reduce inflation due to food prices;</p> <p>Objective 4: Create sustainable, long term productive employment in the agriculture sector;</p> <p>Objective 5: Build a culture of consuming local food as a first choice;</p> <p>Objective 6: Create high value added manufacturing of local goods.</p> <p>Indicator: Food Inflation Rate</p> <p>Target: Reduce Inflation to 25 percent by 2015</p>	<p>Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2015;</p> <p>National Performance Framework (2012-2015);</p> <p>Annual Report on Performance 2012;</p> <p>National Food Production Action Plan (2012-2015).</p>	<p>Food security is a sovereign right that all nations should enjoy. All persons should have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. Food security impacts on physical health, poverty eradication; environmental conservation and the trade balance. Given the interdependency of countries through trade, this issue must be effectively addressed through the Post 2015 agenda. Strategies to be used include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing agriculture production and improving distribution and access through modern technology and innovation; • Encouraging youth participation in the sector • Improvements to land management and

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>Indicator: Percentage contribution of agriculture to the non-energy manufacturing GDP</p> <p>Target: Increase contribution of agriculture to GDP by 3 percent</p> <p>Indicator: Percentage employment in agriculture</p> <p>Target: Increase employment in agriculture by 5 percent</p> <p>Indicator: Food import Bill:</p> <p>Target: Reduce the Food import Bill to \$3 billion.</p>		tenure.
3.	Health & Well Being			<p>Outcome 1: Universal Access to Accredited and Sustainable Health Care Facilities across T&T</p> <p>Outcome 2: Efficient and Quality Healthcare System</p> <p>Outcome 3: Reduced incidence and</p>	<p>Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2015;</p> <p>National Performance Framework (2012-2015);</p>	The need to improve the quality of healthcare services and reduce the incidence of chronic diseases is important to all countries, especially in the developing world. These issues directly hinder a country's development through human capital loss and indirectly through reduced productivity, while burdening public health expenditure.

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>Prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases</p> <p>Indicator: Mortality Rates of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCDs) per 100,000 persons</p> <p>Target: Reduce by 20 percent by 2015</p> <p>Indicator: Cancer Mortality Rate per 100,000 population</p> <p>Target: reduce by 20 percent by 2015</p> <p>Indicator: HIV/AIDS Adult Prevalence Rate</p> <p>Target: Reduction of the Adult Prevalence Rate to 0.5 percent by 2015.</p> <p>Indicator: Medical Professionals per 10,000 persons.</p> <p>Target: 18 doctors per 10,000 population by 2015.</p> <p>Indicator: Nursing Professionals per</p>	Annual Report on Performance 2012.	<p>Consequently, this issue should be addressed on a global scale. Advances made by developed nations could benefit citizens of less developed countries saving lives and improving their quality of life. Strategies employed by Trinidad and Tobago will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the management of the health sector; • Strengthening the policy and legislative framework; • Inculcating values such as a lifelong commitment to healthy lifestyles • Increasing access to quality health services.

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>10,000 persons</p> <p>Target: 25 nurses per 10,000 persons by 2015</p> <p>Indicator: Client Satisfaction Rate</p> <p>Target: 85 percent by 2015.</p> <p>Indicator: Immunization Coverage</p> <p>Target: 95 percent by 2015.</p>		
4.	Governance			<p>Objective: Establish a National Performance Framework;</p> <p>Objective: Build a culture of Monitoring and Evaluation within Government.</p>	<p>National Performance Framework (2012-2015);</p> <p>Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2015;</p>	<p>The Government of Trinidad and Tobago will pursue strategies as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Results Based Management Framework for Government supported by a Monitoring and Evaluation System; • Utilize an Integrated Public Management Framework for core Government Ministries; • Increase public participation in Governance; • Promote accountability, transparency and responsiveness to citizens; • Promote consensus building and greater equity in the distribution of resources.

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
5.	Diversification, Growth and Employment			<p>Outcome 1: Economic Growth and Job Creation.</p> <p>Outcome 2: Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Partnership.</p> <p>Outcome 3: A Diversified Economy.</p> <p>Indicator: Gross Domestic Product (\$TT Million)</p> <p>Target: Increase by 2 percent to 2015</p> <p>Indicator: Sector Contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)</p> <p>Target: 3 percent increase by 2015 in Non- Petroleum Sector to GDP</p> <p>Indicator: Exports (US\$ million)</p> <p>Targets: Increase by 2 percent Energy Sector Exports & 5 percent Non-Energy Sector Exports</p>	<p>Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2015;</p> <p>National Performance Framework (2012-2015);</p> <p>Annual Report on Performance 2012.</p>	<p>Traditional growth models have been dismantled and redefined by changing global trends. Emphasis is now being placed on knowledge, innovation, enterprise and the adaptability of nations. Human capital and the creative power of citizens are the new drivers of the competitive advantage of nations. These elements are essential if SIDS are to effectively compete, survive and achieve sustainable development. Therefore emphasizing the importance of the issue on the Post 2015 global agenda. Trinidad and Tobago will continue its path towards diversification of its economy, to a knowledge based, innovation driven one. Strategies will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting new strategic sectors and education, skills training and entrepreneurship; • Creating a modern, efficient economic infrastructure base; • Strategically managing the business environment and international economic relations.

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>Indicator: Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)</p> <p>Target: US \$ 1 billion by 2015</p> <p>Indicator: Unemployment Rate</p> <p>Target: Reduce by 5 percent by 2015</p> <p>Indicator: Global Competiveness Index</p> <p>Target: Improve score by 20 points by 2015.</p> <p>Indicator: Global Innovation Index</p> <p>Target: Improve score by 10 points by 2015.</p>		
6.	Youth and Ageing:			<p>Youth Goals:</p> <p>Goal 1: To enable young men and women to initiate, lead and participate;</p>	National Youth Policy of Trinidad and Tobago (2012- 2017).	Global population trends have predicted an unprecedented level of aging in the world population. ¹⁵⁹ Many nations, including Trinidad and Tobago must address the

¹⁵⁹ World Ageing Population, 1950-2050, United Nations.

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>Goal 2: To ensure that young people have access to adequate and appropriate programmes, resources and services to facilitate their widest possible participation, regardless of their geographic location, race, ethnicity, gender, level of disability and social, religious and economic standing;</p> <p>Goal 3: To develop a coordinated response and participation of all stakeholders, including Government, non-Government, private organisations and young persons, to ensure all youth related programmes are integrated and synchronized, while providing new and effective mechanism to build collaboration between all youth development stakeholders;</p> <p>Goal 4: To define and prioritize areas of specific action for youth empowerment in accordance with the overall policies of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago;</p> <p>Goal 5: To develop qualities of citizenship and pride in our national</p>	National Policy on Ageing for Trinidad and Tobago (2007)	<p>impact of this trend at the national level and so the issue should be addressed collaboratively on an international level. Economically, an ageing population impacts growth, savings, investment and consumption, labour markets, pensions, taxation and intergenerational transfers. Socially, health and health care, family composition and living arrangements, housing and migration are also affected.</p> <p>The issues affecting youth are also global in nature. Strategies will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting their human rights, • Ensuring decent employment and meaningful economic and social participation • Providing adequate access to education on sexual and reproductive health.

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>identity, while sustaining and reinforcing the spirit of volunteerism among youths and recognising their contribution.</p> <p>Ageing Objectives:</p> <p>Objective 1: To create an environment that will facilitate the meaningful participation and involvement of older persons in society;</p> <p>Objective 2: To ensure the provision of adequate and cost effective community-based services for older persons;</p> <p>Objective 3: To promote wellness, active and healthy ageing among older persons;</p> <p>Objective 4: To enhance the self-reliance and functional independence of older persons;</p> <p>Objective 5: To facilitate their continued participation in family life and the society:</p>		

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>Objective 6: To promote and preserve the dignity and independence of older persons;</p> <p>Objective 7: To encourage and promote education and public awareness on issues related to older persons and the ageing process;</p> <p>Objective 8: To encourage and promote greater collaboration among Government, the private sector, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), and communities the provision of support services for the benefit of older persons.</p>		
7.	Human Security:	Crime and Law and Order		<p>Outcome 1: Create More Effective law Enforcement;</p> <p>Outcome 2: Reduce crime against property and person;</p> <p>Outcome 3: Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Judicial System.</p>	<p>Medium Term Policy Framework 2011-2015;</p> <p>National Performance Framework (2012-2015);</p>	The issue of human security is cross cutting in nature given its linkages to migration, crime and gender. Moreover, human security is also a right that all global citizens should enjoy and as such, the issue is more apt to be addressed internationally. Trinidad and Tobago has begun to address human security in the

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>Indicator: Crime Rate</p> <p>Target: 15 percent annually to 2015</p> <p>Indicator: Recidivism rate</p> <p>Target: 10 percent annually to 2015</p> <p>Indicator: Crime Solvency (Detection) Rate</p> <p>Target: Reduce to 25 percent by 2015</p> <p>Indicator: Homicide Detection Rate</p> <p>Target: Reduce to 25 percent by 2015</p> <p>Indicator: Time taken for cases from start to determination</p> <p>Target: Reduce time by 60 percent (approximately 4 years) by 2015.</p>	Annual Report on Performance 2012.	<p>context of reducing crime and promoting law and order. Strategies currently employed include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Containing the drug trade; • Improving national intelligence; • Reducing gang and gang related activity; • Reducing the recidivism rate.
8.	Climate Change Adaptation:			Objective 1: reducing or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions from all emitting sectors;	Draft National Climate Change Policy;	As a global issue with direct linkages to sustainable development, climate change

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>Objective 2: enhancing carbon sinks;</p> <p>Objective 3: conserving and building resilience of human and natural systems to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through capacity building and the application of cleaner and energy efficient technologies;</p> <p>Objective 4: protection of the natural environment and human health;</p> <p>Objective 5: enhanced agricultural production and food security.</p>	Working for Sustainable Development in Trinidad and Tobago: Progress, Gaps and Opportunities for Action, June 2012.	adaptation is guaranteed a place on the Post 2015 development agenda. Climate change should be institutionalized in the context of SIDS for example, by allowing companies and organisations of the developed world, to attain carbon credits as part of their carbon emissions trading, for assisting similar sectors in SIDS. A more effective mechanism for cross country and public private partnerships in addition to grants must also be established through international dialogue to address this global issue. The Global Wind Energy Council serves as an example.
9.	Managed Migration:			Objective 1 ¹⁶⁰ : To improve government capacity and structures for collecting and analyzing labour migration data; To promote and support research on labour migration issues, including the impact of emigration on countries of	International Labour Office (ILO) Multilateral Framework on Labour Migration (2006)	The lack of absorptive capacity of economies such as Trinidad and Tobago has resulted in the migration of skilled graduates seeking to capitalize lucrative opportunities in developed countries. This

¹⁶⁰ No country objectives were formulated for this thematic area and as such the ILO guidelines for managed Migration were utilised.

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
				<p>origin, as well as the contribution of immigration to countries of destination;</p> <p>Objective 2: To ensure coherence between labour migration, employment and other national policies, in recognition of the wide social and economic implications of labour migration;</p> <p>Objective 3: To implement policies that ensure that specific vulnerabilities faced by certain groups of migrant workers, including workers in an irregular situation are addressed;</p> <p>Objective 4: To ensure that labour migration policies are gender-sensitive and address issues and problems that women face in the migration process;</p>		<p>is a common phenomena faced by SIDS. Strategies to enable development for SIDS include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilization of knowledge, skills and resources of the diaspora through international dialogue.
10.	Harnessing Creativity and Imagination:			Objectives and Indicators to be developed.		This critical interconnecting priority focuses on achieving sustained socio-economic growth by adapting the use of innovation to solve the issues and challenges that affect the development of nations. Further, it is quite apparent

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
						<p>more than ever, that the rate of technological progress determines the ability of a country's industry to penetrate new markets, develop new products and services that command high prices in domestic and international markets. The future prosperity of many nations therefore depend on its ability to generate new ideas, processes and solutions, and use innovation to convert knowledge into social good and economic wealth, and provide answers to the most significant societal challenges. Trinidad and Tobago is quite cognizant of global experiences, which shows that in many instances, countries with abundant natural resource are not necessarily those that have achieved sustainable economic progress.</p> <p>Trinidad and Tobago is making a concerted effort to design focused</p>

	Priority Theme	Area	National/ Subnational Priorities (subthemes identified population groups, regions etc.)	Stated objectives, indicators, targets and timelines (where available)	Source Documents	Comments
						strategies for driving innovation and has embarked on the process of innovation as the critical factor for achieving global competitiveness and economic sustainability. Initiatives include the development of a National Innovation Policy and establishing an effective/formal National Innovation System.

APPENDIX III

TABLES SHOWING DATA FOR CHARTS IN THE REPORT

TABLE FOR CHART 1.3

Poverty by Male and Female-headed Households

CATEGORISATION	GENDER					
	No.			percent		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Relatively Poor	442	257	699	51.5	30.0	100
Extremely Poor	100	58	668	11.7	6.8	100
Total Poor	542	315	1,367	63.2	36.7	

Source: CSO; 2008/2009 Household Budgetary Survey

TABLE FOR CHART 1.4

Poverty by Ethnicity

CATEGORISATION		ETHNIC GROUP								TOTAL
		African	Indian	Chinese	Syrian/ Lebanese	Caucasian	Mixed	Other	Not Stated	
Poverty Rate based on income (as percent of people living in poor households)	Non-Poor	8,448	7,819	63	18	143	5191	19	27	21,728
	Relatively Poor	1,207	1,142	0	0	1	752	1	10	3,113
	Extreme Poor	182	247	5	0	9	223	1	0	667
Total		9,837	9,208	68	18	153	6,166	21	37	25,508

Source: 2008/2009 Household Budgetary Survey

TABLE FOR CHART 1.5

Growth Rate of GDP per Person Employed (1990-2011)

YEAR	Persons With Jobs	GDP @ Constant (2000) Prices	GDP/Person Employed	Growth Rate of GDP/Person Employed (percent)
1990 (GDP @ Constant 1990 Prices)	381,700	\$16,134,400,000	42,269.85	-17.20 (compared to 1980)
2000	503,400	\$49,343,300,000	98,020.06	56.88
2011	596,100	\$88,060,800,000	147,728.23	33.65

Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago & CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 1.6*Employment to Population Ratio (1990-2011)*

YEAR	Male Labour Force Participation Rate (percent)	Female Labour Force Participation Rate (percent)	Employment-to-Population Ratio (percent)
1990	74.3	37.8	45.65
2000	75.3	47.0	53.70
2011	72.3	49.3	59.14

*Source: CSO***TABLE FOR CHART 1.7***Proportion of Own-Accounts and Contributing Family Workers in Total Employment, Both Sexes and Overall Unemployment Rate (1990-2011)*

YEAR	Proportion of Own-Account and Contributing Family Workers in Total Employment, Both Sexes (percent)	Overall Unemployment Rate (percent)
1990	22.69	20.00
2000	18.45	12.10
2011	17.36	4.90

*Source: CSO***TABLE FOR CHART 2.1***Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education by Sex (1990 - 2009)*

ACADEMIC YEAR	SEX	
	Male	Female
1990	93.0	93.7
2000/2001	92.5	92.9
2001/2002	92.0	92.0
2005/2006	97.6	97.6
2007/2008	97.3	96.0
2008/2009	97.3	96.0
2009/2010	99.0	97.0

Source: Ministry of Education

TABLE FOR CHART 2.2*Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade I (First Year) who Reach Grade 7 (Standard 5)**(1990 - 2009)*

ACADEMIC YEAR AT START OF GRADE 1	SEX	
	Male	Female
1990	93.0	93.7
1995	92.5	92.9
1998	92.0	92.0
2006	97.6	97.6
2007	90.2	93.8
2008	92.8	93.1
2009	90.8	94.0

*Source: Ministry of Education***TABLE FOR CHART 2.3***Pupil/ Teacher Ratio at Primary and Secondary Levels (2000 - 2009)*

YEAR	LEVEL	
	Primary	Secondary
2000	23.10	20.15
2001	21.33	21.35
2002	17.19	18.49
2003	18.82	18.10
2004	18.22	17.31
2005	17.93	16.05
2006	17.72	15.24
2007	17.34	15.56
2008	17.44	15.01
2009	17.95	14.16

*Source: Ministry of Education***TABLE FOR CHART 3.1***Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliament*

YEAR	Seats Held by Women in National Parliament	Total Number of Seats in National Parliament	Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliament (percent)
1997	4	36	11.1
1998	4	36	11.1
1999	4	36	11.1
2000	4	36	11.1
2001	4	36	16.7
2002	6	36	19.4
2003	7	36	19.4
2004	7	36	19.4
2005	7	36	19.4
2006	7	36	19.4
2007	7	36	19.4
2008	11	41	26.8
2009	11	41	26.8
2010	11	41	26.8
2011	11	41	26.8

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 4.1

Under-Five Mortality Rate (1990-2008)

YEAR	Rate
1990	16.24
1991	14.08
1992	14.26
1993	16.64
1994	16.87
1995	20.04
1996	19.84
1997	20.27
1998	22.07
1999	22.00
2000	24.00
2001	22.50
2002	27.40
2003	26.90
2004	18.60
2005	17.70
2006	15.50
2007	14.40
2008	16.00

Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report 2009

TABLE FOR CHART 4.2

Under-Five Mortality Rate by Sex

YEAR	Male	Female
1990	18.0	14.4
1991	15.7	12.4
1992	16.4	12.1
1993	18.3	14.9
1994	18.5	15.1
1995	20.9	19.1
1996	22.6	16.9
1997	21.6	18.9
1998	26.7	17.2
1999	22.7	20.1
2000	28.0	20.2
2001	23.7	20.1
2002	31.2	23.4
2003	28.9	24.8
2004	20.8	16.4
2005	19.7	15.6
2006	16.6	14.4
2007	15.5	13.0
2008	17.8	14.1

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 4.3

Under-Five Mortality Rate by Administrative Area (2008)

Administrative Area	Rate
Port-of-Spain	30.51
San Fernando	13.78
Arima	9.78
Chaguanas	14.06
Point Fortin	15.67
Diego Martin	18.37
San Juan/Laventille	15.91
Tunapuna/Piarco	14.77
Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo	13.95
Mayaro/Rio Claro	7.49
Sangre Grande	17.69
Princes Town	16.88
Penal/Debe	16.17
Siparia	10.59
Tobago	16.11
Port-of-Spain	30.51
San Fernando	13.78
Arima	9.78
Chaguanas	14.06
Point Fortin	15.67

Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report

TABLE FOR CHART 4.4

Under-Five, Infant and 1-4 Year-Old Mortality Rates

YEAR	Under-Five Mortality Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	1-4 Year-Old Mortality Rate
1990	16.2	12.7	3.6
1991	14.1	11.0	4.6
1992	14.3	10.5	3.8
1993	16.6	12.2	4.4
1994	16.9	13.8	3.1
1995	20.0	17.1	2.9
1996	19.8	16.2	3.6
1997	20.3	17.1	3.1
1998	22.1	18.5	3.5
1999	22.0	17.6	3.9
2000	24.0	21.1	3.1
2001	22.5	18.5	3.4
2002	27.4	24.2	3.1
2003	26.9	24.0	3.0
2004	18.6	16.5	2.2
2005	17.7	15.4	2.3
2006	15.5	13.1	2.4
2007	14.4	11.9	2.4
2008	16.0	13.2	2.8
2009	--	13.4	--
2010	14.4	12.6	--
2011	--	10.7	--

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 4.5**Infant, Neonatal and Post-neonatal Mortality Rates**

YEAR	Infant	Neonatal	Post-neonatal
1990	12.7	9.0	3.7
1991	11.0	7.2	3.8
1992	10.5	6.9	3.6
1993	12.2	8.4	3.8
1994	13.8	10.6	3.2
1995	17.1	13.9	3.3
1996	16.2	12.2	4.0
1997	17.1	13.1	4.0
1998	18.5	14.4	4.2
1999	17.6	13.8	3.8
2000	21.1	17.1	4.0
2001	18.5	15.0	3.5
2002	24.2	20.2	4.0
2003	24.0	20.4	3.6
2004	16.5	13.5	3.0
2005	15.4	11.5	3.9
2006	13.1	9.4	3.7
2007	11.9	8.3	3.6
2008	13.2	9.4	3.8
2009	13.4	9.8	3.6
2010	12.6	--	--
2011	10.7	--	--

*Source: CSO***TABLE FOR CHART 4.6****Top Causes of Infant Deaths (1990 - 2008)**

YEAR	Congenital Anomalies and Chromosomal Abnormalities	Other Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	Respiratory Conditions of the Newborn
1990	46	35	80
1991	45	26	51
1992	43	23	62
1993	49	37	72
1994	42	28	69
1995	29	48	124
1996	36	31	132
1997	48	47	134
1998	62	46	141
1999	34	53	163
2000	47	56	199
2001	57	58	122
2002	84	85	163
2003	87	113	162
2004	59	80	95
2005	62	55	83
2006	62	47	62
2007	49	50	56
2008	59	56	79

Source: CSO Population and Vital Statistics Report

TABLE FOR CHART 4.7*Top Causes of Deaths of Children, 1-4 Year-Olds (2004 - 2008)*

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	Percentage of Deaths
Injury, Poisoning & External Causes	62	28.1
Congenital Malformations	30	13.6
Diseases of the Nervous System	30	13.6
Diseases of the Respiratory System	24	10.9
Certain Infectious & Parasitic Diseases	23	10.4
Neoplasms	22	10.0
Other	191	13.6

*Source: CSO Population & Vital Statistics Report***EXTENDED TABLE 5.1***Person in Attendance at Live Birth (1999-2008)*

YEAR	1999		2000	
Personnel Type	No.	percent	No.	percent
Skilled Personnel (Doctors & Midwives)	18,158	99	18,077	99
Other Person	163	1	83	1
Total	18,321	100	18,160	100
YEAR	2001		2002	
Personnel Type	No.	percent	No.	percent
Skilled Personnel (Doctors & Midwives)	18,016	99	16,921	99
Other Person	62	1	69	1
Total	18,078	100	16,990	100
YEAR	2003		2004	
Personnel Type	No.	percent	No.	percent
Skilled Personnel (Doctors & Midwives)	17,934	99	17,180	99
Other Person	55	1	55	1
Total	17,989	100	17,235	100
YEAR	2005		2006	
Personnel Type	No.	percent	No.	percent
Skilled Personnel (Doctors & Midwives)	17,213	99	18,039	99
Other Person	51	1	51	1
Total	17,264	100	18,090	100
YEAR	2007		2008	
Personnel Type	No.	percent	No.	percent
Skilled Personnel (Doctors & Midwives)	18,816	99	19,795	99
Other Person	73	1	93	1
Total	18,889	100	19,888	100

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 5.1

Maternal Mortality Ratio (1990 - 2010)

YEAR	Maternal Mortality Ratio (1990-2010)
1990	54.3
1991	49.2
1992	60.7
1993	66.4
1994	76.2
1995	67.5
1996	38.9
1997	70.4
1998	44.7
1999	38.2
2000	55.1
2001	38.7
2002	29.4
2003	27.8
2004	52.2
2005	34.8
2006	66.3
2007	31.8
2008	55.3
2009	45.7
2010	52.4

Source: CSO

(Data for 2009-2010 are provisional estimates)

TABLE FOR CHART 5.2

Causes of Maternal Mortality (2004 - 2008)

YEAR	CAUSE OF MATERNAL MORTALITY		TOTAL
	Pregnancy with abortive outcome	Other Direct Obstetric Deaths	
2004	2	7	9
2005	3	3	6
2006	3	9	12
2007	2	4	6
2008	1	10	11
Total	11	33	44
percent	25	75	100

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 5.3*Maternal Mortality and Age Group of Mothers (2004 - 2008)*

Cause of Maternal Mortality	Age Group of Mothers					
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44
Pregnancy with abortive outcome	0	4	1	5	0	1
Other Direct Obstetric Deaths	5	3	4	8	6	7
Total	5	7	5	13	6	8
percent	11	16	11	30	14	18

*Source: CSO***TABLE FOR CHART 5.4***Occurrence of Live Births (2003 - 2008)*

YEAR	2003		2004	
Location of Birth	No.	percent	No.	percent
Private Homes	138	0.77	146	0.85
Nursing Homes	2,764	15.36	2,545	14.77
Government Institution	15,076	83.81	14,516	84.22
Other Place	11	0.06	28	0.16
Total	17,989	100	17,235	100
YEAR	2005		2006	
Location of Birth	No.	percent	No.	percent
Private Homes	79	0.46	187	1.03
Nursing Homes	2,688	15.57	2,792	15.43
Government Institution	14,485	83.90	15,097	83.46
Other Place	12	0.07	14	0.08
Total	17,264	100	18,090	100
YEAR	2007		2008	
Location of Birth	No.	percent	No.	percent
Private Homes	137	0.73	162	0.81
Nursing Homes	3,093	16.37	3,231	16.25
Government Institution	15,649	82.85	16,475	82.84
Other Place	10	0.05	20	0.10
Total	18,889	100	19,888	100

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 6.1

New HIV Positive Cases at Public Health Locations (1990 - 2012)

YEAR	Cases
1990	286
1991	442
1992	613
1993	626
1994	622
1995	683
1996	867
1997	996
1998	964
1999	1121
2000	919
2001	1059
2002	1210
2004	1709
2003	1443
2005	1453
2006	1439
2007	1429
2008	1448
2009	1390
2010	1154
2011	1077
2012	1284

Source: Ministry of Health

TABLE FOR CHART 6.2

Number of Deaths Due to AIDS (1990 - 2012)

YEAR	Deaths
1990	105
1991	133
1992	172
1993	200
1994	194
1995	205
1996	259
1997	201
1998	267
1999	249
2000	227
2001	264
2002	244
2003	186
2004	147
2005	121
2006	195
2007	114
2008	87
2009	77
2010	72
2011	42
2012	55

Source: Ministry of Health

TABLE FOR CHART 6.3

Proportion of Pregnant Women Receiving ARV Therapy (2005 - 2009)

YEAR	Percentage
2005	75.0
2006	68.1
2007	79.2
2008	67.3
2009	77.7

Source: Ministry of Health

TABLE FOR CHART 6.4

Incidence of Malaria (2008 - 2011)

YEAR	Cases
2008	3
2009	2
2010	2
2011	1

Source: Ministry of Health

TABLE FOR CHART 6.5

Tuberculosis Death Rate (2006 - 2011)

YEAR	Rate
2006	1.7
2007	1.8
2008	1.9
2009	2.0
2010	2.1
2011	2.1

Source: UN Stats Millennium Development Goals

TABLE FOR CHART 6.6

Incidence of Dengue Fever (1990 - 2012)

YEAR	Cases
1990	3160
1991	238
1992	642
1993	3060
1994	504
1995	282
1996	3588
1997	2081
1998	2984
1999	1199
2000	2116
2001	2417
2002	6314
2003	2326
2004	583
2005	400
2006	477
2007	884
2008	3832
2009	2332
2010	4735
2011	6254
2012	2847

Source: Ministry of Health

TABLE FOR CHART 6.7

Dengue Mortality Rate (Per 100,000 Mid-year population)

YEAR	SEX		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1999	0.78	0.62	0.70
2000	0.79	1.27	1.03
2001	1.57	0.16	0.87
2002	1.41	0.79	1.10
2003	0.47	0.47	0.47
2004	0.00	0.16	0.08
2005	0.15	0.00	0.08
2006	0.15	0.00	0.08
2007	0.31	0.00	0.15
2008	1.22	1.84	1.53

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 6.8

Incidence of Diabetes & Hypertension (1996 - 2006)

YEAR	Incidence of Diabetes	Incidence of Hypertension
1990	1175	893
1991	1093	985
1992	1524	1687
1993	1663	1576
1994	1493	2118
1995	1374	2051
1996	1790	1772
1997	1689	1470
1999	2505	2070
2000	2639	2388
2001	2207	2338
2002	2044	2676
2003	2106	2004
2004	2467	2021
2005	2294	2208
2006	1984	2310

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 6.9

Death Rates Associated with Hypertension per 100,000 Mid-year Population (1996 - 2008)

YEAR	SEX		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1996	27.86	29.76	28.81
1997	42.43	39.00	40.71
1998	34.16	29.24	31.70
1999	27.93	26.29	27.11
2000	33.17	32.73	32.95
2001	35.26	28.82	32.05
2002	27.98	31.92	29.94
2003	27.67	28.32	27.99
2004	31.05	33.73	32.39
2005	30.04	30.84	30.44
2006	27.04	36.47	31.74
2007	26.47	29.86	28.16
2008	32.91	35.26	34.08

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 6.10*Death Rates Associated with Diabetes per 100,000 Mid-year Population (1996 - 2008)*

YEAR	SEX		
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
1996	89.09	91.20	90.14
1997	83.60	92.10	87.86
1998	89.33	101.16	95.25
1999	97.67	105.76	101.72
2000	107.35	105.35	101.87
2001	107.35	104.20	105.77
2002	99.25	100.01	99.63
2003	111.45	111.09	111.27
2004	107.53	105.07	106.30
2005	103.05	112.04	107.53
2006	97.25	104.94	101.08
2007	107.87	104.67	106.28
2008	109.41	107.61	108.51

*Source: CSO***TABLE FOR CHART 7.1***Proportion of Land Area Covered by Forests (1996 - 2012)*

YEAR	Forested Area	Total Land Area	Proportion (percent)
1996	230.0	513	44.85
1997	230.0	513	44.85
2000	263.7	513	50.50
2003	263.7	513	44.85
2005	226.0	513	44.10
2010	234.7	513	45.70
2011	--	--	48.00
2012	--	--	48.00

*Source: Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources***TABLE FOR CHART 7.2***CO₂ Emissions per Capita (Metric Tonnes) (1990 - 2009)*

YEAR	CO ₂ Emissions per Capita (Metric Tonnes)
1990	13.9
1992	17.0
1999	17.7
2000	18.9
2001	19.2
2002	20.6
2003	21.3
2004	23.6
2005	21.7
2006	24.3
2007	26.4
2008	35.3
2009	35.7

Source: Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources

TABLE FOR CHART 7.3

Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODP Tonnes) 1990 - 2011

YEAR	Consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances
1990	196.6
1991	168.7
1992	137.1
1993	116.6
1994	157.7
1995	163.7
1996	170.0
1997	190.7
1998	214.8
1999	100.2
2000	109.1
2001	90.7
2002	93.9
2003	74.4
2004	54.9
2005	52.1
2006	73.0
2007	45.8
2008	56.8
2009	38.5
2010	54.1
2011	34.3

Source: United Nations Environment Programme Ozone Secretariat

TABLE FOR CHART 7.4

Proportion of Dwelling Units Using an Improved Drinking Water Source

YEAR	WATER SOURCE		
	Public Pipe Into Dwelling	Public Pipe Into Yard	Private Pipe Into Dwelling
1990	55.0	12.1	4.2
2000	60.0	8.8	4.5
2011	76.0	8.9	3.9

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 7.5

Proportion of Dwelling Units with Access to a Chlorinated Water Supply

YEAR	WATER SOURCE				TOTAL
	Public Pipe Into Dwelling	Public Stand Pipe	Public Pipe Into Yard	Truck-Borne	
1990	55.0	15.0	12.1	4.3	86.4
2000	60.5	9.6	8.8	2.1	81.0
2011	76.0	2.7	8.9	1.1	88.7

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 7.6

Proportion of the Population Using an Improved Sanitation Facility

YEAR	SANITATION FACILITY		
	Total with Water Closets	Septic Tank (Soakaway/Not Linked)	WC Linked to Sewer
1990	57.7	35.7	22.0
2000	35.7	50.2	21.7
2011	22.0	63.0	25.1

Source: CSO

TABLE FOR CHART 8.1

Debt Service as a Percentage of Exports of Goods and Services

YEAR	Debt Service Ratio (percent)
1998	9.8
1999	8.0
2000	7.8
2001	3.8
2002	4.4
2003	3.5
2004	4.6
2005	1.8
2006	2.3
2007	1.1
2008	0.9
2009	4.2
2010	1.2
2011	1.1
2012	1.3

Source: Trinidad and Tobago's 2012 IMF Article IV Reports