



CSOs For Good Governance:

Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago

Project in brief:

Location: Trinidad and Tobago

Timeframe: March 2017 – February 2020 (36 months)

Supported by: European Commission, EuropeAid/151176/DD/ACT/TT

Funding amount: €340,000 from the European Commission; €100,000 co-funding

Overall goal:

To catalyse transformation to a more environmentally sustainable, socially just, inclusive, accountable and resilient model of development and governance through supporting the effective involvement of civil society organisations (CSOs) in implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T).

Specific objectives:

1. To establish a mechanism for CSOs to effectively engage in implementation of the SDGs in T&T in partnership with Government and other actors.
2. To support early advocacy actions by CSOs to hold Government accountable for implementation of the SDGs in priority areas.
3. To build the capacity of leading CSOs and CSO networks to effectively contribute to delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in T&T, both individually and through collective action.
4. To advocate for and contribute to the implementation of a revised legal, fiscal and funding framework for CSOs in T&T that promotes greater accountability, more efficient use of resources and greater effectiveness in delivery of CSO programmes.

Primary target beneficiaries:

The project will bring together an informal network of leading CSOs across all sectors as the *SDGs Catalysts Network* as a mechanism for effective engagement of civil society in T&T in the national SDGs process. CSO members will act as *Catalysts* to engage other CSOs in their respective sectors as well as other CSO networks. This 'network of networks' will create a mechanism to enable broad based and integrated cross-sectoral collaboration for effective engagement of CSOs in development, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs for inclusive national development in T&T. The learning from this experience will provide a useful model and foundation for other networks as they continue their engagement on other national and sectoral development issues.

Implementers:

The project will be co-implemented by a consortium of seven leading CSOs in T&T. While there will be engagement of all applicants across the project, key roles on Components are as follows:

- **United Way Trinidad and Tobago (UWTT)** – overall project lead, member of the *SDGs Catalysts Network* in Component 1, co-lead Component 2, lead Component 4, lead Component 5
- **Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)** – lead Component 1, co-lead Component 2
- **Veni Apwann (VA)** – member of the *SDGs Catalysts Network* in Component 1, potential sub-grantee in Component 2, lead Component 3
- **University of the West Indies – Institute for Gender and Development Studies (UWI IGDS)** – member of the *SDGs Catalysts Network* in Component 1, potential sub-grantee in Component 2



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- **Women’s Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD)** – member of the *SDGs Catalysts Network* in Component 1, potential sub-grantee in Component 2
- **Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women (Network)** – member of the *SDGs Catalysts Network* in Component 1, potential sub-grantee in Component 2
- **Environment Tobago (ET)** – member of the *SDGs Catalysts Network* in Component 1, potential sub-grantee in Component 2

It is extremely rare for CSOs in T&T to collaborate across sectors to collectively develop and implement projects, in part due to how funding is provided by Government, private sector and international funding partners. The collective working approach of this project, in itself, will be an important **capacity building process and will provide a model** for future cross-sectoral collaboration in civil society.

Components and outcomes:

The work is organised into four inter-linked Components that collectively empower civil society to be effective advocates and to actively engage in an inclusive and holistic approach to national development holding Government accountable for delivery of priority commitments under the SDGs. A fifth component will support execution of the project.

Components	Outcomes
1. Developing a mechanism for CSO engagement in the SDGs	1.1 CSOs engaged in development, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the national agenda for SDGs as model for CSO engagement in development and policy processes
2. Early actions for holding Government accountable for implementation of the SDGs	2.1 Innovative approaches to civil society advocacy for strengthening Government transparency and accountability are developed and piloted in key areas, with potential for replication and scaling up.
3. Organisational and advocacy capacity building and networking of CSOs	3.1 Leading CSOs across sectors in T&T are individually stronger, more effectively networked and collaborating with each other, government and the private sector to advocate for and deliver sustainable development results under the SDGs
4. Strengthening the legal, fiscal and funding framework for CSOs in T&T	4.1 All CSOs in T&T benefit from a coherent legal, fiscal and funding framework that supports them to deliver and be accountable for results that contribute to national development and good governance 4.2 Government and private sector benefit from a more effective system for registration of and reporting by CSOs for accountability
5. Project management, evaluation and learning, communication and visibility, and sustainability	5.1 Project managed within budget and timeframe to deliver project results; results and lessons learnt communicated to target groups; additional support leveraged and impact and sustainability enhanced.

Although the project will focus on impacting transformation to a more environmentally sustainable, socially just, inclusive, accountable and resilient model of development and governance in Trinidad and Tobago, and therefore the full breath of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and all 17 SDGs, the primary focus in the three-year project will be on Goal 16 which is to “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.” Building more inclusive models, with effective civil society participation and collaboration and mechanisms for accountability, will fundamentally transform ways of working within and across different sectors and therefore act as an essential foundation for achievement of the other 16 goals and the entire *Agenda*. CSOs participating in the project may look at specific requirements under the other 16 goals and start some actions towards achieving these but specific results will be outside of the project at the impact level.