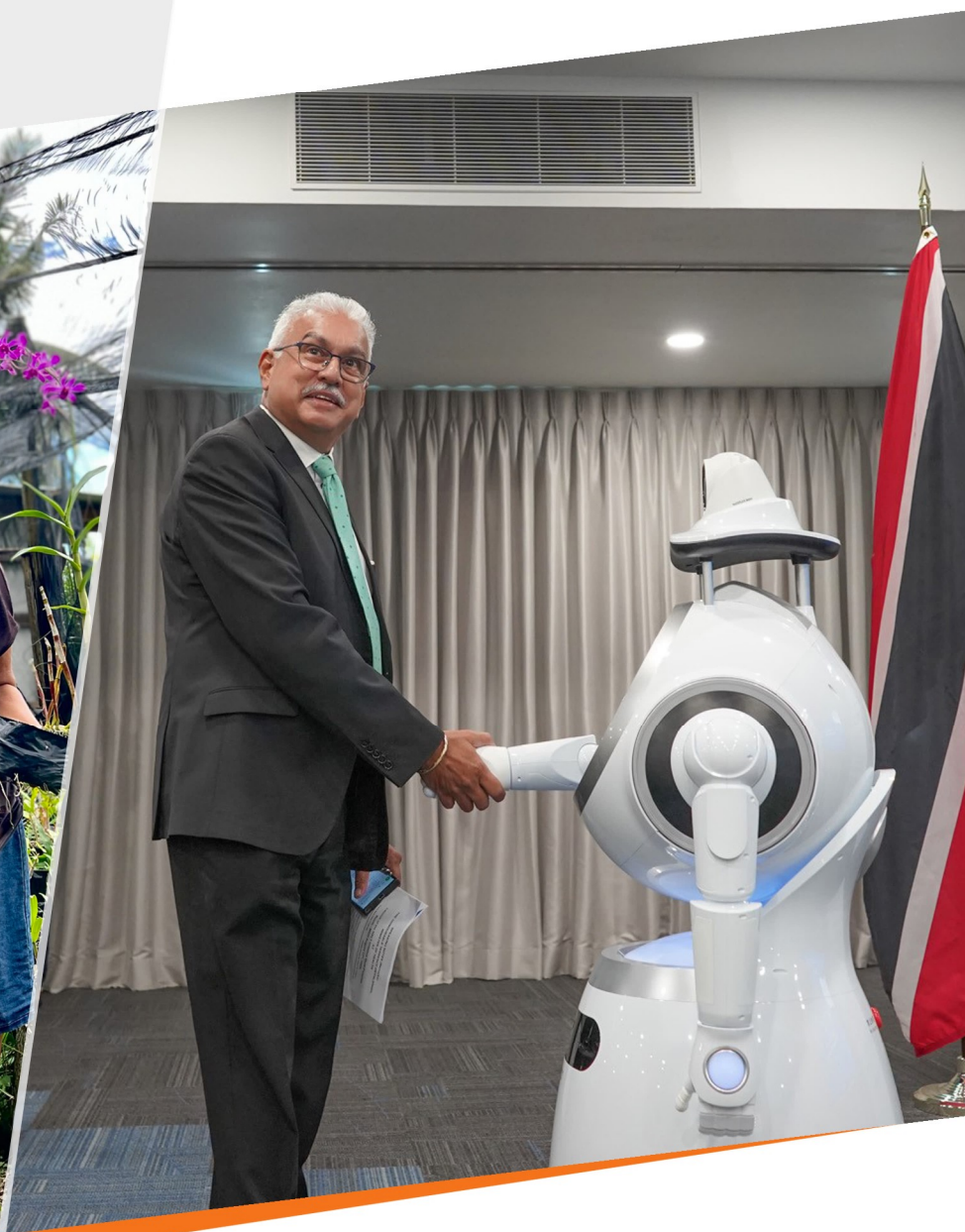


# INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND



YEAR-IN REVIEW  
NOVEMBER 2024



India-UN Development  
Partnership Fund 

# CREDITS

This publication was produced by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in consultation with the Board of Directors of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, with contributions from United Nations agencies and partners participating in the implementation of India-UN Development Partnership Fund project activities.

This year-in-review report provides an edited compilation of the human interest stories that were digitally distributed in the India-UN Development Partnership Fund quarterly newsletter. Those communications pieces feature the direct impact, people-centred, grassroots activities of the Fund in action or after their completion, along with the testimonials of partners working with the Fund or benefiting from those initiatives.


As Fund Manager and Secretariat of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, UNOSSC is pleased to present this year-in-review report. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation are expressed to all partners that continue to support, advance and collaborate in making this portfolio a great success.

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## Oversight

Xiaojun Grace Wang

## Producers

Ines Tofalo, Saeed Mubarak and Gentiana Xhavera

## Reviewer

Mithre Sandrasagra

## Copy editor

Leah Brumer

## Design

Saeed Mubarak

## Photography credits

ComSec, ILO, PAHO, UNCDF, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO

## Cover image

Healthcare robots are supporting the medical system in Trinidad and Tobago, and sustainable agriculture initiatives addressing challenges in Dominica's Kalinago territories.

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## Disclaimer

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## FOREWORD

In 2024, the Summit of the Future brought renewed impetus for the world to come together to address environmental sustainability, human development, peace and security, and structural vulnerabilities. The Summit also spotlighted the crises that are shaping our world and the interdependence that accentuates countries' exposure to each other's vulnerabilities.

With progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the required climate ambition largely lagging behind, and stark inequalities on the rise, South-South cooperation offers a glimmer of hope, despite today's very challenging realities. It testifies that collective progress is possible and can change, within our generation, the reality of those furthest behind.

Convinced of that necessity, in 2024, on the occasion of the third Voice of the Global South Summit, India proposed a Development Compact for the countries of the Global South, under the overarching theme of An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future. This Compact would be human-centric, multidimensional and multisectoral in nature, and inspired by the development priorities set by the countries of the Global South themselves. India offered to contribute to this compact its development journey and development experiences.

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is an inspiring example of how India is already contributing to this vision – and is advancing it, in practical terms, in partnership with the United Nations. This publication presents evocative illustrations of projects across the Global South that are addressing shared concerns and fostering sustainable and multidimensional development.

This 2024 India-UN Fund Year-in-Review Report illustrates that when countries come together with a shared vision and a commitment to making the world a better place, remarkable progress is achieved. We thank the many partners across governments, UN entities and communities for their support and engagements with the Fund's projects, as we move forward on our collective journey towards a more sustainable and equitable world.



**H.E. Parvathaneni Harish**

Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations



**Ms. Dima Al-Khatib**

Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

# ABOUT THE INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund champions sustainable development and shared prosperity across the Global South. In collaboration with the multilateral system, the Fund supports the aspirations of developing countries as they work towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Launched in 2017 with a commitment of US\$150 million, the Fund is spearheaded by the Government of India, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and implemented in partnership with the United Nations and various national governments. Its focus is on delivering demand-driven, locally-led projects that drive impactful change, with a special emphasis on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The India-UN Fund stands as a prime example of South-South cooperation in action, working hand-in-hand with global partners to foster solidarity and address shared development challenges. Covering a broad spectrum of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Fund supports initiatives that often address several goals simultaneously. Its projects target crucial global priorities, from building climate resilience and advancing renewable energy to promoting gender equality, enhancing health systems, expanding educational opportunities, and improving infrastructure, water access, agriculture, and digital inclusion.

## The Commonwealth Window

The Commonwealth Window of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund focuses on accelerating progress towards the SDGs within the Commonwealth of Nations, a diverse group of countries united by a shared history and values. This window is dedicated to supporting sustainable development in some of the most vulnerable member states, leveraging the unique strengths and commonalities that bind these nations. Since its inception, the Commonwealth Window has committed \$28 million to over 36 projects across 28 countries, prioritizing local ownership and tailored solutions. Through this targeted support, the Commonwealth Window strengthens national efforts, fostering collective growth and resilience among countries that share a legacy of cooperation and a vision for a better future.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is governed by a Board of Directors that approves proposals, provides overall direction to the facility, and reviews progress on the implementation of projects and activities.

The Board is comprised of H.E. Mrs. Yojna Patel, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations (New York); H.E. Mr. Srinivas Gotru, Joint Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi; and Ms. Dima Al-Khatib, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. The Board of Directors of the India-UN Fund Commonwealth Window also includes H.E. Mr. Cosmos Richardson, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York.



**H.E. Mrs. Yojna Patel**

Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York



**H.E. Mr. Srinivas Gotru**

Joint Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi



**Ms. Dima Al-Khatib**

Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation



**H.E. Ms. Menissa Rambally**

Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York



**H.E. Mr. Sujit Ghosh**

Deputy High Commissioner of India in London

# UNITED NATIONS LEADERSHIP



Our world faces immense challenges — the climate crisis, raging conflicts, widening inequalities, and a lack of progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Against this backdrop, South-South cooperation is a powerful engine for change. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund not only embodies the promise of leaving no one behind, it is also a model for how developing countries can join forces, and drive innovation and partnerships that can accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

**António Guterres**  
UN Secretary-General



"Supporting 84 projects in 62 countries to date, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund exemplifies how South-South cooperation continues to power life-changing results globally -- from using telemedicine to prevent maternal and neonatal mortality in Kyrgyzstan, to assisting authorities in Suriname in predicting flooding amid increased rainfall, to rolling out Fiji's first-ever parametric microinsurance product to buffer against future shocks. As our global community puts the Pact for the Future into action, we can build on such results, ensuring a lasting legacy of progress for the generations to come."

**Achim Steiner**  
Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



"For Small Island Developing States, the unique challenges of climate vulnerability and economic fragility demand innovative approaches. From supporting solar energy solutions in Tuvalu and Fiji to enhancing public debt management systems in Barbados, to strengthening education systems in Timor-Leste, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund has been pivotal in addressing the diverse needs of Small Island Developing States. With SIDS being the largest beneficiary group, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund has enabled these nations to strengthen their resilience by investing in climate adaptation, disaster preparedness, and community-driven development. This partnership empowers us to turn adversity into opportunity, building a future where our islands not only survive but thrive. It shows that through South-South cooperation, even the smallest nations can lead by example, shaping a sustainable pathway for all."

**H.E. Mr. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Pa'olelei Luteru**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States



For Least Developed Countries, resilience and sustainable development are not just goals — they are lifelines. I am happy to note that the India-UN Development Partnership Fund has been instrumental in driving impactful projects that address the specific needs of LDCs. From promoting youth and women employment through agricultural diversification in Benin to enhancing maternal health capacity in Mauritania, and restoring critical infrastructure in Mozambique after devastating cyclones, these initiatives underscore the power of targeted support. By leveraging local strengths and addressing urgent challenges like water access in Haiti and digital inclusion in Malawi, this partnership is crucial for laying the foundation for a future where no one is left behind. Through such partnerships, the most vulnerable can aspire to stability, growth, and prosperity.

**H.E. Lok Bahadur Thapa**  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, Chair of LDCs



"The India-UN Development Partnership Fund reminds us that when we invest in youth, we invest in a more inclusive, dynamic, and sustainable world today and into the future. I am pleased to see the Fund working meaningfully for and with young people in the Global South to provide them opportunities to thrive, innovate, and lead in their communities."

**Felipe Paullier**  
Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs



# INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND IMPACT ACROSS THE WORLD

# IMPACT ACROSS THE WORLD

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund responds directly to the national priorities and development objectives of its partner countries, contributing financial resources and technical knowledge.



Funding **\$150 million** pledged

**\$87.4 million** contributed to date

**\$70 million** allocated



Partnering with

**31** LDCs

Least Developed Countries

**30** SIDS

Small Island Developing States

**14** LLDCs

Landlocked Developing Countries

**84** projects supported

**62** countries

**49** projects completed

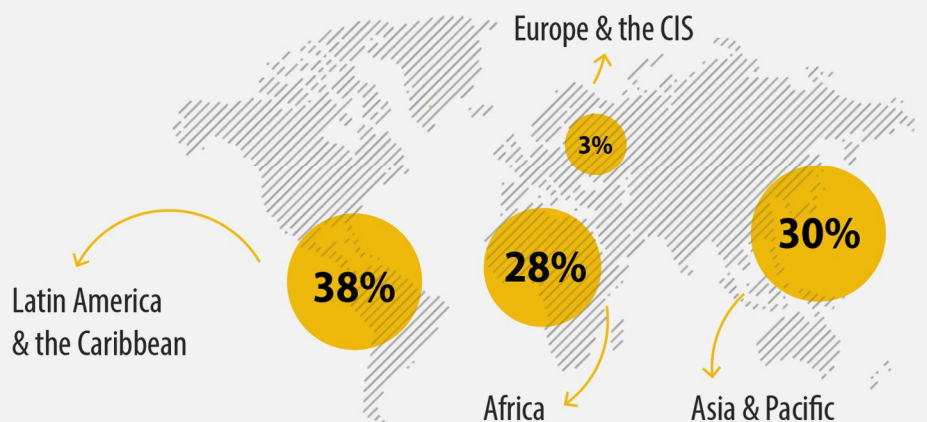
**21** projects under implementation

South-South Impact

# SDGs MOST DIRECTLY ADVANCED BY PROJECTS



## PROJECT PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



United Nations  
system partnership



Sustainability



Equality and  
horizontality



National ownership  
and leadership



Government to  
government



17 SDGs  
addressed



India-UN Development  
Partnership Fund 



No conditionalities



Strengthening  
local capacity



Spirit of  
South-South and  
triangular  
cooperation



People-centred  
development



Mutual  
benefit

# GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

## Enabling the United Nations System South-South Action

UNOSSC is the United Nations system-wide coordinator and facilitator of South-South cooperation. It supports multilateral South-South policymaking processes; strengthens capacities of Member States to initiate, manage and implement South-South cooperation; and facilitates partner-led and -funded programmes. UNOSSC manages and serves as the Board of Directors Secretariat for the India-UN Fund, as well as for other South-South cooperation funds.

Fourteen UN agencies, funds and programmes partner with India-UN Fund projects, designing and implementing its projects. Through this unique partnership with the UN system, the Government of India is able to leverage the comparative advantages of the UN, particularly its worldwide presence and its wealth of normative, thematic and programmatic expertise. Through this partnership, the Fund is pleased to also support the multilateral system, its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and shared commitments and instruments to leave no one behind.



## UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS





# RESULTS AND IMPACT OF PROJECTS



# 11 Pacific Island Countries

## Harnessing the Sun - A South-South Synergy Lights Up the Pacific with Clean Energy

In a pioneering move towards sustainable development, Pacific Island Countries (PICs) are spearheading efforts to transition presidential residences to clean energy solutions. This initiative is a crucial step in mobilizing commitments to bridge energy gaps and cut carbon emissions as part of their promise to the 2030 Agenda.

These islands face a multitude of energy-related challenges. The scarcity of local energy resources, the high costs of energy development, poor quality energy data, limited skilled labor, and weak negotiating power with fossil fuel suppliers all pose significant hurdles. Addressing these challenges is vital to ensure that everyone - regardless of gender - has equal access to energy resources and opportunities.

The disparity in electricity access across the Pacific is stark. While nations like Niue, Nauru, Palau, Tokelau, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, and Tuvalu boast nearly universal electrification, countries such as Vanuatu and Solomon Islands struggle with rates as low as 20 per cent. High costs associated with fossil fuel-based energy further limit usage among low-income households. Energy policies must consider the unique needs of these communities, including those led by women, to create inclusive solutions.

The Pacific countries' strong endorsement of renewable energy is driven by the urgent need to address climate change, improve energy security, and reduce electricity costs. Many island nations have set bold targets to slash CO2 emissions and transition to predominantly renewable energy sources by 2030. Solar energy stands out as a particularly promising option due to its decreasing costs and minimal maintenance requirements.

Earlier this year, Fiji took a significant step forward by installing an 18.25 kW solar power system at the State House. This installation produces approximately 20,000 units of clean energy annually, translating to savings of around FJD 7,400 in energy costs. The project was realized through the generous support of the Government of

Implementing Partners  
**Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF), UNDP**

Project Budget  
**\$1,100,000**

Duration  
**2020-2024**



India, facilitated by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).





“The project is an example of a **whole-of-society approach**, specifically a multi-stakeholder partnership, with partners from the public and private sectors, as well as civil society. With funding from the India-UN Development Fund, and close partnership between the UNDP and PIDF, the initiative is an important milestone towards creating awareness among different stakeholders as well as the general public on the adoption of **solar energy** as a source of clean, **renewable energy**.”



**H.E. Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere**  
President of Fiji

During the inauguration ceremony of solar generation system at the Fiji State House, as part of ‘Solarization of Head of State Residences in Pacific Islands’ Project. Photo/UNDP



During the launch event, His Excellency President Ratu Wiliame Katonivere praised the project as a model of effective multi-stakeholder collaboration involving the public and private sectors, as well as civil society.



“The initiative, funded by the India-UN Development Fund and supported through close partnerships with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF), represents a significant step in raising awareness

**about the adoption of solar energy as a source of clean, renewable power;”**

President Katonivere stated.

“This project will help Fiji move closer to its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target of nearly 100 per cent renewable energy generation by 2030 and a 20 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions from the energy sector under a Business as Usual (BAU) scenario. Additionally, it supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.”

The PIDF and UNDP Pacific are actively implementing the Solarization of Head of State Residences programme, which promotes the adoption of green energy across 11 PIDF member countries, including Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Republic of Marshall Islands, Federal States of Micronesia, Palau, and Tuvalu.

## Navigating Fiscal Challenges: The Bahamas' Success Through South-South Cooperation

The Bahamas is making notable strides in fiscal management, becoming a beacon of financial prudence and sustainability. This progress benefitted from some tailwind window from the project 'Strengthening Public Debt Management Framework and Developing Government Bond Market in The Bahamas', financed by the India-UN Partnership Development Fund and implemented by the Commonwealth Secretariat in partnership with UNDP Multi-Country Office in Jamaica.

The project contributed to significant results. The country's debt has fallen from 90.66 per cent of GDP in 2022 to 86.61 per cent in 2023, with a target of 65 per cent by the 2026/2027 fiscal year. This reduction creates more fiscal space for national priorities such as health, education, and social services. The frameworks established through this project are setting a new standard for public debt management, based on world-leading practices adapted to the local economy.

At the recent HLPF side event: Exchanges of Innovative Solutions for Debt Relief, and the Role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in New York, H.E. Mr. Stan Oduma Smith, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Bahamas to the United Nations, noted, **"The ultimate success is that the country's fiscal health has been better for it, notably with respect to the debt-to-GDP metric. From 2021, the impact was about 99.83 per cent of debt to GDP; provisional data projects that our debt has decreased to 78.1 per cent in the fiscal year 2023 to 2024."** The pivotal moment came in March 2021 with the passage of the Public Debt Management Act by the Bahamian Parliament. This Act provides a comprehensive foundation for institutional reforms designed to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in debt management. This legislation is the cornerstone upon which The Bahamas is building its future financial stability.



Implementing Partners  
**Commonwealth Secretariat,  
Government of Bahamas; UNDP**

Project Budget  
**\$550,000**

Duration  
**2020–2024**



**"The Act helps us to form a dedicated structure within the Ministry of Finance to do better in managing public debt, as well as prepare and facilitate the adoption of key legislation, including the introduction of a comprehensive framework for managing the country's debt with an interagency agreement that had to be created between the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance just to deal with the coordination of monetary policy."** H.E. Mr. Smith added.

A significant milestone achieved under this project is the establishment of a dedicated Debt Management Office. The Office manages all debt operations, including investor relations, borrowing arrangements, debt analysis, and reporting, representing a vital mechanism to ensure that day-to-day debt management is handled with the highest standards of professionalism and efficiency.

**"The Debt Management Office we established between the government and the development partners in 2022 was a cornerstone to how we are going to deal with debt in the country. It gives discipline to and facilitates the execution of both dimensions of government finances and productivity."** H.E. Mr. Smith noted.

Key deliverables of the India-UN Fund project include the formulation and tabling of The Bahamas' first and second Medium-Term Debt Management Strategies and the development of Annual Borrowing Plans.

These strategic documents provide a clear roadmap for managing public debt, ensuring that borrowing is planned and executed with long-term sustainability in mind. The publication of quarterly Public Debt Bulletins further enhances transparency, keeping the public and investors informed about the country's debt status.

The project also focuses on improving the efficiency of the government securities market. Initiatives such as the consolidation of government securities through a Buyback and Exchange Programme, the introduction of non-competitive bidding schemes, and the strengthening of the operational and regulatory framework for settlements have made Bahamian government debt instruments more attractive to investors. These reforms are crucial for creating a robust and efficient market that supports economic growth.

**“UNDP is really pleased to be part of the design of those instruments, as we come with a sustainable development focus, not the financial transaction focus that the development banks bring to those instruments. And again, that's a fusing of sustainable development expertise.”** Thomas Beloe, Chief of UNDP's Finance Sector Hub, highlighted the importance of focusing on development within institutional financial management.

The project's success is deeply rooted in the comprehensive training programmes provided to the staff engaged in debt management activities. This capacity-building effort ensures that The Bahamas has a team of well-trained professionals capable of managing complex financial operations, thereby sustaining the improvements made through the project.

**“I would like to recognize the commitment of the project team, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and UNDP for their technical expertise that is supporting us in executing our country's agenda.”** H.E. Mr. Smith noted.

Through strategic reforms, capacity building, and innovative market solutions, The Bahamas is achieving economic stability and sustainable development, a testament to the impact of South-South cooperation. This story underscores the potential of collaborative efforts among developing nations, proving that even the smallest countries can set a global example in financial management, providing a rich model for other nations facing similar challenges and illustrating the impact of solidarity and shared knowledge.



## Energizing Growth: How South-South Cooperation Drives Local Content Success in Barbados

Barbados has long faced significant challenges in its energy sector, including a lack of local energy resources, high development costs, and limited capacity among local suppliers to meet the needs of international energy companies. With only 20 per cent of local energy demands met by indigenous resources and high electricity costs burdening households and businesses alike, these challenges have hindered economic growth and left local businesses struggling to compete.

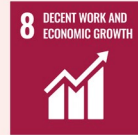
To address these issues, the 'Local Content Development in the Barbados Energy Sector' project was launched in November 2020 with the support of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and the Commonwealth Secretariat to enhance the competitiveness of local suppliers and increase their participation in the energy value chain.

With support of \$575,000, including \$550,000 from the India-UN Fund, the project implemented a comprehensive technical assistance approach, beginning with the development of essential policies and legislation. Key outcomes included the drafting of the Energy Local Content Policy, the Energy Local Content Bill, and the Energy Local Content Regulations, and bolstering the capacity and competitiveness of 215 local suppliers. These legal frameworks provide robust support for local businesses, enabling them to thrive in the energy sector.

Implementing Partners  
**Commonwealth Secretariat,  
Government of Barbados; UNOPS**

Project Budget  
**\$550,000**

Duration  
**2020–2023**



**“Barbadians have a stake in the ownership of their own assets – sun, wind and wave energy,”** said Senator Lisa Cummins, Minister of Energy and Business of Barbados, speaking about the project.

**“Here in the Ministry, it is a priority for us to make sure we facilitate that,”** she added.

Another pivotal achievement of the project was the development and implementation of a Supplier Data Management System, along with a structured Supplier Development Program, both informed by Nigeria’s pioneering efforts. These systems not only facilitated efficient management of local content development, but also ensured the sustainability and scalability of the project’s impact.



A detailed industrial survey assessed the capabilities of local suppliers, leading to the creation of a long-term strategy for a 15-year Financial and Technical Assistance Programme. This strategy is designed to enhance local suppliers' competitiveness and market access. Local suppliers, including manufacturers and service providers, participated in workshops and received expert consultancy, significantly improving their ability to meet the procurement requirements of international energy companies.

The project also facilitated initial business linkages between local suppliers and international energy companies through events like the Share Fair, promoting networking and business opportunities. This initiative extended its impact beyond immediate economic benefits, fostering a more inclusive energy sector that empowers local communities and promotes sustainable development.

South-South cooperation played a supportive role in the project's success. Expertise from countries like Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago informed best practices in local content development and supplier management systems.

The result of this project exemplifies how strategic investments in local content development can drive economic growth, enhance energy security, foster sustainable development, and demonstrate the impact of effective policy and capacity-building initiatives in supporting the energy sector locally.



## Strengthening Healthy Barbados: South-South Supports Post-COVID-19 Recovery



Amid the ongoing recovery from COVID-19, Barbados has faced significant challenges in maintaining an effective health system, especially in ensuring the safe distribution of pharmaceuticals. The Barbados Drug Service (BDS) has long needed a reliable solution for transporting temperature-sensitive medications.

**Addressing this critical issue, the Government of India donated a refrigerated truck to the BDS, significantly enhancing its capacity to serve the public. The vehicle was officially handed over during a ceremony at BDS headquarters in Warrens Towers II, St Michael. Wayne Marshall, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Wellness, highlighted the importance of this donation. "Pharmaceuticals are temperature-sensitive, and maintaining specific temperatures is crucial for their efficacy. This refrigerated truck ensures that these products are transported safely," he said.**

**"It will be utilized daily for the safe delivery of pharmaceuticals to the more than 15 pharmacies that are part of the Barbados Drug Service."**

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Health and Wellness,  
UNOPS**

Project Budget  
**\$675,000**

Duration  
**2023–2024**



This donation marks the final deliverable of the 'Procurement of Medical Equipment and Supplies for the Benefit of the Government of Barbados' project.

Supported by the India-UN Fund and managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services, the project has already provided 107 pieces of medical equipment valued at over \$1.3 million. This equipment, including servers, a handheld spectrometer, vital sign monitors, nebulizers, thermal printers, and a mobile X-ray machine, has significantly strengthened medical centers across the island.

High Commissioner of India to Barbados, Dr. Shankar Balachandran, emphasized the broader impact of this cooperation. **"The India-UN Fund supports projects across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, prioritizing developing countries and small island states,"** said Balachandran.

**"During the COVID-19 pandemic, India was among the first to offer essential supplies such as life-saving drugs and protective gear to Barbados."** In February 2021, India donated 100,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Barbados, demonstrating its commitment to supporting the island's health sector.

Beyond healthcare, India has proposed grant funding for five additional projects valued at \$50,000 each and a \$1 million grant for machinery procurement to support small and medium-sized enterprises. These initiatives reflect India's comprehensive support for Barbados' overall recovery.



Acting Director of the Barbados Drug Service, Delores Mascoll, outlined the various ways the new refrigerated truck will enhance BDS operations: **"We plan to establish a free delivery service for patients who cannot visit pharmacies, implement a mobile pharmacy education programme for communities without clinics, support medical services at events, and deliver essential medicines during disasters,"** said Mascoll.

This strategic partnership has made a significant contribution to the drug distribution service and improved the national health system.

**"Indeed, these strategic partners have collaboratively made a significant contribution to the drug distribution service and, in so doing, have improved the national health system,"** she added.

With this support, Barbados is better equipped to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of pharmaceuticals, marking a significant step forward in its COVID-19 recovery and strengthening its health infrastructure for the future.

## Enhancing Water Security and Agricultural Development Through South-South Cooperation



For several decades, Burkina Faso's Niangdo community faced a severe problem: scarce water resources and undeveloped agricultural land were hindering economic growth and threatening livelihoods. With an unreliable water supply, local farmers struggled to cultivate crops and the community's potential remained untapped. To tackle these pressing issues head-on, the Directorate General of Hydraulic Infrastructures (DGIH), with support from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund in collaboration with UNDP, launched a project to build a dam with a capacity of 580,000 m<sup>3</sup> and develop 10 hectares of fertile farmland.

**"In addition to mobilizing surface water, the construction of the structure includes arrangements for agricultural exploitation. It is a large structure about 960 metres long with a crest width of 4 metres, allowing vehicles to drive on it. The maximum height reaches around 7 metres in the riverbed section. With this dam, we can retain about 600,000 cubic metres of water,"** said Marius Sanon, Chief of Mission from the Bureau of Control.

Implementing Partners  
**UNDP**

Project Budget  
**\$1,000,000**

Duration  
**2020–2023**



Throughout 2023, significant strides were made in bringing this vision to life, starting with the construction of the dam. This triggered a series of pivotal events, from the DGIH technical mission to visits by high-level officials, such as the Governor of the Centre-West region and the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative. Every milestone highlighted the project's progress. The dam's technical acceptance was officially recognized on 8 June 2023, followed by a grand provisional acceptance ceremony on 17 July, attended by key stakeholders, including the Chargé d'Affaires of the Indian Embassy.

In addition to the dam construction, a massive reforestation effort saw 12,000 seedlings planted to demarcate the 28-hectare easement strip, promoting environmental sustainability. This reforestation was a joint effort involving environmental technical services and local community leaders .





Development of the irrigated farmland moved forward with the completion of vital studies and the preparation of tender documents. A workshop was held to discuss these developments, setting the stage for the recruitment of a company to transform 10 hectares into productive agricultural land.

The impact on Niangdo has been notable. The new dam ensures a reliable water supply, which is essential for agriculture, livestock and potential aquaculture, fundamentally transforming local livelihoods. The construction of 40 semi-finished latrines for affected households addressed critical sanitation needs, enhancing public health.

The project also implemented a comprehensive environmental and social management plan, including gender analysis and conflict mitigation strategies. Regular monitoring ensured these plans were followed, with a strong focus on supporting women and youth.

A cornerstone of the project's success was the active involvement and empowerment of the local community. Community members, especially women, played crucial roles in ensuring the project's success and sustainability. Capacity-building initiatives, such as on-the-job training for government officials and technical support for local suppliers, were integral to the approach.

The project faced several hurdles, including national security concerns and environmental issues such as water resurgence downstream of the dam. These were tackled through stringent safety protocols, close monitoring, and technical evaluations to ensure smooth implementation.

Key lessons from the project highlight the importance of collaboration and communication among stakeholders, which facilitated problem-solving and enhanced ownership and sustainability. The leadership and empowerment of community members were critical to the success of development actions at the rural level.

The Niangdo dam project showcases the potential of infrastructure investment and community engagement, significantly improving water security and agricultural productivity and livelihoods for local residents in the region.

## Advancing a Lasting Legacy in Kalinago Territory Through South-South Cooperation

Following the success of the ‘Strengthening Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience in the Kalinago Territory’ project, which concluded in June 2022, the Government of India announced an extension to further bolster the achievements made over the past years. This new phase, continuing the support from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, aims to build on the foundations laid by the initial project and address ongoing challenges faced by the Kalinago community.

The initial project, which began in February 2021, received significant support from the Government of India with a grant of \$1 million, supplemented by a contribution of approximately \$331,000 from the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica. The initiative was facilitated by UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, with local implementation led by the Ministry of the Environment, Rural Modernisation and Kalinago Upliftment, and the Kalinago Council.

In its early stages, the project provided equipment and materials to support the final construction and implementation of a climate-smart agricultural research station. This component also offered technical expertise for the development and marketing of cassava and cassava value-added products, an essential crop in Kalinago culture. Small grants were given to Kalinago farmers to support cassava cultivation and product development.

Addressing deforestation, the project supported the demarcation of major activities vital to the Territory’s livelihood, such as agriculture, tourism and social forestry. This component included updating a reforestation strategy, implementing a gender-balanced livelihoods programme, and establishing community plant nurseries.

In addition, the project designed a gender-sensitive tourism strategy focused on creating an indigenous tourism route, developing a tourism infrastructure plan, and establishing a Kalinago tourism brand. Training modules were developed to enhance capacities in tourism attraction, management, and service orientation, ensuring equitable opportunities for women and men. Moreover, the project strengthened the Kalinago Council by facilitating their participation in regional and international forums, reviewing key planning documents, digitizing council archives, and providing equipment to support digital transformation.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Environment, Rural  
Modernization, Kalinago  
Upliftment, and UNDP**

Project Budget  
**\$1,000,000**

Duration  
**Starting 2025**



**“The indigenous community in Kalingao has been facing several challenges due to climate change and Hurricane Maria further exacerbated community’s vulnerability. India will be pleased to support efforts of the Commonwealth of Dominica to ensure that the community’s habitat is retained, its livelihood is expanded and socio-economic development is accelerated,”** said Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations.

Building on previous successes, the project’s extension will focus on introducing advanced climate-resilient agricultural techniques and expanding support for cassava and other crops crucial to Kalingao culture, increasing the scale of reforestation programmes, and developing new community-led initiatives to protect and restore natural resources. The new phase will also include further refining the tourism strategy with additional infrastructure improvements and expanded training programmes, ensuring the Kalingao brand is recognized internationally.

Support will be provided to the Kalingao Council, enhancing its capacity for inclusive decision-making and long-term planning. The collaboration between the Government of India, the Commonwealth of Dominica, and UNDP highlights the importance of South-South cooperation and the shared goal of advancing livelihoods, economic diversification, job creation and resilience.



## Home-Based Reading Building Literacy Skills in El Salvador

The benefits of at-home reading for children, especially with their parents, are well-documented. Among these are improved cognitive development, language skills, concentration, and discipline, not to mention “soft” skills such as improved imagination and creativity, and the cultivation of a lifelong love of reading. At its most basic level, early childhood literacy is essential in preparing children for academic and, ultimately, economic success.

In El Salvador, where access to primary school education is almost universal but where the multidimensional poverty rate hovers at 27 per cent, 53 per cent of 10-year-old girls and boys do not understand simple text, and 20 per cent in the poorest quintile do not know how to read or write. In addition, studies have shown that more than 49 per cent of second graders and 40 per cent of third graders lack reading fluency, a crucial skill for comprehending and analysing texts.

For the country’s government, this is an alarming state of affairs, as core literacy skills constitute the basic scaffolding for the acquisition of linguistic and mathematical skills, and educational success. Further, it explains, to a large extent, the country’s high early school dropout rates.

The Leyendo en Casa (Reading at Home) project seeks to help close the gap in access to stimulating reading by delivering books in different formats, and supporting materials, to vulnerable families with children between 3 and 10 years of age in the country’s poorest municipalities. This project is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and UNICEF. Its efforts will be key to fostering reading at home, which is a challenge for the Salvadoran educational system, a challenge that increased as a result of school closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Financial support for the project is provided by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

The project’s goals reach beyond teaching basic literacy and comprehension skills. El Salvador has a long history of world-class writers, essayists and poets, including Roque Dalton, Claudia Lars and Salarrué. The country’s National Reading Plan includes a special editorial line of Salvadoran authors and the production of related educational materials. The Leyendo en Casa project will contribute to the expansion and distribution of the work of Salvadoran authors to increase young readers’ exposure to the nation’s culture.

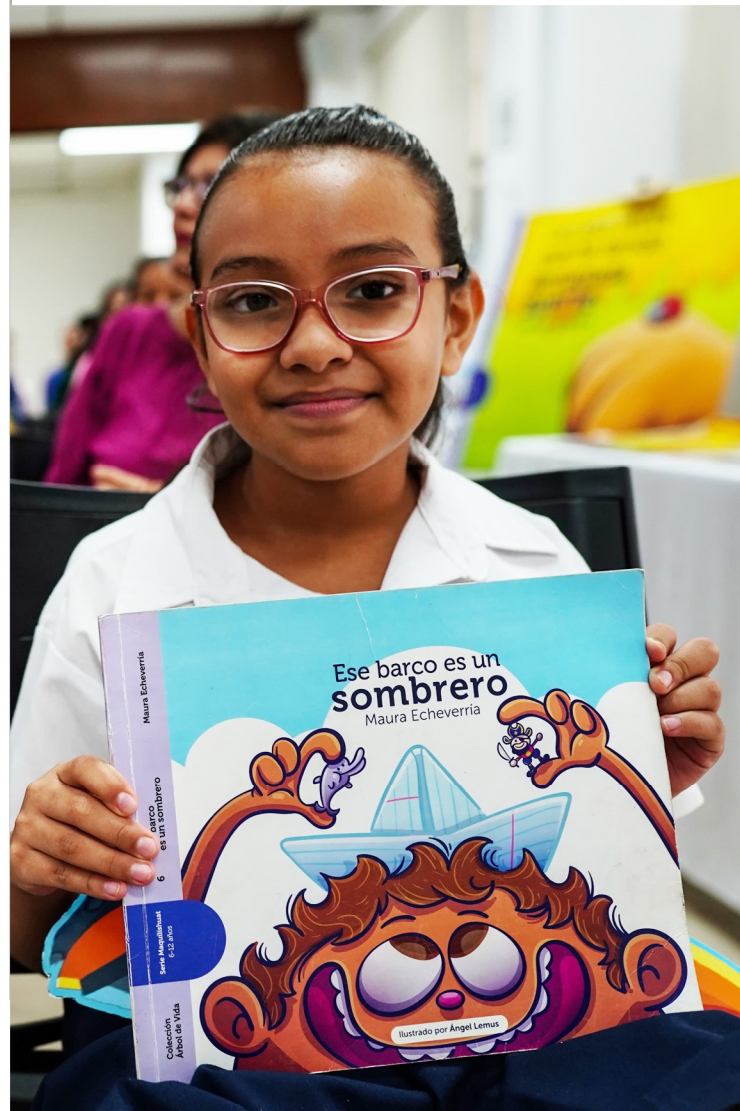
Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Education, UNICEF**

Project Budget  
**\$1,000,000**

Duration  
**2023 – ongoing**



Launched in June 2023, the project plans to reach more than 6,000 children aged 3 to 10 and their families, along with 400 teachers in 84 schools from among 74 of the nation’s most vulnerable municipalities. In an example of South-South cooperation, the Fund is also financing an exchange with neighboring Nicaragua to build on its experience to improve reading and writing skills among children with disabilities.



## Bridging Resilience: South-South Cooperation and Fiji's Pioneering Journey in Climate and Disaster Risk Financing

Fiji faces growing threats from climate change and increasingly severe natural disasters. They disproportionately impact the country's most vulnerable populations, including low-to-moderate income households, small enterprises, women, youth and persons with disabilities.

To address this urgent challenge, and building on previous successes, phase 2 of the 'Scaling Climate and Disaster Risk Financing Framework and Parametric Insurance' initiative was launched. With the support of the India-UN Partnership Development Fund in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Government of Fiji, it aims to strengthen Fiji's resilience through innovative tools.

The project has introduced the Pacific region's first parametric microinsurance product, which has already provided coverage to 14,000 individuals and 2,000 social welfare recipient households. These tools have proven vital in helping Fijians recover from extreme climate events, with over 1,000 beneficiaries receiving payouts during recent severe weather conditions.

Dirk Wagener, Resident Coordinator for the UN in Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu said, **"Fiji is a global success story when it comes to parametric insurance and the country has made steady strides since the first product that provided cover against tropical cyclones was launched for smallholder farmers, fishers, and market vendors."**

One of the pivotal achievements has been the workshops and training sessions that bring together multiple stakeholders from various island nations. For instance, the Pacific Regional Index Insurance Workshop held in March 2024 in Suva, Fiji, was instrumental in disseminating knowledge about parametric insurance. It included participants from Fiji, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. This event not only enhanced the understanding of insurance mechanisms against natural disasters but also fostered a collaborative environment for future regional resilience initiatives.

Additionally, the Disaster Risk Financing Webinar provided a platform for discussing the challenges and opportunities in scaling parametric microinsurance solutions.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Finance, UNCDF**

Project Budget  
**\$700,000**

Duration  
**2023 – ongoing**



This session was particularly noteworthy for its inclusive approach, ensuring that knowledge dissemination reached a wide audience, including a significant representation of women, thereby addressing gender perspectives in disaster risk financing.

Moreover, the South-South Learning and Exchange Mission to India in January 2024 exemplifies the transfer of innovative practices and technologies. This mission enabled Fijian officials to gain firsthand insights into India's advanced approaches to weather data collection and crop insurance, which are vital for developing cost-effective and sustainable insurance solutions in their home contexts.

As the project expands, continued support from India and collaboration with key stakeholders promise to further enhance the resilience of Fiji's most vulnerable populations, ensuring they are better equipped to face the increasing challenges posed by climate change.



## Growing Together: South-South Cooperation Fuels Agricultural Resilience in Rural Jamaica

In the rural communities of Kitson Town, St. Catherine, Jamaica, traditional agricultural practices have long been the norm. Farmers, both young and old, have relied on manual methods such as hand watering and land preparation with simple tools like forks and spades. These labor-intensive practices, coupled with limited access to modern agricultural technology, have led to suboptimal crop yields and a struggling livestock sector.

Recognizing these critical issues, the 'Improving Rural Livelihoods through Resilient Agri-food Systems' project was conceived, funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and implemented by FAO. The project sought to bridge these gaps by fostering sustainable agricultural practices, empowering youth and farmers with modern techniques, and instilling a mindset geared towards long-term success and resilience.

The challenges were not just technical but also educational: students at St. Catherine High School, who were eager to learn and contribute to their community's agricultural success, found themselves constrained by outdated methods and insufficient resources. This situation not only affected the community's agricultural output but also stunted the growth of the next generation of farmers. The lack of exposure to modern techniques and climate-smart practices left these young students and local farmers ill-prepared to face the challenges of a changing environment and global market demands. Additionally, in the districts of Dover and Top Mountain, residents confronted the need to change their outlook and approach in order to use available resources effectively and sustain their livelihoods.

At St. Catherine High School, the project initiated focus groups to understand the specific challenges faced by the students. These sessions revealed their heavy reliance on manual agricultural production methods and the need for better integration of technology in their agricultural practices. The findings prompted the project to support the school's agriculture programme by introducing precision agriculture methods, establishing a new greenhouse, and offering food safety training. These initiatives aim to equip the students with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead Jamaica's agricultural future.

Meanwhile, in Dover and Top Mountain, the 'Mindset of a Successful Beneficiary' training focused on changing the residents' approach to resource management and sustainability.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, FAO**

Project Budget  
**\$1,000,000**

Duration  
**2023 – ongoing**



The training emphasized the importance of a proactive mindset, where beneficiaries assess their own needs and take ownership of their roles in the project's success.

The positive response from the community highlighted the potential for sustainable change, with participants ready to identify their needs and submit proposals through short video applications. These "pitch" videos will determine the kinds of support they will receive—whether in agri-crop, agri-livestock, or skills training—ensuring that the project is tailored to meet the unique needs of each community.



Through these efforts, the project not only addresses the immediate challenges faced by Kitson Town and its neighboring districts, but also lays the groundwork for a more resilient, self-sustaining agricultural sector in Jamaica. By building capacities, this initiative demonstrates how shared knowledge, resources and expertise can empower communities to overcome their challenges and build a brighter, more sustainable future.



## Improving Income and Livelihood of Coconut Oil Production Communities in Kiribati

As requested by the Government of Kiribati, India will provide funding support of \$900,000 from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund for the project, 'Improving income and livelihood for Communities on the Outer Islands through Virgin Coconut Oil Production in Kiribati.'

The project aims to establish two virgin coconut oil processing plants on Tamana and Nikunau islands; procure and install virgin coconut oil processing equipment; train community members; and partner with organizations like the International Coconut Community. The project will result in the production of value-added products, improved economic returns, and enhanced income and livelihoods. The construction of two virgin processing plants will expand the coconut sector in Kiribati considerably, improving livelihoods and reducing over-reliance on low-value copra and coconut crude oil products.

The Honorable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi had met with Heads of Delegation from Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) on 24 September 2019 in New York. In the spirit of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas" (together with all, for the development of all and with the trust of all), he announced the allocation of \$ 1 million to each PSIDS for the implementation of high impact development projects in the area of their choice. The Kiribati project will be funded through this arrangement.

On this occasion, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said, "India and PSIDS have shared values and a shared future. India will continue to support efforts of the PSIDS to achieve their developmental goals through necessary developmental and technical assistance".

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund, established by the Government of India in June 2017, provides support to projects in developing countries that aim to contribute to achieving the SDGs. The Fund adheres to the principles of South-South cooperation and places a priority on national ownership and leadership, equality, sustainability, development of local capacity and mutual benefit. The Government of India has committed \$150 million over the next decade for the Fund, which is managed by UNOSSC.

Implementing Partners  
**UNDP**

Project Budget  
**\$900,000**

Duration  
**Starting 2025**



 **Kyrgyzstan**

## Reducing Maternal and Neonatal Mortality with Telemedicine through South-South Cooperation in Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, an innovative project is setting the stage for a significant reduction in preventable maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity. This initiative, funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund managed by UNOSSC, is a beacon of innovation in the healthcare sector and has successfully introduced telemedicine and teleconsulting services in five critical maternity hospitals across the nation. It marks a pivotal shift towards leveraging technology to bridge the gap in reproductive and maternal healthcare services that has grown over the last years.

The project is spearheaded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and national partners, the Kyrgyz Family Planning Alliance (a civil society organization), the Kyrgyz Alliance of Midwives (a professional association), and the Romania-based entity, the Eastern Europe Institute for Reproductive Health (EEIRH).

Kyrgyzstan's health sector faces several challenges. A significant portion – 33.3 per cent - of its population of 7.1 million resides under the poverty line, primarily in its rural and mountainous regions. These obstacles are further compounded by the nation's harsh terrain and the scarcity of transportation options.

This environment has precipitated a distressing increase in the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), which rose substantially during 2020-2021, chiefly attributed to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Raisa Asylbasheva, Chief Specialist for Maternal and Child Health at the Ministry of Health (MOH), said, "It is crucial to highlight that the project will specifically target major maternity hospitals, where a substantial number of births occur. Additionally, incorporating telemedicine activities within these maternity hospitals is of utmost importance. Given the occurrence of critical cases during labor, the ability to provide prompt and efficient assistance becomes paramount. The involvement of telemedicine experts at such crucial moments is anticipated to be highly beneficial." She emphasized the project's significance to the country's efforts to reduce preventable maternal mortality.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Health, UNFPA**

Project Budget  
**\$1,000,000**

Duration  
**2023 – ongoing**



The initiative's core ambition is to make quality reproductive and maternal health services accessible in regions bearing the brunt of maternal and newborn health challenges. By equipping maternity hospitals with tele-networking capabilities, the project aims to foster a supportive environment for secondary-level hospitals through guidance from tertiary-level facilities. The hospitals selected handle a significant portion of the country's annual births, making this pilot a crucial step towards national healthcare improvement.

The project's innovative approach, using the Obstetric Surveillance and Response System (OSRS), emphasizes the importance of surveillance without direct patient interaction, ensuring privacy and focusing solely on improving care quality. This web-based platform is pivotal in identifying and addressing gaps in evidence-based practice, ultimately contributing to the reduction of life-threatening maternal complications.

Asylkan Asanova, head of the maternity ward at the Osh Oblast Interregional Merged Hospital, noted that as the tertiary care centre for the southern region, it provides care for women with severe obstetric complications. She added, "Following a baseline assessment conducted last year, it became evident that a thorough analysis of these cases is essential to draw meaningful conclusions. This analysis is crucial for enhancing the quality of services offered, with the ultimate goal of reducing the occurrence of such cases in the future. The implementation of the obstetric surveillance and response system through this project is expected to greatly assist in achieving these objectives."

Throughout 2023, the UNFPA and its partners officially launched the project, conducted a baseline assessment and began implementation. Workshops introduced healthcare providers to the OSRS, highlighting its role in preventing and improving treatment for pregnancy-related complications. These efforts align with Kyrgyzstan's commitment to the 2030 Agenda, showcasing the potential of triangular cooperation in advancing public health initiatives.

One early project accomplishment is the development of a mobile application for reproductive and maternal health, which has further enhanced the accessibility and quality of healthcare services, benefiting 156 individuals, including a significant majority of women.

The collaboration with the EEIRH, acting as both a regional and country implementing partner for UNFPA and a Regional Health Development Center for the South-Eastern European Health Network, exemplifies the strength of knowledge exchange through South-South cooperation.

The positive outcomes of the OSRS activities in the Western Balkans, recognized by the Ministry of Health, have paved the way for this innovative approach to be replicated in Kyrgyzstan.

The project draws on good practices and lessons learned from the Western Balkans, underscoring the value of shared knowledge and regional cooperation in enhancing sexual and reproductive health.

As Kyrgyzstan moves forward with this project, the nation not only aims to improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes but also sets a precedent for utilizing digital health solutions to overcome healthcare challenges. The project stands as a promising model of how technology, coupled with technical expertise and knowledge sharing, can drive significant improvements in public health.



## South-South Cooperation Empowers Micronesia's Young Women Athletes for Big Wins, on the Court and Far Beyond



In the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), gender inequality remains a significant challenge despite progressive policies. While the government ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 2004 and introduced the National Gender Policy in 2018, tangible progress has been slow. Women continue to face barriers to leadership and decision-making positions, and social norms confine many to domestic and unpaid care work. The result is a gender imbalance that hampers efforts to achieve national development goals and the SDGs, particularly in areas such as economic empowerment and access to essential services.

In response, the Government of FSM, in collaboration with UNDP and with the support of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, launched a project in 2020 aimed at advancing women's economic empowerment and improving access to modern technologies. This initiative focuses on three core pillars: policy advocacy, income generation, and improving access to small-scale infrastructure.

The project aims to break down structural barriers and uplift women and girls across FSM, not only through sports but also through leadership development, income-generating initiatives and access to essential infrastructure. Working closely with traditional leaders and communities, the project seeks to create an environment where young women can thrive, no matter their background or circumstances.

Implementing Partners  
**UNDP**

Project Budget  
**\$1,000,000**

Duration  
**2020–2024**



This challenging background could have played a role in building resilience within the Chuuk State girls basketball team when it narrowly missed the championship in the inaugural 17 & Under Games (17U Games). The longing for runner-up finish, coupled with logistical hurdles that nearly prevented them from even attending the games, could have easily discouraged the team.

However, rather than accept second place, the team transformed this setback into fuel for a comeback. With unwavering determination and months of intense training, they returned to the court a year later, this time with a renewed focus and a deeper sense of purpose. The second 17U Games, held in Pohnpei, would be their moment to prove that hard work and resilience can overcome any challenge. And they did just that - and proudly brought the championship title back to their state.



**"We didn't win last time, but that only pushed us to work harder,"** shared Amy Aritos, team captain and this year's Most Valuable Player. **"We knew we had what it took, and this victory proves it. I'm incredibly proud of my team and how far we've come."**

This success story goes beyond the basketball court. It reflects the broader goal of the 17U and Holiday Games, organized by the Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA), to empower young women across FSM through sports. These tournaments offer more than just competition: they provide a platform for personal development, confidence building, and fostering camaraderie among girls from all states. The UNDP Pacific Office, a key partner in this initiative, views these games as a critical step in promoting gender equality and advancing opportunities for young women.

Through the Strengthening Gender Machinery Project, UNDP played a vital role in enabling the Chuuk team to participate in the games. From sponsoring travel arrangements to recognizing their hard work with support throughout the competition, UNDP's commitment helped turn the team's dreams into reality.

**"Empowering women and girls isn't just about education or employment - it's also about giving them the space to excel in every area of life, including sports,"** said Kevin Petrini, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in the North Pacific. **"We're proud to support these talented athletes on their journey to excellence."**

Despite facing numerous obstacles, the Chuuk High School girls basketball team stands as a beacon of what's possible when young women are given the support and opportunities they deserve. Their journey from heartbreak to triumph is an inspiring example of resilience and the transformative power of sports.

**"We almost didn't make it to the games,"** shared DHSA's Sports and Physical Wellness Coordinator, Sebastian T. Tairuwepiy. **"But with the Gender Machinery Project's help, the team was able to come to Pohnpei and show just how much they've grown. Their victory is a testament to their hard work, and we look forward to seeing what they accomplish next."**

With the 2024 Holiday Games and the 3rd 17U Games on the horizon, the Chuuk team is already preparing to defend their title. Head Coach Raisa Ruda, who has guided the team through their challenges, remains confident in their potential.

**"It's a blessing to see how far these girls have come,"** Coach Raisa said. **"They've shown incredible determination and grit, and I'm beyond proud of them. This is just the beginning for them—there's so much more to come."**

As the success of these athletes continues to ripple through their communities, it becomes clear that the impact of initiatives like the 17U Games extends far beyond sports. They are laying the foundation for a generation of strong, empowered women ready to take on any challenge that comes their way.



## Moldova Advances Data Governance Through South-South Cooperation

Recognizing the urgent need to build effective and resilient statistical systems, Moldova has tapped into the expertise of countries of the Global South. With financial support from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, facilitated by UNOSSC, Moldova is building a data system capable of accurately tracking demographic changes and responding to humanitarian and emergency situations. The country is moving away from reliance on traditional, paper-based data collection methods.

**"Good data governance is widely practiced in India and has proven to be effective and beneficial,"** said H.E. Rahul Shrivastava, Ambassador of India to Romania, Albania, and Moldova. **"By utilizing quality data, the government can reach the poorest segments of society."**

The project, supported by UNFPA Moldova, in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, focuses on transitioning from outdated methods to a modern, register-based statistical approach. This shift is essential for ensuring that Moldova has the data infrastructure necessary to monitor demographic trends accurately and respond effectively to emergencies.

The project addresses critical challenges within Moldova's data system, equipping it with modern tools to effectively monitor demographic changes. This transformation involves a significant shift from traditional data collection methods – such as paper-based surveys and exclusive reliance on field data – to more advanced approaches employed by both developing and developed nations. By integrating administrative data with other data sources (including private, spatial and big data) and conducting targeted longitudinal studies, the project aims to provide a deeper understanding of the factors driving demographic shifts in Moldova.

The outputs have strengthened the capacity of the country's National Bureau of Statistics, facilitated the development of essential tools, and enabled the implementation of new technologies to establish an administrative data exchange platform. Additionally, the project has organized various exchange programmes with Indian counterparts, fostering knowledge sharing and enhancing data governance both within Moldova and across countries in the Global South.

Implementing Partners  
**National Bureau of Statistics;  
Ministry of Labor and Social  
Protection, UNFPA**

Project Budget  
**\$1,081,000**

Duration  
**2023–2025**





**“In the realm of digital transformation, we witness the advantages of data governance. We are currently amidst a digital revolution in India,”** said H.E. Rahul Shrivastava from India.

**“Every month, we conduct six million transactions, representing 46 per cent of global digital transactions, all thanks to effective data governance. When we leverage data effectively, demographic challenges can be transformed into demographic dividends. This transformation has been evident in India, a strong partner of Moldova, and we are eager to share our experiences.”**

Through this partnership, Moldova has engaged with nations such as India, Uruguay, Argentina and others in the Western Balkans and Europe, gaining valuable insights and learning best practices in demographic resilience. One of the most significant outcomes of this collaboration is the execution of the second wave of the Generations and Gender Survey. This comprehensive study, involving 10,000 respondents from across Moldova, provides critical data on demographic trends, including low fertility, aging and migration. The findings from this survey will be instrumental in crafting policies aimed at strengthening Moldova’s demographic resilience.

Additionally, exchange programmes with Indian counterparts have focused on improving data governance and integrating non-traditional data sources into Moldova’s official statistics. These programmes have enhanced Moldova’s technical capabilities and fostered mutual learning, allowing the country to share its experiences and contribute to the global conversation on data management and statistical modernization.

## Advancing Inclusive Education through South-South Cooperation



In Nicaragua, children with disabilities have historically faced significant barriers in accessing quality education. Limited resources, inaccessible infrastructure, and a lack of inclusive teaching practices have often marginalized these students, preventing them from reaching their full potential. The pressing need to ensure that every child, regardless of ability, receives an equitable opportunity to learn and thrive has driven the Ministry of Education (MINED), with support from UNICEF, to initiate transformative efforts. The core of this mission is the 'More Inclusion' Communication Strategy for Social and Behavioral Change, designed to foster the seamless integration of children with disabilities into the national education system.

The project, funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and managed by UNOSSC, represents a collaborative approach to overcoming these challenges. With an investment of \$1.2 million, it aims to strengthen institutional capacities and create inclusive environments across Nicaragua's schools, ensuring that children, irrespective of their abilities, can learn and grow together.

H.E. Lilliam Herrera, Nicaragua's Minister of Education, underscored the importance of this collaborative effort, stating, **"Our commitment extends beyond the confines of government institutions; it's about ensuring that individuals with disabilities are provided with the support they need. Together, we have made great strides, and our resolve remains unwavering. We will continue our efforts until Nicaragua sets a new benchmark for inclusivity."**

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Education, UNICEF**

Project Budget  
**\$1,000,000**

Duration  
**2020–2024**



The project's approach is built on the belief that enhancing institutional capacities, promoting inclusive teaching practices, and fostering a culture of community support can create a lasting impact on educational inclusivity. Central to this approach is the establishment of 15 prototype centres that embody the principles of Universal Design for Learning. These centers provide a blueprint for inclusive education, utilizing digital textbooks that incorporate sign language videos, audio support and interactive exercises.

Josué, a student with a motor physical disability at the Experimental Public School Mexico, shared his journey, saying, **"This beautiful experience has been transformative, thanks to the exceptional educational inclusion strategies implemented by our dedicated teachers. These strategies have not only enabled me to excel but also to proudly represent my school. They've shown me, and indeed all of us, that disabilities do not define our capabilities. We all possess the warrior spirit within us, and with education as our most valuable inheritance, we're equipped to face life's challenges head-on."**



This approach ensures that students with disabilities, like Josué, have access to tailored learning resources that accommodate their needs and allow them to thrive alongside their peers.

Eduardo Gallardo, Officer-in-Charge of UNICEF Nicaragua, highlighted the project's broader vision, emphasizing, **"We must work so that everyone, at all levels, from families to institutions, improve our knowledge and inclusive practices, so that children and adolescents, with and without disabilities, share spaces and develop, have fun, grow, and learn from each other, together, with more inclusion."**

One of the project's key achievements has been the creation of an accessible digital science textbook for second-grade students. This resource, designed with responsive technology, provides interactive learning experiences that are adaptable across various devices. It represents a shift towards digital learning in Nicaragua, offering a practical solution for students with and without disabilities to learn together. MINED, in collaboration with UNICEF, has also focused on building a network of trained teachers equipped to implement inclusive practices. The project emphasizes a holistic approach, supporting both technical skills and a mindset change among educators, families and communities.

The success of this initiative lies in sharing knowledge, expertise and standard practices from India and the broader international community to bring global best practices to Nicaragua's local context. This partnership has enabled the creation of knowledge-sharing platforms, such as video tutorials and guides for producing accessible digital materials, ensuring that the insights gained can benefit other developing countries facing similar challenges.

The 'More Inclusion' initiative has begun to support the educational landscape of Nicaragua, offering hope and opportunities to children like Josué. It exemplifies how strategic partnerships and a commitment to shared learning can address pressing challenges, enabling countries to advance towards inclusive development.

As the project progresses towards its completion in November 2024, it continues to build a future where education is accessible to every child, demonstrating the power of South-South cooperation to create sustainable and impactful change. Most importantly, it serves as a reminder that, through collaboration and shared learning, we can build a world where every child has the opportunity to succeed – where no one is left behind.





# Saint Lucia

## Boosting Vocational Training By Strengthening Capacity and Building New Infrastructure



In Saint Lucia, high youth unemployment has posed significant challenges, contributing to social instability and limiting opportunities for young people. Marginalized youth, in particular, face hurdles in accessing vocational training, making it difficult to gain the skills needed for stable employment. To address this issue, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, alongside the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Government of Saint Lucia, launched the 'Upgrading Saint Lucia's Capacity to Provide Impactful Vocational Training for Marginalized Youth' project. This effort, rooted in South-South cooperation, aims to build pathways for Saint Lucian youth to acquire in-demand skills and access better job prospects.

The project's strategy is based on the idea that improving Saint Lucia's vocational training infrastructure and equipping educators with new skills can open up opportunities for youth. A major achievement of the initiative is the new hospitality and catering training facility at the Center for Adolescent Renewal and Education (C.A.R.E.) in Castries. Inaugurated in September 2024, this state-of-the-art center offers training programmes that align with the needs of the local economy, particularly in the tourism sector, a key driver of Saint Lucia's growth.

Prime Minister Hon. Phillip Pierre highlighted the broader impact of the new facility, stating, **"This is more than just a building; it's a symbol of our commitment to ensuring every young person in Saint Lucia has the chance to build a better future."**

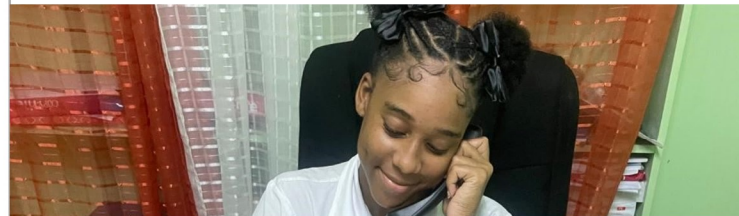
Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Education, Government and Department of Physical Planning, and ILO**

Project Budget  
**\$1,061,601**

Duration  
**2019–2024**



The success of the C.A.R.E. vocational training centre is a result of effective South-South cooperation. India's support, through financial contributions and shared expertise, played a crucial role in bringing this project to life. The partnership allowed for knowledge exchange and the adaptation of best practices to meet Saint Lucia's specific needs. Local support also played a key role, providing the land and overseeing the works; with the Department of Physical Development contributing technical expertise to ensure the project's success.



Lars Johansen, Deputy Director of ILO Saint Lucia, highlighted this collaborative spirit, noting, **"This project shows the power of South-South cooperation. By working together, we've created a facility that directly meets Saint Lucia's needs, giving young people the skills and hope they need for a brighter future."**

For students like Jada Charles, the new facility has already made a difference. Jada, currently enrolled in the office skills programme, expressed her excitement: **"With the new space, more of us can access the training we need. It's a real chance to learn skills that are in demand here in Saint Lucia."** The facility not only improves access to vocational training but also creates a direct link between training and job opportunities in the tourism industry.



# St. Vincent and the Grenadines

## Construction of the factory infrastructure for the Arrowroot Processing Facility



The project's aim has been enhancing the livelihoods of the indigenous communities involved in the farming and processing of arrowroot with a special focus on creating job opportunities for women. This was advanced by building the Arrowroot Processing Facility.

Most of the indigenous communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) are located north of the Rabacca Dry River, the same region in which the new arrowroot factory is being built. Arrowroot has been a major staple in that region.

A plaque unveiling ceremony was held on 9 April 2024 at the factory site at Orange Hill. The press release noted that Dr. The Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dr. Shankar Balachandran, Ambassador of India to Suriname and concurrently accredited as the non-resident High Commissioner of India to SVG, unveiled the plaque in English and Hindi, commemorating the completion of the first phase of the Arrowroot Modernization Project at Orange Hills, SVG.

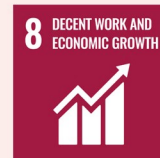
Also present at the event were Hon. Montgomery Daniel, Deputy Prime Minister and Parliamentary Representative for North Windward; Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture; and Raymond Victory, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Representative. Arrowroot Industry Manager Mr. Selmon Walters addressed the gathering and Permanent Secretary of Agriculture Ms. Nerissa served as the Chairperson.



Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, UNIDO**

Project Budget  
**\$1,334,267**

Duration  
**2019–2024**



**“The speakers thanked India for its contribution to the project, highlighting its importance for local consumption, exports, and sustainable development. The Honourable Prime Minister recalled the day three years ago when the volcanic eruption left a trail of destruction and said this day was a day of hope and renewal and a sign that the SVG had put behind the past and was looking forward to a bright future,”** a press release from the Indian High Commission noted. **“It was a realization of the joint vision of his brother Prime Minister Modi and his that a place destroyed by the volcano had seen a factory structure coming up.”**

The High Commissioner congratulated the government of SVG and UNIDO for the completion of the project.

He highlighted that the project reflected India's commitment to South-South cooperation and added that India's support for developing nations was guided by the philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” [the world is one family] and is based on inclusive growth. He expressed confidence that the new facilities and skills acquired would propel the arrowroot industry and contribute to the nation's economic growth and the well-being of its people.



Guests included senior civil servants, stakeholders, farmers and members of the Indian community. According to the press release, the project began in 2019 but met with challenges due to the 9 April 2021 eruption of La Soufrière volcano on the island. The project's original cost totaled \$1,034, 226 million but an additional \$300,000 enhanced allocation was approved in view of cost and time escalation due to the Covid pandemic and supply chain disruptions. Local partners were the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology and UNIDO, along with SVG's Ministry of Agriculture.

The project's aim was to enhance the livelihoods of the indigenous communities involved in arrowroot farming and processing, with a special focus on creating job opportunities for women. The planned work involved setting up a foundation for a new factory with a factory shell, plumbing and electrical installations. The project's main goal was to increase the contribution of the arrowroot industry to the country's sustainable economic development by strengthening climate change resilience and improving livelihoods in vulnerable communities.





## Enhancing Forecasting and Flood Resilience Through South-South Cooperation in Suriname

An India-UN Development Partnership Fund project in support of Suriname is harnessing weather forecasting technology to protect communities from the unpredictable forces of nature.

Suriname has experienced increased levels of rainfall, which recently affected over 6.4 per cent of its gross domestic product and 5.6 per cent of its agricultural land, presenting a significant concern to a critical economic sector.

With support from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, and in collaboration with UNDP and Suriname's Ministry of Public Works, the 'Enhanced Early Warning Services Delivery to Communities of Suriname in Order to Build their Resilience to Flooding Due to Excess Rainfall' project is building national capacities and developing an early warning system for hydrometeorological hazards.

This initiative plays an important role in mitigating potential negative impacts by enabling timely and effective responses to such events.

The initial phase of the project saw the handover of cutting-edge equipment, including computers equipped with the sophisticated ArcGIS software, to the Ministry. This technology, pivotal for geographical information management and disaster response planning, promises to revolutionize how Suriname anticipates and mitigates flood risks. During the handover ceremony, representatives from the Ministry of Public Works, including Permanent Secretary Sergio Kadosoe and Minister Riad Nurmohamed, expressed their commitment to this cause.

**“By implementing ArcGIS Pro tool using high-tech computers, we can significantly improve the timely reporting of managing natural disasters, from forecasting to mitigation and recovery,”** said Truus Warsodikromo, Chief of the Suriname Forecasting Branch. **“These new skills are a necessary part of the process leading to the ultimate aim of becoming an expert in the fields of meteorology, climatology, and hydrology.”**

At the forefront of this endeavour is experience and knowledge sharing, demonstrated by an ArcGIS training workshop.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Public Works, UNDP**

Project Budget  
**\$246,853**

Duration  
**2023 – ongoing**





Attendees included three University of Suriname students who had undergone extensive ArcGIS training by Deltares, a leading Dutch training firm, as part of the Suriname-Netherlands Cooperation Program on Water, Soil, and Climate.

In a recent training session that marked a step forward for environmental and meteorological professionals, Ranoë Bidesie, a participant, shared his insights on the impact of the training. **“The ArcGIS Basics training proved to be very beneficial for us, especially in the area of early warning which is critical,”** Bidesie said. **“As we continue our journey into the fields of meteorology, hydrology, water quality, drought and floods, the integration of advanced GIS techniques is sure to enhance our capabilities in forecasting, analysis, and emergency planning.”**

The project's second phase will further enhance the National Hydro-Met Network by integrating advanced weather monitoring systems and drone technology for comprehensive field data collection.

As Suriname navigates the complexities of climate change and environmental hazards, the project stands as a testament to collective South-South action, advancing towards a future where the people of Suriname are better empowered to face the challenges of climate change with confidence and resilience.

## Leveraging South-South Cooperation for Healthcare Innovation in Trinidad and Tobago

As part of the project 'Bringing High and Low Technology (HALT) to COVID-19' supported by the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the PAHO-WHO Country Office in Trinidad and Tobago has delivered eight advanced mobile health service robots to the Ministry of Health. These robots, which include two specialized disinfecting units and six humanoid models, have now been integrated into the public health infrastructure of Trinidad and Tobago.

The disinfecting robots are equipped with the latest technology to effectively sanitize and disinfect high-touch surfaces in healthcare facilities, reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission within these environments. The humanoid robots, on the other hand, are designed to assist healthcare workers in various tasks, including patient interaction, data collection and monitoring, enhancing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare delivery.

The core of this initiative is the development of a robust telemedicine system, which leverages cutting-edge digital technologies to enable healthcare workers to remotely serve individuals who may not have easy access to traditional healthcare facilities. The telemedicine system is designed to bridge the gap between patients and healthcare providers, offering a lifeline to those in remote or underserved areas, and ensuring that healthcare delivery remains uninterrupted. The system is expected to play a crucial role in reducing the burden on healthcare facilities, minimizing the risk of virus transmission, and improving patient outcomes by providing timely and accessible care.

Implemented with the primary objective of enhancing the capacity of the country's healthcare system to manage the pandemic and ensure the continued provision of essential health services – particularly among vulnerable populations – this project showcases the technological advances being made in the healthcare sector and the country's commitment to protecting its citizens and ensuring that healthcare workers have the tools they need to provide the best possible care.

The HALT project is supported by the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund, which committed \$1 million towards bolstering Trinidad and Tobago's COVID-19 response.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Health, PAHO-WHO**

Project Budget  
**\$1,000,000**

Duration  
**2021–2024**



This Fund, managed by UNOSSC, plays a pivotal role in facilitating collaborative efforts between developing countries to address common challenges in the Global South.

The success of this project is a result of the close collaboration between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, represented by the Ministry of Health, PAHO/WHO, and the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office. This partnership exemplifies the power of South-South cooperation in addressing global health crises and underscores the importance of leveraging technology solutions to build resilient healthcare systems.

Moving forward, the lessons learned and the successes achieved through the HALT project will inform future initiatives aimed at strengthening healthcare systems in other regions facing similar challenges.

# ONGOING PROJECTS

## Bahamas

- ▶ Abaco Community Centre/ Hurricane Shelter
- ▶ Strengthening Public Debt Management Framework and Developing Government Bond Market

## Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- ▶ Arrowroot Industry Modernization

## Barbados

- ▶ Local Content Development Project
- ▶ Procure Medical Equipment

## Trinidad and Tobago

- ▶ Bringing High and Low Technology (HALT) to COVID-19

## Grenada

- ▶ New Incinerator for the General Hospital

## Saint Lucia

- ▶ Upgrading Capacity to Provide Impactful Vocational Training for Marginalized Youth

## Jamaica

- ▶ Improving Rural Livelihoods through Resilient Agri-food Systems

## El Salvador

- ▶ Reading at Home

## Nicaragua

- ▶ Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Successful Integration of Children with Disabilities into the Education System

## Paraguay

- ▶ Extension of Access and Coverage in Maternal and Child Health Care to Dispersed Rural Areas, Indigenous Communities and Border Territories of the Chaco

## Senegal

- ▶ Mine clearance for development in Casamance in southern Senegal

## Suriname

- ▶ Enhanced Early Warning Service Delivery to Communities of Suriname in order to Build Their Resilience to Flooding Due to Excess Rainfall



**Republic of Moldova**

- ▶ Moving from a Traditional to a Register-based Statistical System Resilient to Humanitarian and Emergency Shocks

**Kyrgyzstan**

- ▶ Increase Access of Rural Women to Quality Reproductive and Maternal Health Services in Maternity Hospitals with the Highest Number of Deliveries

**11 Pacific Island Countries**

- ▶ Solarization of the Head-of-State Residences

**Burkina Faso**

- ▶ Mobilization and Valuation of Surface Water in the Village of Niangdo

**Micronesia (Federated States of)**

- Strengthening the Federated States of Micronesia's Gender Machinery

**Malawi**

- ▶ e-KYC and Digital Identity Project: Resolving the Identification Barrier for Financial Inclusion among Rural Populations, Women and Youth

**Tuvalu**

- ▶ Climate-resilient water supply for Motufoua middle secondary school in Tuvalu

**Nigeria**

- ▶ Biodiversity Business in Biosphere Reserves: A Means to Poverty Reduction, Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development

**Mozambique**

- ▶ Resilient Restoration of Pivotal Public Infrastructure for the Recovery and Sustainable Development Post-Cyclones Idai and Kenneth

**Fiji**

- ▶ Scaling Climate Disaster Risk Financing Framework and Parametric Insurance in Fiji

# COMPLETED PROJECTS

## Barbados

- ▶ Local content development project in Barbados
- ▶ Procure Medical Equipment on Behalf of the Government of Barbados

## Cabo Verde

- ▶ Strengthening the National Response to the Sexual Transmission of HIV among Key Populations

## Belize

- ▶ Support to Infrastructure for Human Development, Health and Sports
- ▶ Strengthening Clinical Management of COVID-19 Patients and Reducing of Risk of COVID-19 Transmission among Health Workers in Belize

## Guyana

- ▶ Strengthening Clinical Management of COVID-19 Patients and Reducing the Risk of COVID-19 Transmission among Health Workers
- ▶ Reducing Adolescent Pregnancy

## Haiti

- ▶ Improving Access to Water through the Installation of a solar pumping system

## Saint Kitts and Nevis

- ▶ Ensuring Adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis (GSKN) COVID-19 Response

## Antigua and Barbuda

- ▶ Resilient Restoration of Pivotal Public Infrastructure for the Recovery and Sustainable Development Post-Hurricane Irma
- ▶ Strengthening National Health Capacities and Reducing Socioeconomic and Human Development Negative Impacts of COVID-19 Crisis

## Saint Lucia

- ▶ Human Security and Sustainable Development: A COVID-19 Response
- ▶ Upgrading Saint Lucia's capacity to provide impactful vocational training for marginalized youth

## Dominica

- ▶ Resilient Rehabilitation of Salisbury Educational Facility Post-Hurricane Maria
- ▶ Strengthening sustainable livelihoods and resilience in the Kalinago Territory

## Grenada

- ▶ Mt. Horne Child Development Centre

## Bolivia

- ▶ Social Innovation Hubs for Laboral insertion and early childhood women's care

## Paraguay

- ▶ Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy and Sexual Abuse/Violence in Girls and Adolescents from an Intersectoral Approach (Capacities)

## Uruguay

- ▶ Government of Proximity and Accountability (ITC)

## Gambia

- ▶ Use of Drones and Early Warning Systems for Pre- and Post-flood Disaster Management

## Liberia

- ▶ Developing Minds, Empowering Communities: Construction of an Educational Resource Centre in Rivercess County

## Togo

- ▶ Biodiversity Business in Fazao-Malfakassa National Park

## Gabon

- ▶ Strengthening Climate Information Services for Resilient Development and the Adaptation to Climate Change in Gabon

**Mauritania**

- ▶ Enhancing Capacity to Reduce Maternal Mortality in Nouakchott

**Chad**

- ▶ Reinforce the Resilience of Vulnerable Populations in Kanem and Lake Chad

**Cameroon**

- ▶ Scaling Up Rural Households' Use of Renewable Energy and Energy-efficient Technologies

**Zambia**

- ▶ Empowering Women and Youth with Increased Access and Usage of Utility and Digital Financial Services

**Zimbabwe**

- ▶ Building Resilience of Smallholder Farmers in Mangwe and Chiredzi by Increasing Small Grains Production and Productivity and Improving Market Access

**Sao Tome and Principe**

- ▶ Support the Acceleration of Family Planning

**Benin**

- ▶ Promoting Youth and Women Employment through Agricultural Diversification

**Mali**

- ▶ Six Improved Village Hydraulic Systems in the District of Bamako and Surroundings, Sikasso and Segou

**Republic of Moldova**

- ▶ Improve Availability of Administrative Data for Tracking Progress

**7 Pacific Island Countries**

- ▶ Climate Early Warning Systems in Pacific Island Countries

**Marshall Islands**

- ▶ Solar-powered Refrigeration Systems

**Solomon Island**

- ▶ Support to Solomon Islands Response to COVID-19

**Kiribati**

- ▶ Assistance for COVID-19 Response

**Tuvalu**

- ▶ Solar Home Stand-alone Systems for Funaota, Nukufetau

**Vanuatu**

- ▶ National Sustainable Development Plan Baseline Survey

**Tonga**

- ▶ Repair and Reconstruction of Export Building and Fumigation Facility
- ▶ Assistance for COVID-19 Response

**Fiji**

- ▶ Developing Climate Disaster Risk Financing Framework and Parametric Insurance

**Nauru**

- ▶ Support to Nauru's Strategic Response to COVID-19

**Eswatini**

- ▶ Participatory Poverty Assessment

**Timor-Leste**

- ▶ Leveraging ICT to Improve Education and Skills

**Palau**

- ▶ Building Resilience: Community Health Centre Improvement and Strengthening National Capacities to Address COVID-19 Crisis
- ▶ Our Oceans Conference 2020 Preparation Project

**Samoa**

- ▶ Samoa Knowledge Society Initiative (SKSI)



**India-UN** Development  
Partnership Fund 

**YEAR-IN REVIEW**  
NOVEMBER 2024



United Nations Office  
for South-South Cooperation  
304 E. 45th St., FF-1106  
New York, NY 10017, USA

