

# INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND



YEAR-IN REVIEW  
OCTOBER 2025



India-UN Development  
Partnership Fund 

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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This year-in-review report provides an edited compilation of the human-interest stories that were digitally distributed in the UNOSSC quarterly newsletter. These communications feature the direct-impact, people-centred, grassroots activities of the Fund in action or after their completion, together 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. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation go to all partners that continue to support, advance and collaborate to making this portfolio a great success.

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## Cover image

Front cover: Teachers and students during the piloting of the Centro de Modelos de Mediación (CMM) in Nicaragua, part of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund project on inclusive education for children with disabilities. Photo: UNICEF Nicaragua

Back cover: Inauguration of an Automatic Weather Station in Kwamalasamutu, Suriname, under the India-UN Development Partnership Fund project on Strengthening Flood Resilience in Suriname. Photo: UNDP Suriname

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## FOREWORD

This past year brought to the forefront the importance of collective action, innovation and shared solutions. As many leaders from both the North and the Global South called for renewed effort to strengthen multilateralism, address inequalities, and accelerate the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), South-South cooperation has become more vital than ever.

The pledge made by the Government of India to establish the India-UN Development Partnership Fund in 2017 with a budget of US\$150 million to assist Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries reflects India's strong commitment to South-South cooperation. India is guided by its national ethos of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (The World is One Family) and reiterates its commitment to development partnership with the Global South. As part of the outreach programme, the Fund has been able to assist around 70 countries with numerous quick impact projects that were conceived by the recipient governments, taking into account their national priorities and aligning with the SDGs.

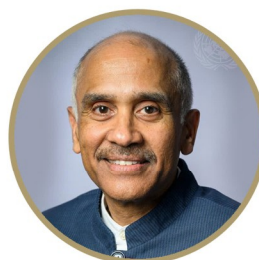
The commitment by the Government of India to South-South cooperation is especially crucial in a global context of decreasing development assistance. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund emphasizes the principles of solidarity, mutual respect and shared progress, which help realize the SDGs and demonstrate that collective progress of the Global South is both necessary and possible.

India has reiterated its readiness to share experiences and solutions drawn from its own development journey such as vaccine production, digital capabilities, education capacities, agro-practices, and small and medium-sized enterprises promotion and innovation culture. India proposes to utilize existing fora to strengthen greater cooperation among Global South with a view to enhance solidarity and encourage collaboration by keeping the priorities of the Global South at the centre – a human-centric, multidimensional and multisectoral approach.

The India-UN Fund is a practical expression of this vision. In partnership with the United Nations system, it is advancing sustainable and resilient development projects across the Global

South – from renewable energy and food security to public health, digital inclusion and gender equality. This publication, the 2025 India-UN Development Partnership Fund Year-in-Review Report, captures the voices, stories and results of communities that are shaping their own futures, supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and the United Nations implementing partners who believe in the power of cooperation and social inclusion.

The report showcases the success stories of grassroots projects, proving that when countries come together with a shared vision, the results are transformative. We thank the governments, United Nations entities and local partners whose engagement makes the Fund's work possible. Together, we will continue to honour the Pact for the Future by turning commitments into lasting change, reaching the furthest behind first and leaving no one behind.



**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. Working through the United Nations system, the Fund supports the priorities of developing countries as they advance their national pathways towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Established in 2017 with a commitment of US\$150 million, the Fund is an initiative of the Government of India managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and implemented in close collaboration with United Nations entities and national governments. Its hallmark is a demand-driven, locally led approach, with a strong focus on least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

A flagship example of South-South cooperation in action, the India-UN Development Partnership Fund brings partners together in solidarity to address shared challenges and unlock new opportunities for progress. Its portfolio spans the breadth of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), often addressing multiple goals simultaneously. From building climate resilience and expanding renewable energy to promoting gender equality, strengthening health systems, improving education, advancing agriculture and water access, and bridging the digital divide, the Fund delivers practical, transformative solutions that change lives and strengthen communities.

## The Commonwealth Window

The Commonwealth Window of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, established in 2018 with a pledge of \$50 million, 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 together. Since its inception, the Commonwealth Window has committed \$34 million to 40 projects in 36 countries, prioritizing local ownership and tailored solutions. Through this targeted support, it strengthens national efforts, fostering collective growth and resilience among countries that share a legacy of cooperation and a vision for a better future.



India-UN Development  
Partnership Fund 



# 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 composed of H.E. Mrs Yojna Patel, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York; H.E. Dr. Acquino Vimal, 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. Additionally, the Board of Directors of the India-UN Fund Commonwealth Window also includes H.E. Ms. Menissa Rambally, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations in New York, and H.E. Mr. Kartik Pande, Deputy High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom.



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

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



**H.E. Dr. Acquino Vimal**

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

## Commonwealth Window additional Directors



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

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



**H.E. Mr. Katik Pande**

Deputy High Commissioner of India in London



“With just five years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, South-South cooperation is a vital engine of progress. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund shows how developing countries can lift one another up — not just as beneficiaries, but as equal partners. This report shares stories of success, from literacy to flood resilience to maternal health. When combined with support from the global North and international institutions, South-South leadership can ensure that no one is left behind — and build a fairer and more sustainable future for all.”

**António Guterres**  
UN Secretary-General



“For least developed countries, development challenges are intensified by vulnerability to external shocks. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund has been crucial in supporting us to respond with agility and vision. From strengthening food systems and creating employment for youth and women, to improving access to health and education in fragile contexts, these projects speak directly to our realities. What makes this Fund distinctive is that it listens to local voices and works with us to design practical solutions. In doing so, it gives LDCs the tools to pursue sustainable growth while ensuring that our communities are not left behind.”

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



“For Small Island Developing States, the stakes could not be higher. Rising seas, economies vulnerable to exogenous shocks, and limited resources demand innovative and urgent responses. Through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, SIDS are gaining support to expand renewable energy, strengthen disaster preparedness, and invest in sustainable development. This partnership underscores that, despite our size, small island developing states are active contributors, offering solutions and leadership that can inspire the world. With solidarity and vision, we can transform vulnerability into resilience and chart a sustainable future for our countries and beyond.”

**H.E. Ms. Ilana Victorya Seid**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations, Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States



“Landlocked Developing Countries face an inherent structural disadvantage: the lack of access to the sea. This reality is not of our making, yet its consequences are ours to bear. It creates challenges of distance from markets, from resources, and often from opportunity. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund helps us bridge those distances and reduce the barriers imposed by geography by supporting projects that improve connectivity, modernize agriculture, strengthen health services, and expand both physical and digital infrastructure. This is South-South cooperation at its most meaningful: enabling us not only to overcome constraints, but also to open new pathways to prosperity. It affirms that with strong partnerships, no community is too remote to share in progress.”

**H.E. Diego Pacheco Balanza**  
Minister, Chargé d'affaires, Chair of LLDCs (Plurinational State of Bolivia)



“The India-UN Development Partnership Fund has become one of the most instrumental platforms, where countries of the Global South co-develop and implement solutions that respond directly to their own priorities. Whether expanding digital access, enhancing local infrastructure, or supporting health and education systems, the Fund helps translate local knowledge into action with global impact. In every initiative, we see the essence of South-South cooperation: partners sharing resources, expertise and confidence in one another. This approach is not only delivering results today, but also builds the foundations for resilience and opportunity in the years ahead.”

**Mr. Haoliang Xu**  
Acting Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



“United Nations Population Fund is proud to partner with the India UN Development Partnership Fund. This collaboration contributes significantly to ending the unmet need for family planning, ending preventable maternal deaths, and eliminating gender-based violence and harmful practices by unlocking resources and development expertise through South-South and triangular cooperation. It also supports UNFPA’s efforts to strengthen data systems so that countries are better able to understand and address population dynamics and demographic change in the face of urbanization, population ageing, climate change and other global shifts. The examples described in this report and many other case studies over the years demonstrate the power of international solidarity and cooperation in advancing inclusive, sustainable development that leaves no one behind.”

**Ms. Diene Keita**  
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations  
Executive Director, UNFPA



# 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.



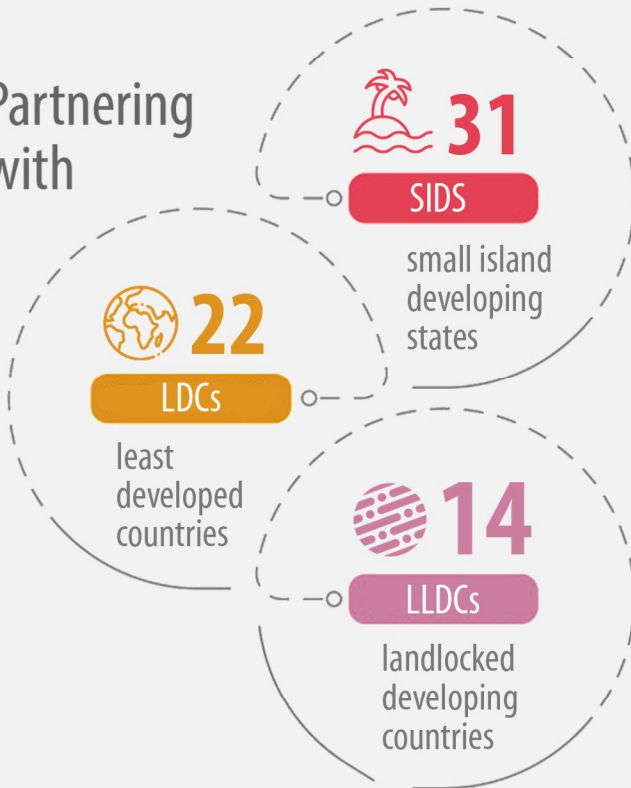
## FUNDING

 **\$150 million** pledged

 **\$88 million** contributed to date

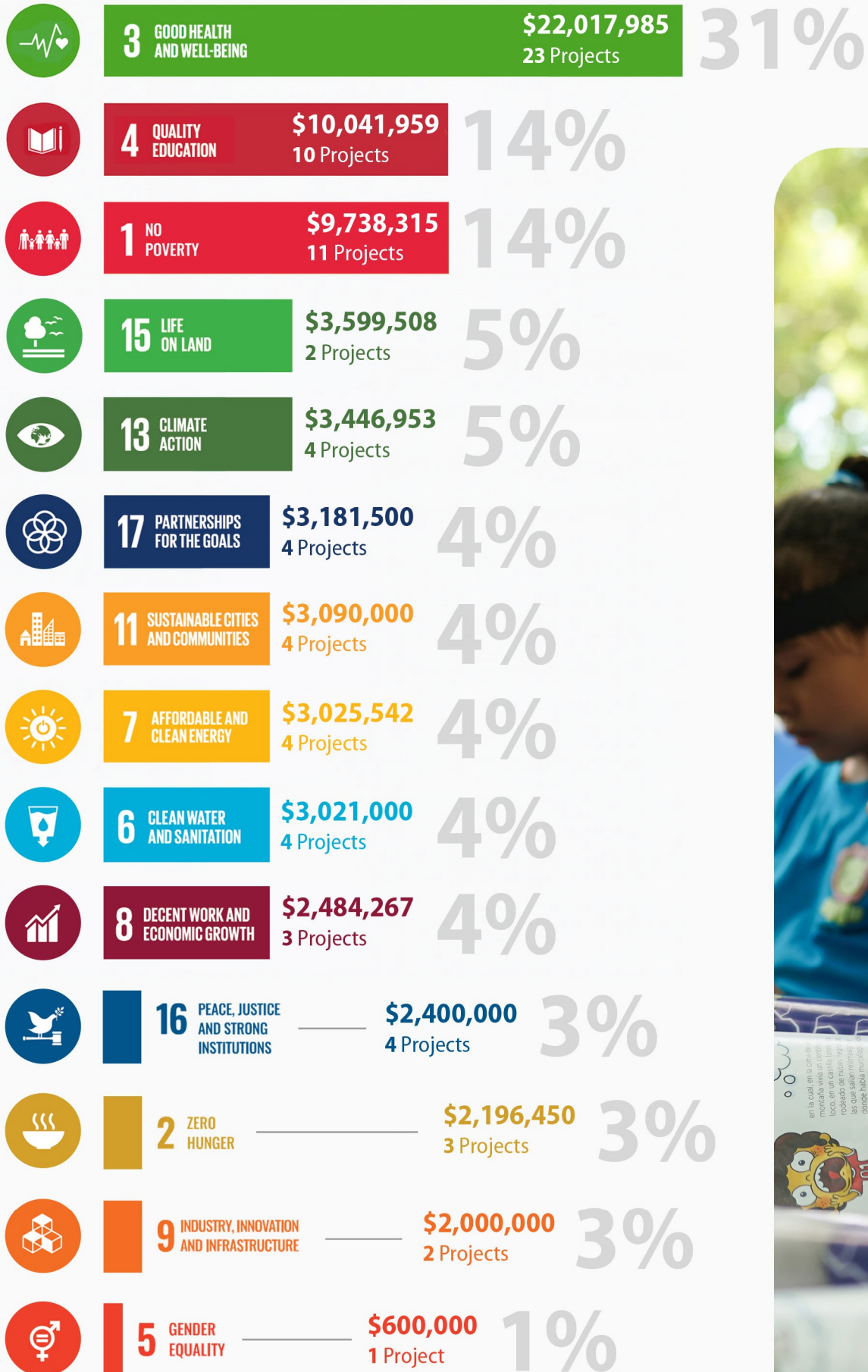
 **\$72 million** allocated

Partnering with



### South-South Impact

# SDGs MOST DIRECTLY ADVANCED BY PROJECTS



# 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

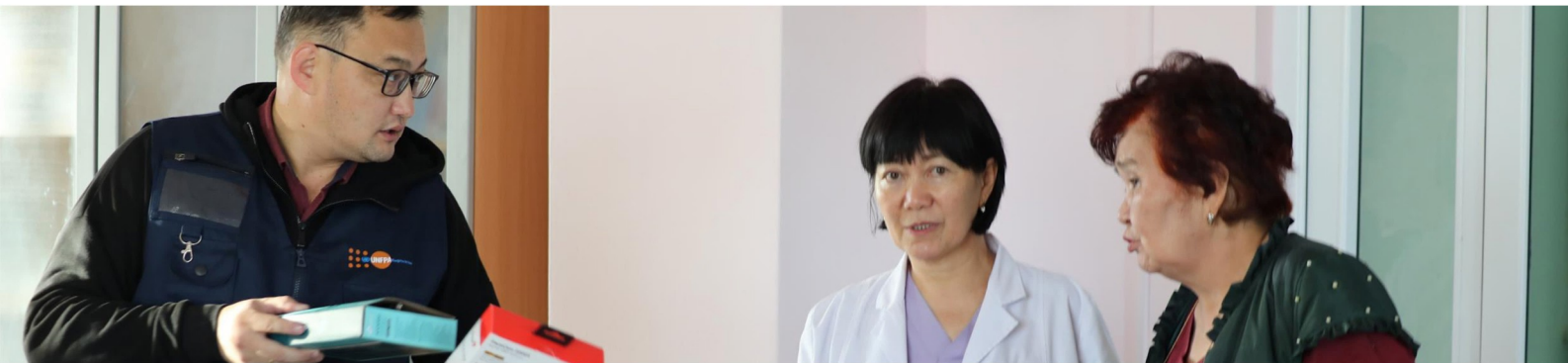


# GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

## Enabling the United Nations System South-South Action

UNOSSC is the United Nations system-wide coordinator and facilitator of South-South and triangular cooperation, as means to accelerate the speed and scale of action towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It supports multilateral South-South policymaking; strengthens capacities of Member States to initiate, manage and implement South-South cooperation as well as the capacity of United Nations entities to respond to requests by southern countries to address specific development challenges; it supports the implement the 2030 Agenda through harnessing South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and facilitation of technology development and transfer through partner-led and -funded programmes. UNOSSC serves as Fund Manager and Secretariat of the Board of Directors of India-UN Development Partnership Fund as well as for other South-South cooperation funds. UNOSSC brings expertise on South-South mainstreaming and integration into the project cycle, guiding projects with technical enhancements throughout the proposal and project document approval processes. It also advances quarterly monitoring and reporting on the trust fund project portfolio, overseeing results and providing substantive expertise.

Fourteen United Nations agencies, funds and programmes partner with India-UN Development Partnership Fund and governments in designing and implementing its projects. Through this partnership with the United Nations system, the Government of India and southern countries are able to leverage the comparative advantages of the United Nations, particularly its worldwide presence and its wealth of normative, thematic and programmatic expertise. 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

# 2024 RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS



## 2025 planned results and activities



# 13 Caribbean Countries and Territories

## Strengthening the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission Strategy within Maternal and Child Health Services

In 2023, eight countries and territories – Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Montserrat, and St. Kitts and Nevis – were revalidated as having achieved EMTCT of HIV and syphilis. In 2024, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Jamaica also earned certification, reflecting years of investment in integrated care, community outreach, and public health leadership.

The Caribbean has taken an important step forward in protecting mothers and children from preventable infections with the launch of the “Strengthening the EMTCT Plus Strategy within the Maternal and Child Health Framework” project. Supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and implemented by Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with national health authorities, the initiative is designed to reduce the transmission of HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B and congenital Chagas disease from mothers to their children.

The project comes at a critical moment. While many countries in the Americas have made progress in eliminating mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT), a troubling resurgence of syphilis has threatened these gains. Between 2016 and 2022, cases of congenital syphilis increased by 40 per cent, with 19 of 26 countries reporting rises in syphilis among pregnant women. This trend has placed maternal and child health at significant risk, underscoring the urgency of renewed action.

At a regional launch webinar attended by over 250 stakeholders, Ms. Sandra Jones, PAHO/WHO Regional Advisor for HIV, STIs, TB and Viral Hepatitis, outlined the project’s three core outputs: strengthening leadership and capacity in maternal and child health to sustain EMTCT Plus goals; enhancing national laboratory systems for accurate diagnostics and timely treatment; and improving surveillance for robust monitoring and evaluation.

Dr. Juan Manuel Sotelo, PAHO/WHO Caribbean Subregional Programme Director (a.i.) stated, “By

Implementing Partners  
**Ministries of 13 Caribbean Countries, PAHO**

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

Duration  
**2024 – ongoing**



**addressing this challenge head on, we are moving closer to a Caribbean where every mother and child can thrive and live free from these infections.”**

National governments and regional institutions also expressed their commitment. Ms. Helen Royer, Director of Human and Social Development at the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, emphasized: **“This project comes at a critical time. As a community, we are not only aware of the gaps and challenges that remain in our fight against HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B, but we are also taking steps to minimize their impact through increased prevention and advocacy efforts.”**





The launch also created space for regional dialogue. Countries shared experiences and identified technical needs to strengthen their own EMTCT responses. Participants highlighted the importance of scaling up test-and-treat strategies, adopting dual HIV/syphilis rapid testing, and expanding access to screening through community outreach and point-of-care services. These approaches will be supported through the project's technical assistance, ensuring that all pregnant women in the Caribbean can access timely diagnosis and treatment.

The project reinforces resilience in maternal and child health by integrating improvements in leadership, laboratories and surveillance into a coherent strategy. Its success illustrates the value of South-South cooperation in pooling resources, sharing expertise, and advancing collective health security. By contributing to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the project represents a regional commitment to ensuring that every Caribbean mother and child has the chance to thrive.



## Navigating Fiscal Challenges: Strengthening public debt management through South-South cooperation

The Bahamas is setting new standards for fiscal transparency and debt sustainability. With a modern legal framework, robust institutional structures, and innovative tools to manage sovereign debt, the country is demonstrating how Small Island Developing States (SIDS) can build resilience and safeguard economic stability. This transformation was supported by the project “Strengthening Public Debt Management Framework and Developing Government Bond Market in The Bahamas”, financed by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and implemented by the Ministry of Finance, Commonwealth Secretariat in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Multi-Country Office in Jamaica.

For many years, The Bahamas faced limited access to concessional finance, forcing the Government to rely on costly commercial borrowing. As debt levels rose, the need for a comprehensive framework to enhance transparency and efficiency became urgent. Recognizing this, the project combined international expertise and local leadership to deliver reforms tailored to the national context while aligned with world-class standards.

A pivotal milestone came in March 2021, when Parliament passed the Public Debt Management Act. **“Once we did that, it set the tone for the whole project,”** explained Ms. Wendy Craig, consultant to the Ministry of Finance. **“Transparency arrangements flowed from the legislation. And the beauty was that, in the end, it pulled together all these disparate pieces of legislation into one comprehensive document.”**

The Act was complemented with the country’s first and second medium-term debt management strategies and Annual Borrowing Plans, which established a clear roadmap for sustainable borrowing. Quarterly Public Debt Bulletins were also introduced, keeping both the public and investors informed of the country’s debt position.

Reforms strengthened the efficiency of the government securities market. Measures such as a buyback and exchange programme, non-competitive bidding schemes, and a stronger operational framework for settlements

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Finance;  
Commonwealth Secretariat; UNDP**

Project Budget  
**\$550,000**

Duration  
**2020–2024**



made Bahamian debt instruments more attractive to investors. These were further supported by the Benchmark Issuance Policy, adopted by the Government; the development of Guidelines on Issuance of Government Securities adopted by the Central Bank, the Policy Frameworks on Guarantees and Lending approved by the Cabinet; the Master Repo Agreement, introducing intraday, overnight repos and long-term repo operations by the Central Bank. These steps improved liquidity, fostered market development, and built investor confidence.

Capacity building ensured that the reforms would endure. Ministry of Finance staff were comprehensively trained in debt management operations and strategy formulation while peer-to-peer exchanges allowed The Bahamas to share its experience with 15 Commonwealth countries. “Peer-to-peer learning is a preferred strategy of The Commonwealth,” stated the Commonwealth Secretary-General, the Right Honourable Patricia Scotland KC, **“because if one member country is spending money to develop a programme, there should be no need for other member countries to do so, too.”**

The results have been commendable. The Bahamas reduced its debt-to-GDP ratio from 90.66 per cent in 2022 to 86.61 per cent in 2023, with a target of 65 per cent by 2026/27. This creates fiscal space for investment in health, education and social protection, reinforcing stability for generations to come.



## From Resilience to Opportunity: Building inclusive futures



Women and young people in Burundi are gaining new skills, knowledge and opportunities to build more secure futures thanks to a transformative initiative supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and implemented by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Burundi in collaboration with the Government and civil society partners.

Through expanded access to vocational training, reproductive health services and youth-friendly spaces, the project is creating new pathways for empowerment and resilience, marking an important step forward for inclusive national development.

For decades, Burundi has grappled with high levels of poverty and inequality, by which women and youth have been disproportionately affected. Limited access to education, healthcare and sustainable livelihoods has constrained opportunities while climate change and fragile governance structures have deepened vulnerabilities. Against this backdrop, the initiative set out to deliver practical solutions that could transform lives and strengthen institutions.

The project integrates a range of interventions to empower communities. Thousands of young people will receive vocational training to help them secure livelihoods and respond to market needs. Schools and communities are beginning to introduce comprehensive sexuality education, equipping adolescents with accurate information and life skills. Maternal and reproductive health services are being strengthened to provide women with greater access to quality care. In addition, youth-friendly spaces are planned to offer safe environments for learning, leadership and entrepreneurship while community awareness campaigns will further support these efforts by challenging stereotypes and promoting gender equality.

Implementing Partners  
**Various Ministries of the Government of Burundi; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

Project Budget  
**\$1,200,000**

Duration  
**2024 – ongoing**



A defining feature of the initiative is its South-South dimension. Burundian stakeholders will engage in exchanges with peers across Africa and beyond, drawing inspiration from successful approaches in similar contexts. These exchanges are expected to enrich local solutions and underscore the power of solidarity among developing nations in addressing shared challenges.

As the project moves forward, its planned results include stronger institutional capacities, greater access to reproductive health services for women and girls and practical skills development for youth, strengthening equality and reducing vulnerabilities. Awareness campaigns aim to reach wide audiences and foster positive shifts in perceptions of gender roles and youth leadership. Importantly, the initiative is working to reinforce the role of civil society and embed inclusive approaches within national policies and strategies.



## Ensuring a Lasting Legacy in the Kalinago Territory through South-South Cooperation



The Indigenous Kalinago people of Dominica are charting a more resilient future with new opportunities for sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism and forest stewardship. Through the “Strengthening Community Resilience within the Kalinago Territory” project, supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in close collaboration with the Government of Dominica, the community is advancing its vision of recovery, adaptation and sustainable growth.

Launched in July 2025 at the Barana Autê cultural centre, the initiative marks a milestone for the 3,000-strong Kalinago community—the only remaining Indigenous population in the Caribbean directly descended from the region’s pre-colonial peoples. With an investment of US\$1 million, the project aims to address climate and economic vulnerabilities by promoting climate-smart agriculture, improving forest and watershed management, and leveraging Indigenous eco-tourism.

“The Kalinago community’s resilient agenda has been greatly enhanced through the collaborative efforts of financing from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and the coordination of UNDP,” stated Hon. Cozier Frederick, Minister of Environment, Rural Modernization, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment. “They continue to enable us to recover, adapt and thrive in the face of immense adversity.”

The project also supports eco-tourism development to highlight the Kalinago’s unique heritage and promote sustainable visitor experiences. By linking conservation with cultural preservation, it seeks to strengthen both community pride and economic resilience.

Implementing Partners

**Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernization and Kalinago Upliftment; Kalinago Council, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Project Budget

**\$1,000,000**

Duration

**2025 – ongoing**



Speaking at the launch, Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit, High Commissioner of India to Dominica, highlighted the broader significance of the initiative: **“India has taken a lead role in putting the priorities of the countries of the Global South on the global agenda. This project for the empowerment of the Indigenous Kalinago community of Dominica represents India’s desire to support Dominica in a sustainable manner.”**

The project builds on UNDP’s earlier “Strengthening Sustainable Livelihoods and Resilience in the Kalinago Territory” initiative, which supported post-Hurricane Maria recovery. It also reflects UNDP’s broader work across Dominica in reconstruction, agriculture, the blue economy and digital transformation. As UNDP Resident Representative Limya Eltayeb noted: **“We are pleased to continue supporting the Kalinago people through this new project. I would especially like to thank the Government of India for its strong support through the UN-India Fund, which has distinguished itself as an excellent example of South-South cooperation and an important resource for Small Island Developing States.”**

Rooted in both traditional knowledge and modern approaches, the initiative is more than an investment in resilience – it is a commitment to heritage, dignity and the future of the Kalinago people and the wider Caribbean.

## Building Literacy Skills through Home-based Reading

Children across El Salvador are discovering the joy of reading with their families, thanks to the “Reading at Home” project, a groundbreaking initiative that has brought inclusive storybooks, digital platforms and community engagement directly into homes. The transformation is especially notable among children with disabilities, who now have access to stories just as their peers, because they are available in Braille, audio and digital formats.

The “Reading at Home” project is funded by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and implemented by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in close partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Office of the First Lady of El Salvador, and the Fundación para la Educación Integral Salvadoreña (FEDISAL).

At the core of the project is a family-centred model that places reading at the heart of daily routines. More than 150,000 books with 180 inclusive titles featuring culturally relevant stories of Salvadoran children were created and distributed nationwide in print, Braille, audio and digital versions, supported by adaptation of 15 audiobooks and 525 materials in Braille. The country’s online reading platform was also expanded to host over 500 accessible resources.

For learners with visual and hearing impairments, 50 resource centres were equipped with assistive technologies, ensuring that no child is left behind.

The project extended well beyond the delivery of books. A total of 6,000 children received books and 480 teachers received training to integrate inclusive storybooks into classrooms while more than 5,500 families participated in workshops designed to make reading at home interactive and engaging. The project also reached a bigger community through indirect beneficiaries: over 12,000 additional children were engaged in reading activities, supported by nearly 19,000 family and community members. For many families, reading has become a shared activity that strengthens language skills, builds confidence, and nurtures closer bonds between parents and children.

Sustainability is built into the model. The Ministry of Education has already integrated home-based reading into the National Literacy Plan, with plans to expand the project from 400 to 1,000 schools over the next two years.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Education, United Nations  
Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**

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

Duration  
**2020 – 2024**





FEDISAL will continue driving community outreach, and the Office of the First Lady is leading national campaigns to promote a culture of inclusive reading. Strengthened capacities among teachers, publishers and education officials ensure that momentum will continue.

This initiative directly advances SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) while exemplifying SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). It not only leaves a legacy of resources and tools, but also fosters a culture of inclusion that will continue to inspire schools, families and communities across El Salvador.



## Growing Together: South-South cooperation fuels agricultural resilience in rural Jamaica

Nearly 50 poultry farmers, predominantly women and youth, graduated from a comprehensive training programme in small livestock production under the “Improving Rural Livelihoods through Resilient Agri-food Systems” project. A collaboration between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Government of Jamaica and Kitson Town Community Development Committee, the project is funded under a South-South cooperation initiative by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

Held in Kitson Town, St. Catherine on 30 May 2025, the graduation ceremony marked a key milestone in advancing entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods in the Kitson Town community. Implemented in partnership with the Spring Village Development Foundation, the training programme focused on practical poultry management and included on-farm training sessions tailored to meet the needs of emerging and current producers.

The training covered areas such as housing design, nutrition, pest and disease management, biosecurity and regulatory requirements. Beneficiaries also helped to construct model poultry houses for demonstration and replication, offering a practical guide for other farmers in the community.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Representative for Jamaica, The Bahamas and Belize, Dr. Ana Touza, delivered the keynote address at the ceremony, emphasizing the significance of the intervention. **“You are not only acquiring skills, but you are also claiming space in an industry where your voice, your labour and your leadership are essential,”** she said.

Dr. Touza’s remarks also referenced FAO’s recently launched report, **“The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems: A regional approach for Latin America and the Caribbean”**, which notes that, although women now comprise 36 per cent of the agrifood workforce in the region, barriers persist in access to productive resources and decision-making spaces. The report states that Latin America and the Caribbean is the only region in the world where women’s participation in agricultural activities has increased over the last two decades. **“This initiative responds directly to the call for greater gender equity in rural economies,”** Dr. Touza added.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries;  
Food and Agriculture Organization of  
the United Organization (FAO)**

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

Duration  
**2023 – ongoing**



Executive Director of the Spring Village Development Foundation, Mr. Randy Finnikin, commended the graduates and underscored the value of the partnership:

**“We are incredibly proud of your achievement. You are the reason we do what we do. This project is about improving rural livelihoods, and it is meaningful that FAO recognized the potential of this community and chose Spring Village as a partner.”**

Shaherah Brown-Lawrence, project beneficiary, shared her experience and the impact of the training on her operations: **“This training has impacted my life in so many ways. I have learned better documentation and budget spending. I actually learned how to calculate the number of birds to a carrier and the number of blocks to start the poultry structure. We have been on field trips in different communities exploring and teaching knowledge to others.”**

Dr. Tanika Dennie, animal nutritionist and FAO consultant supporting the livestock component of the project, underscored the value of poultry production in food and nutrition security: **“Too often we forget that animal-based protein is critical for brain development, particularly in the first five years of a child’s development. Aside from aquaculture, poultry is the most efficient of all livestock production systems.”**

According to Dr. Dennie, the training has equipped beneficiaries with best practices that are already showing strong results. Farmers using open-sided poultry houses have achieved feed-to-meat conversion rates comparable to those using more advanced tunnel-ventilated systems.

She emphasized that the combination of practical and theoretical knowledge provided through the programme is a highly effective approach to livestock production. **“By implementing good agricultural practices,”** she noted, **“you can achieve the same level of performance as birds raised in tunnel-ventilated houses.”**

As the project advances, beneficiaries in Kitson Town will receive continued technical support focused on business development, entrepreneurship and infrastructure. This will be delivered through close collaboration with the Jamaica Business Development Corporation, Junior Achievement Jamaica, and Agro-Investment Corporation. Beyond training, the project will also provide climate-resilient infrastructure and equipment, including improved livestock systems, greenhouses, hydroponic units, small-scale irrigation, and a drying and packaging facility. These investments aim to enhance value-added production and expand opportunities for the community.



## A Lifeline for Mothers and Newborns: Strengthening maternal health with telemedicine

In remote regions of Kyrgyzstan, expectant mothers once faced significant barriers to safe deliveries. Due to distance, resource constraints, and limited access to specialized expertise, complications like preeclampsia and eclampsia – the leading causes of maternal and perinatal mortality in the country – often ended in tragedy. In 2022, despite high coverage of antenatal services and skilled birth attendance, maternal mortality rates were still at concerning levels, at 27.3 per 100,000 live births.

Today, this is beginning to change. With support from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), maternity hospitals in some of the Kyrgyz Republic's most remote regions are now equipped with telemedicine technology that is transforming maternal and neonatal care. The project, "Increase access of rural women to quality reproductive and maternal health services in maternity hospitals with the highest number of deliveries", ensures that no mother has to give birth without access to qualified specialists.

Through telemedicine, maternity staff can consult with medical experts in real time, making critical decisions during labour and early postnatal care. For this reason, the project introduced the telemedicine technology for maternal healthcare in the country and developed the first national Telemedicine Guidelines. This was supported by customized local algorithms and training programme that reached out to 52 healthcare workers.

South-South cooperation with Indian expertise helped design a telemedicine platform optimized for maternal and child health, and training programmes equipped health providers with the knowledge and expertise on utilizing the technology effectively. New equipment, such as video-conferencing tools and digital tablets, and exposure to knowledge empowered healthcare professionals in receiving real-time remote expert guidance and support, resulting in tangible improvement in clinical decision-making, particularly in complex or high-risk pregnancy cases.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Health; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

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

Duration  
**2023 – ongoing**





The initiative is also strengthening healthcare governance by embedding quality standards into the national maternal health system. In line with the Ministry of Health's National Quality Strategy, professionals from five pilot hospitals participated in a two-day workshop on continuous quality improvement. Aizhamal Shambetova, Deputy Minister of Health, emphasized: **"It is not only about increasing the coverage of interventions, but also about ensuring that every woman and newborn receives skilled, evidence-based and respectful care."**

Hospital staff are already seeing results. Ms. Rakhat Izabekova, Head of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Jalal-Abad Regional Clinical Hospital, noted: **"Our Quality Committee plays an important role in preventing infant and maternal mortality. Based on the seminar, I realized that we need to carefully plan each step and, most importantly, make a realistic plan."**

By introducing telemedicine, strengthening clinical knowledge, and embedding a culture of quality-driven leadership, this South-South initiative is making childbirth safer in Kyrgyzstan's most vulnerable regions. With stronger systems and empowered professionals, the project is building resilience in maternal healthcare – saving lives today and shaping healthier futures for generations to come.

## Strengthening Large-scale Food Fortification: Investing in rice fortification



Children and families in Lao PDR are now on a path to healthier, stronger futures thanks to a new initiative that will make nutrient-rich rice accessible to thousands of households. By fortifying the country's most widely consumed staple food, the project is helping to prevent anemia and other micronutrient deficiencies, protecting women and children from the silent impacts of hidden hunger. This transformation is possible through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and its implementation is led by the World Food Programme (WFP) in partnership with the Ministry of Health of Lao PDR.

For years, hidden hunger, i.e. micronutrient deficiencies that do not trigger the visible signals of hunger, has undermined health and development across the country. Nearly 40 per cent of women of reproductive age and 44 per cent of children under five suffer from iron deficiency anemia, which weakens immune systems, stunts growth, and reduces learning potential. In 2020 alone, anemia was estimated to cost Lao PDR over US\$241 million in lost productivity, more than 1 per cent of GDP. For expectant mothers, the consequences can be especially severe, increasing the risk of complications and birth defects.

Rice fortification offers a practical and cost-effective solution. As glutinous rice is eaten daily by almost every household in Lao PDR, it provides the perfect vehicle for delivering iron, vitamin A, zinc and other essential micronutrients. Trials have already shown strong community acceptance—families, cooks, teachers and students agree that fortified rice tastes the same as regular rice, requires no changes to cooking, and integrates smoothly into existing dietary practices.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Health; World Food Programme (WFP)**

Project Budget  
**\$996,450**

Duration  
**2025 – ongoing**



With the project in its first stages, partnerships are being formalized through an agreement between WFP and the Ministry of Health's Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion. A new Food Fortification Technical Working Group is also being established, bringing together government ministries, United Nations partners and the Embassy of India to guide standards, policies and coordination. Technical missions from WFP's Regional Office in Bangkok have further enriched the process, drawing on India's own large-scale rice fortification programme, which already reaches over 400 million people. As a result of this experience, Lao PDR benefits from tried-and-tested approaches, adapted to local realities.

The project supports the Government in developing policies, standards, and specifications for rice fortification. It also strengthens local capacity through stakeholder engagement, training and provision of equipment for storage and blending.

These efforts are complemented with a quality assurance manual, distribution of fortified rice through social safety nets, and awareness campaigns on its health benefits.

Looking ahead, the project will begin feasibility assessments with rice millers, develop pilot fortification models, and roll out training for food producers. The first fortified rice products are expected to reach schools and communities within the next year, marking a significant step toward reducing micronutrient deficiencies at scale.



## South-South Cooperation Empowering Communities with Clean Water and Resilience



In the outer islands of Chuuk State, families are now enjoying reliable access to safe drinking water for the first time. On 27 November 2024, community leaders and development partners gathered to celebrate the handover of 15 solar water purification systems, a milestone that is changing daily life in underserved communities. The systems are already improving health outcomes and reducing the burden on women and girls, who often shoulder the responsibility of collecting and managing household water.

The initiative is part of the Federated States of Micronesia's (FSM) "Strengthening Gender Machinery Project", supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and implemented by UNDP in collaboration with the Government of FSM. It exemplifies how South-South cooperation delivers practical, sustainable solutions to critical development challenges while advancing gender equality.

At the handover ceremony, Acting Assistant Secretary Augustine Sue, speaking on behalf of the FSM Secretary of Social Affairs, emphasized: **"With these solar water purification systems, we are taking a significant step towards improving health outcomes for the people of the outer islands and empowering women, who often bear the responsibility of water collection and sanitation in our households."**

Local leaders echoed the sense of impact. Ms. Myjoleen Kim, representing the Government of Chuuk, called the project a 'game changer' for community well-being, and Mr. Kevin J. Petrini, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, noted that easy access to clean water is often taken for granted: **"This initiative highlights the critical need for such projects in the outer islands of Chuuk."**



Implementing Partners  
**United Nations Development  
Programme (UNDP)**

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

Duration  
**2020–2024**



The solar purification systems are designed not only to deliver safe water, but also to build resilience in communities vulnerable to climate change and resource scarcity. Their introduction aligns with broader project goals of empowering women and advancing social inclusion through access to essential infrastructure, livelihood opportunities and leadership spaces.





Gender inequality remains a persistent challenge across FSM despite progressive policies, including the ratification of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the adoption of the National Gender Policy. Women continue to face barriers to decision-making and economic empowerment. By embedding water, health and livelihood initiatives within a gender framework, the project is directly tackling these structural gaps. As Acting Assistant Secretary Sue noted: **“Access to clean and safe water is fundamental to health, hygiene and overall quality of life. This project exemplifies our dedication to fostering sustainable solutions for the well-being of our communities.”**

Beyond infrastructure, the project supports leadership development, small business initiatives and community-based sports programmes to give women and girls new spaces to excel. The journey of the Chuuk Girls High School basketball team, who competed successfully with project support, reflects the same spirit of empowerment that drives the water initiative: when women and girls are given resources and recognition, they thrive and uplift their communities.

With continued support from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, the people of Micronesia’s outer islands are not only accessing clean water, but also building a more equitable and resilient future.

## Modernizing Data Systems: Advancing data governance through South-South cooperation



In Moldova, policymakers today have access to integrated, real-time national statistics that strengthen planning for public health, education and social protection. This progress is the result of an initiative supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and implemented by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Moldova in close partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics and national institutions. The project not only modernized data management, but also made the country's statistical system more resilient to crises, enabling evidence-based decisions that directly impact the lives of Moldovan citizens.

For many years, Moldova's statistical infrastructure was constrained by fragmented systems and outdated methodologies. Census and survey data were often processed in silos, limiting the Government's ability to generate timely, reliable information. These gaps became especially visible during emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent humanitarian shocks, when rapid, accurate data were crucial to guide the allocation of resources and protect vulnerable groups. Addressing these challenges required a shift towards a modern, register-based system, better integration of databases and improved capacity across institutions.

Implementing Partners  
**National Bureau of Statistics; Ministry  
of Labor and Social Protection; United  
Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

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

Duration  
**2023–2025**



With the support of the Fund, Moldova undertook a pioneering effort to transition its statistical ecosystem. At the core of the project was the integration of 24 national databases, enabling a unified system that could support register-based censuses and surveys. This innovation significantly reduced the costs and time traditionally required to conduct large-scale data collection while improving coverage and reliability. To sustain this shift, over 50 statisticians, demographers, and IT professionals received specialized training, which equipped them with the tools to operate and expand the new system.





The initiative also strengthened Moldova's preparedness for future shocks. By aligning statistical methods with international standards, the country is now better positioned to respond quickly to crises and to provide disaggregated data on populations most at risk, including women, youth and marginalized communities. South-South knowledge exchange was an integral part of the process: Moldovan experts drew lessons from peer countries that had already adopted register-based systems, adapting proven solutions to the local context.

The project's results extend beyond technical improvements. For the first time, Moldova now has the capacity to generate evidence that can inform more inclusive social and economic policies. The availability of accurate, timely data allows ministries to design targeted interventions, be it for maternal health, aging populations or youth employment, ensuring that resources reach those who need them most. Importantly, the National Bureau of Statistics has embedded these practices into its long-term strategy, creating a foundation for sustained progress.

Aligned with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), the project has positioned Moldova at the forefront of data-driven governance. Its enduring value lies in a stronger statistical system capable of guiding inclusive development policies long into the future. This initiative stands as a model of how South-South cooperation can empower countries to harness innovation, share knowledge, and strengthen resilience, because Moldova is now better equipped to meet today's challenges and to plan confidently for a more inclusive, sustainable future.



## Advancing Inclusive Education through South-South Cooperation



Children with disabilities across Nicaragua are increasingly able to learn in classrooms that are welcoming, accessible and supportive of their diverse needs. This transformation is being driven by a South-South cooperation project implemented by the Ministry of Education (MINED) in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), with support from the Government of India through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund and managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

At the project’s core is the ‘More Inclusion’ Strategy for Social and Behaviour Change Communication, which is fostering a culture of inclusivity in the education system and beyond. Through multilingual campaigns, such as television and radio spots, posters, stickers and inclusive didactic games, the project has reached families, communities and educators, shaping a more equitable narrative about disability and learning. Thirty-five journalists were also trained to report using respectful, inclusive language, extending the message into media spaces nationwide.

The initiative is anchored in the lived experiences of students like Josué, a young learner with a motor physical disability. **“This beautiful experience has been transformative, thanks to the exceptional educational inclusion strategies implemented by our dedicated teachers,”** he shared. **“They have shown me, and all of us, that disabilities do not define our capabilities.”** His story reflects the project’s impact in building confidence and dismantling barriers.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Education;  
National Autonomous University  
of Nicaragua; United Nations  
Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**

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

Duration  
**2020–2024**



Teacher capacity building has been central to success. Twelve pedagogical videos were produced and accessible digital textbooks piloted, giving teachers practical tools to adapt lessons for diverse learners. A new master’s programme, “Disabilities and Universal Design for Learning”, is strengthening professional development; 36 participants prepared their Master’s thesis on this subject, marking a milestone in advancing inclusive teaching practices.

The Virtual Course on Inclusive Education, prepared by the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua, was successfully completed by 300 teachers of the 15 prototype schools. The 80 hours of the course are organized around four modules aimed at strengthening the understanding of disabilities, identifying barriers to learning and participation, knowledge of laws and policies on the rights for education, and the methods for inclusion of children with disabilities in inclusive education.





The project utilized the Universal Design for Learning to produce accessible and interactive textbooks. This included the completion of the digital second-grade science book, "Knowing My World", which is accessible from Window and Android operating systems. The development of this digital book, which included real-time cooperation of the Ministry of Education, the design team and the programming team, consisted of the creation of a mirror book and a narrative script, the design of 985 screens (digital pages), the design and production of 992 illustrations, 40 animations and an interactive storyboard, the production of 1,223 videos with audio, sign language and subtitles, and software development for a digital book library and book readers, etc. In addition, cooperation with the Ministry of Education included the revision and adaptation of the updated edition of the mathematics book for first grade, as well as production of video format with sign language, text, audio and integrated animations of the children's story, "La Carreta Nagua".

Investments in school infrastructure complemented these efforts while accessibility improvements were made in 15 prototype schools, benefiting over 7,748 children through ramps, accessible bathrooms and sensory-friendly spaces.

Community engagement has amplified the project's reach. Joint follow-up visits by MINED and United Nations Children's Fund to schools across several municipalities provided actionable recommendations to adapt teaching methods and environments, helping teachers embed inclusivity into everyday practice.

H.E. Lilliam Herrera, Nicaragua's Minister of Education, emphasized the importance of these achievements: **"Together, we have made great strides, and our resolve remains unwavering. We will continue our efforts until Nicaragua sets a new benchmark for inclusivity."**

The project's lessons are also documented and shared with other developing countries, contributing to broader South-South knowledge exchange. This ensures that Nicaragua's progress not only supports its own children, but also inspires inclusive education efforts across the Global South.

The initiative contributes directly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) while exemplifying SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Through communication strategies, teacher training, improved infrastructure and community engagement, barriers to learning are being dismantled for children with disabilities. With the support of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, Nicaragua is demonstrating that inclusive education is not only achievable, but is also essential for building a future where every child can thrive.

## Building Trust and Saving Lives: Maternal and child health progress in the Chaco

Across the Paraguayan Chaco, mothers and children are experiencing safer births, stronger health services and renewed trust in their clinics. A region where distance, isolation and cultural gaps once made healthcare inaccessible has become a place where maternal shelters, trained staff and intercultural care models are saving lives. This change has been made possible through the support of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, the management of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), implementation by Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO) and leadership from Paraguay's Ministry of Health.

The Chaco is one of the country's most vulnerable regions: sparsely populated, culturally diverse and geographically challenging. It is home to 43 per cent of Paraguay's Indigenous Peoples, many of whom live far from formal health facilities. Before the project began, maternal and neonatal mortality rates were high, and communities often relied solely on traditional practices without links to institutional care.

To close these gaps, the project extended maternal and child health services to dispersed rural areas, Indigenous communities, and border zones with Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia. Four health micro-networks were reorganized, 35 facilities were equipped with essential supplies, and ten culturally appropriate delivery rooms were designed, i.e. spaces where Indigenous women could give birth safely while honouring their traditions. A maternal shelter in Irala Fernández now provides a safe environment for women with high-risk pregnancies, helping reduce delays in emergency care.

Capacity building has been transformative. More than 1,300 professionals were trained in obstetric and neonatal emergencies, together with 182 community promoters and 153 Indigenous midwives. These efforts ensure that frontline workers can identify risks early and respond effectively. A new Clinical Simulation Centre at the National Institute of Health offers continuous training nationwide, strengthening long-term resilience. In addition, three off-road vehicles and an aquatic ambulance were deployed to overcome the immense distances of the Chaco, ensuring timely referrals when complications arise.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Health; Pan American  
Health Organization (PAHO)**

Project Budget  
**\$1,499,000**

Duration  
**2023–2025**





Infrastructure improvements also extended to water and sanitation. Safe water systems and waste management plans were installed in health facilities, benefiting staff and patients alike. Community engagement was central: Regional and Local Health Councils were revitalized, participatory workshops were held, and 'dialogues of knowledge' with Indigenous communities created bridges between ancestral practices and modern medicine.

The impact is clear. In 2024, births attended by skilled health personnel reached 96.5 per cent in Boquerón and 98 per cent in Alto Paraguay, and maternal deaths dropped significantly, with none reported in Alto Paraguay. Neonatal mortality rates also fell in most districts, demonstrating that improved services and cultural sensitivity can save lives.

The project's intercultural primary healthcare model, territorial governance strategies, and cross-border health networks with Argentina and Brazil are now recognized as good practices in South-South cooperation, with lessons already being shared regionally.

For Paraguay, this initiative has not only provided facilities and training, but has also restored confidence, reduced inequalities, and ensured that even the most remote families in the Chaco can access care. It contributes directly to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), charting a hopeful path toward a future where no mother or child is left behind.

## AIM for Change! Advancing midwifery to prevent maternal deaths through South-South cooperation



Rwanda is taking decisive steps to strengthen its maternal and newborn health system by investing in midwifery education and professional development. With support from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and implemented by the Ministry of Health with UNFPA Rwanda, the “AIM for Change!” project is creating opportunities for midwives to access higher education, standardizing curricula, and building institutional capacities to save lives.

In its first months of implementation, the project moved rapidly from planning to action. A scholarship disbursement plan was finalized to support 444 midwifery students pursuing advanced diplomas and bachelor’s, bridging and master’s degrees, of whom 89 will study at the University of Rwanda while 355 will enroll at Ruli Higher Institute of Health. This investment directly addresses the shortage of skilled midwives, ensuring that more professionals are trained to international standards and prepared to respond to maternal and neonatal health challenges.

A high-level project launch brought together over 100 participants, including senior government officials, development partners and professional associations. The event underscored the shared commitment of Rwanda and India to advancing maternal health through South-South cooperation. A United Nations Volunteer was also recruited to support the Rwandan Association of Midwives, focusing on capacity strengthening and policy advocacy.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Health; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

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

Duration  
**2025 – ongoing**



Curriculum reform is another cornerstone of the initiative. The Higher Education Council, with the Ministry of Health and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), facilitated a second validation workshop for Rwanda’s national midwifery curricula. These revisions will align training with international standards, creating a standardized, competency-based curriculum to be rolled out nationwide in the coming quarter. A peer-reviewed research commentary documenting Rwanda’s blueprint for curriculum adaptation has already been published, showcasing best practices to other countries.

## AIM FOR CHANGE! Strengthening Rwanda’s Midwifery Profession





The project also places South-South cooperation at its heart. Two learning exchanges are planned: a study tour to India, focusing on the use of virtual reality in midwifery education, and another to Ghana, where Rwanda will learn from proven maternal and newborn health practices and regulatory models. These exchanges will not only strengthen Rwanda's midwifery profession, but will also contribute Rwanda's knowledge and shared experiences to the wider Global South.

For health professionals and midwifery students alike, these investments represent new opportunities to learn, grow and contribute to saving lives: 394 midwifery students will soon begin upgrading their education through scholarships, including 11 master's students who will receive full support. In parallel, Rwanda's professional midwives association is receiving targeted assistance to expand membership, generate evidence, and advocate for midwifery-led models of care.

The "AIM for Change!" project is contributing directly to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Its early achievements show how targeted investments, anchored in South-South solidarity, can accelerate systemic reform. For Rwanda, this initiative is laying the foundation for a stronger, more resilient maternal health system that will benefit women, newborns and communities for generations to come.



## Strengthening Flood Resilience through South-South Cooperation



Remote villages in Suriname are now receiving timely alerts that help them prepare for flooding and protect their livelihoods. Thanks to new automated weather and water level stations, combined with community-based training and modern geospatial mapping tools, families in vulnerable areas are better equipped to face the risks of extreme rainfall. These achievements were made possible through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and implemented by UNDP Suriname in close collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works and local communities.

Flooding caused by heavy rainfall has long posed a major threat to Suriname, particularly in remote tribal communities where infrastructure and communications are limited. Without reliable early warning systems, households often had little time to prepare, leading to repeated losses of homes, crops and essential community assets. Responding to this challenge, the project was designed to enhance the delivery of early warning services, expand monitoring networks, and build the technical and institutional capacities needed to reduce disaster risks.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Public Works; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Project Budget  
**\$246,853**

Duration  
**2023–2024**



At the heart of the initiative was the installation of automatic weather stations and automatic water level stations in strategic locations such as Kwamalasamutu and Poesoegroenoe. These stations now provide real-time data that feed directly into Suriname’s disaster coordination systems, improving the accuracy and timeliness of alerts. Importantly, community members were engaged throughout the process, which ensured sustainability and ownership: village councils were consulted, residents participated in installations, and local focal points were trained to maintain the equipment.

The project also invested in modern geospatial mapping. By using ArcGIS software, detailed maps of critical infrastructure – including roads, bridges and public facilities – were developed, supporting better decision-making by the Ministry of Public Works. A digital platform now integrates hydrological and meteorological data with geographic information, enabling policymakers to visualize risks and respond more effectively. This platform was formally launched in December 2024 as part of the Ministry’s drive for digital transformation.

Capacity building was another cornerstone. Meteorological and hydrological staff received training in flood forecasting, data analysis and the use of ArcGIS applications. Junior and senior meteorologists also benefited from technical training sessions delivered by regional and international experts, including through workshops, virtual exchanges, and knowledge-sharing visits to Colombia, Brazil and Jamaica.



These South-South exchanges allowed Suriname to adapt tested solutions from neighbouring countries to its own context while also contributing lessons to the regional community.

The benefits are already visible. Communities in flood-prone areas now receive more reliable warnings, enabling them to prepare and reduce damage during heavy rains. Spare parts have been procured and installed, restoring functionality to stations that had been offline. Awareness campaigns in villages have strengthened community knowledge about disaster preparedness and new data systems have created an evidence base for future resilience planning.

The initiative strengthens progress toward SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) while reflecting the spirit of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Most importantly, it gives communities in flood-prone areas the confidence and tools they need to prepare, adapt and thrive. With continued investment in training, technology and community engagement, Suriname is now better positioned to protect its people against the growing risks of climate change, showcasing the tangible impact of solidarity across the Global South.

## Innovation That Cares: Leveraging South-South cooperation for healthcare services

Hospitals in Trinidad and Tobago are now supported by telemedicine services and health service robots that improve patient care, reduce risks to frontline staff, and extend access to vulnerable populations. Elderly patients, persons with disabilities and Spanish-speaking communities are benefiting from more inclusive, responsive health systems that combine cutting-edge technology with human-centred care.

These achievements were made possible through the “Bringing High and Low Technology (HALT) to COVID-19” Project, supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and implemented by the Ministry of Health in partnership with Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO), the University of Trinidad and Tobago, and regional health authorities.

When COVID-19 hit, the country’s healthcare system faced unprecedented pressure. Limited resources, crowded hospitals and the need to protect health workers highlighted the urgency of innovation. The HALT project responded by introducing digital health solutions, combining high-technology robots with low-technology protective measures to strengthen resilience during the pandemic and beyond.

A cornerstone of the project was the deployment of telemedicine services, enabling doctors to consult with multiple patients remotely, including those in underserved or high-risk groups. Ten pilot sites across all five Regional Health Authorities were equipped with information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, training and standardized guidelines. This ensured continuity of care when in-person visits were limited and created a model for future integration of digital health into national frameworks.

Equally transformative was the introduction of eight state-of-the-art health service robots (HSRs) – two disinfecting robots and six humanoid service robots. These robots perform preliminary registration, evaluation and communication with patients, reducing exposure risks for healthcare workers. Deployed in hospitals across the country, they represent the first fleet of its kind in the Caribbean, positioning Trinidad and Tobago at the forefront of digital health transformation.

Implementing Partners  
**Ministry of Health; Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO)**

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

Duration  
**2021–2024**





Capacity building was integral to success. A total of 58 health professionals were trained in robot use, maintenance and programming, supported by a Change Management and Communication Strategy to promote integration into daily operations. Additional training workshops introduced telehealth practices, data security measures and user guidelines, building a cadre of skilled staff ready to sustain and expand these innovations. Complementary low-technology interventions, such as the distribution of 44,000 washable masks and installation of 50 accessible hand hygiene stations, further protected communities during the pandemic.

South-South cooperation enriched the project's impact. Drawing on Rwanda's early adoption of health service robots, Trinidad and Tobago engaged in peer exchanges to learn from their experience in procurement, commissioning and operationalization. Lessons learned from Rwanda directly informed the local adaptation and deployment process, demonstrating how solidarity among developing countries accelerates innovation.

With more than 200,000 people directly benefiting from improved services and protective measures, the project has left a lasting imprint on Trinidad and Tobago's healthcare system. A Technical Working Group has been established to ensure sustainability, bringing together the Ministry of Health, universities and regional health authorities to oversee continued integration and expansion. Plans are already underway to replicate the model across other health facilities and potentially across the wider Caribbean.

The HALT project contributes to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Its success illustrates how solidarity and innovation together can protect lives, empower health workers, and establish new standards of resilience in the Global South.

## Venezuela's El Sistema Empowers a New Generation through South-South Solidarity



Across Venezuela, children and youth are finding new hope and opportunity through music. The world-renowned “El Sistema” programme is expanding its reach with support from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Fundación Musical Simón Bolívar. This initiative blends cultural empowerment with social inclusion, using orchestras and choirs as tools to nurture dignity, discipline and resilience.

For decades, “El Sistema” has been a beacon of inspiration, offering high-quality music education to children from all walks of life, particularly those from vulnerable communities. Now, with additional investment through this South-South initiative, the programme is set to benefit over 1.1 million children and youth, doubling its impact to reach more than two million by 2027. By embedding music education into safe, inclusive spaces, the project is helping to build stronger, more cohesive communities.

At its heart, the initiative invests in people. Hundreds of teachers and administrators will be trained to ensure that every child can access supportive and inspiring learning environments. Special emphasis is being placed on promoting the leadership of girls and young women, ensuring equity in a field where cultural participation can be a powerful tool for empowerment. The project also revitalizes Venezuela’s lutherie sector, training artisans to repair and produce instruments locally – creating jobs, preserving tradition, and sustaining the programme for the long term.

Implementing Partners  
**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Project Budget  
**\$976,500**

Duration  
**2025 - ongoing**

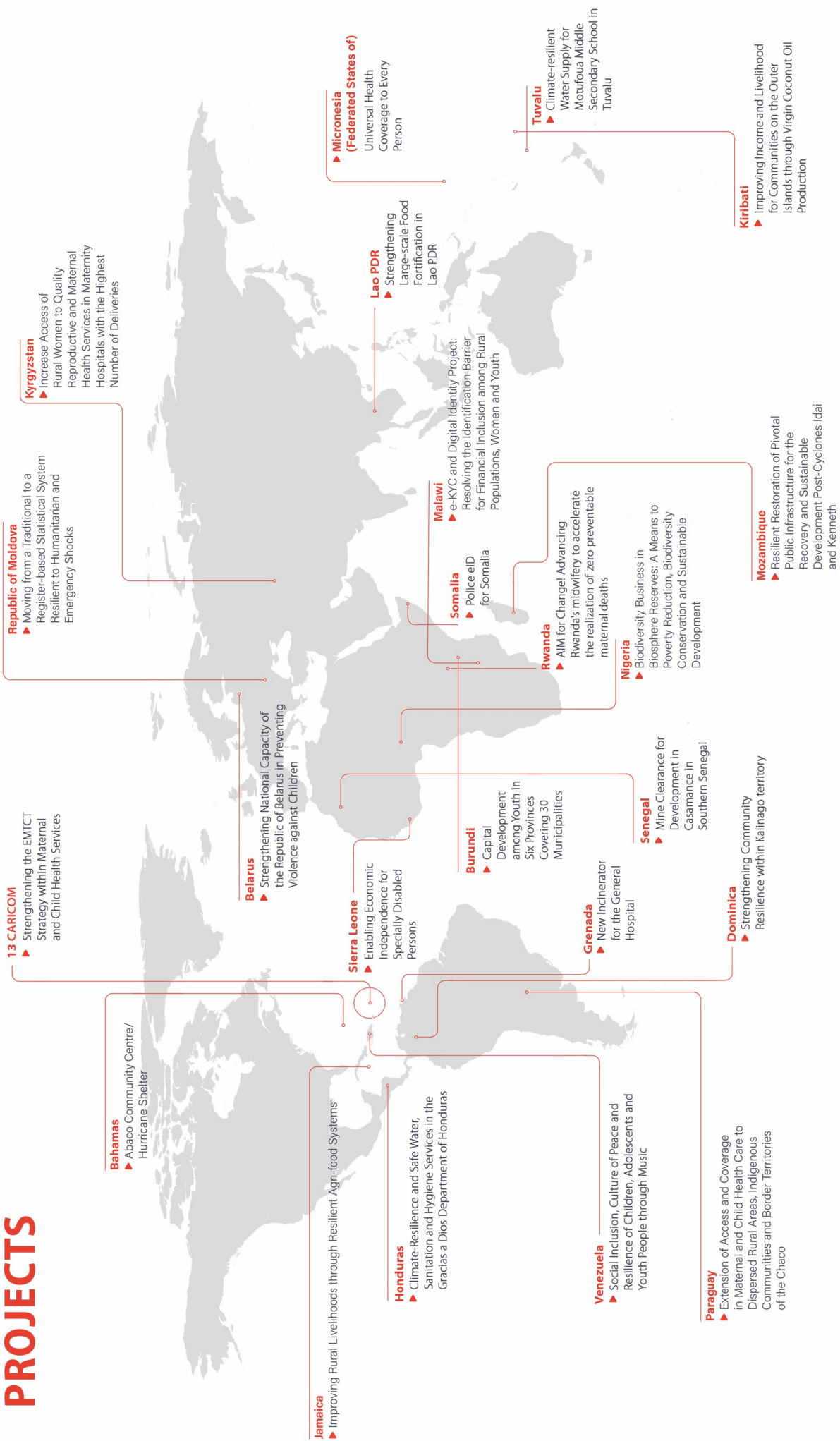


The collaboration reflects the essence of South-South cooperation. India’s commitment of funding and solidarity is enabling knowledge exchange, capacity building and shared innovation. In Venezuela, music is serving that role: advancing SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Importantly, the project’s impact will not stop at Venezuela’s borders. Through knowledge exchanges with other countries, musicians, educators and cultural leaders will share experiences, design training programmes, and co-create good practices that can be adapted across the Global South. This approach ensures that El Sistema’s model of using music as a bridge to peace and resilience become a resource for other societies facing similar challenges.

By 2027, every new note played on a freshly repaired violin or sung in a refurbished classroom will stand as a symbol of collective progress. The project is turning sound into strength, harmony into healing, and orchestras into communities of peace, demonstrating how South-South cooperation can unlock human potential through culture, creativity and solidarity.

# ONGOING PROJECTS



## 13 CARICOM

- ▶ Strengthening the EMVCT Strategy within Maternal and Child Health Services

**Bahamas**  
▶ Abaco Community Centre/ Hurricane Shelter

**Belarus**  
▶ Strengthening National Capacity of the Republic of Belarus in Preventing Violence against Children

**Jamaica**  
▶ Improving Rural Livelihoods through Resilient Agri-food Systems

**Honduras**  
▶ Climate-Resilience and Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in the Gracias a Dios Department of Honduras

**Venezuela**  
▶ Social Inclusion, Culture of Peace and Resilience of Children, Adolescents and Youth People through Music

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

**Sierra Leone**  
▶ Enabling Economic Independence for Specially Disabled Persons

**Burundi**  
▶ Capital Development among Youth in Six Provinces Covering 30 Municipalities

**Grenada**  
▶ New Incinerator for the General Hospital

**Senegal**  
▶ Mine Clearance for Development in Casamance in Southern Senegal

**Dominica**  
▶ Strengthening Community Resilience within Kallinago territory

**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

**Lao PDR**  
▶ Strengthening Large-scale Food Fortification in Lao PDR

**Somalia**  
▶ Police eID for Somalia

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

**Rwanda**  
▶ AIM for Change: Advancing Rwanda's midwifery to accelerate the realization of zero preventable maternal deaths

**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

**Micronesia (Federated States of)**  
▶ Universal Health Coverage to Every Person

**Tuvalu**  
▶ Climate-resilient Water Supply for Motufoua Middle Secondary School in Tuvalu

**Kiribati**  
▶ Improving Income and Livelihood for Communities on the Outer Islands through Virgin Coconut Oil Production

# COMPLETED PROJECTS





India-UN Development  
Partnership Fund 

YEAR-IN REVIEW  
OCTOBER 2025



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