



This report provides a review and appraisal for the period 2014-2019

There exists within Trinidad and Tobago, The Network of Rural Women Producers (NRWPTT) which has membership in the Caribbean Network of Rural Women (CANROP). The main goals of the Network are to enhance the social and economic well-being of its members; act as an advocate and support for all women's organizations in the country with emphasis on rural women and is committed to the aims of UN Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

- rural women with access to credit for micro-business projects
- to contribute to government policies that are sensitive to and supportive of the special needs of rural women producers
- to contribute to the elimination of the gender bias in the trial” and
- to “provide ownership of land, ensuring that women have the same opportunities as men to own property.
- The Network also seeks to provide marketing support for rural women producers and
- To offer training, research, technical support and outreach services

STATUS OF WOMEN

The status of women in Trinidad and Tobago compares favourably with many middle income developing nations. The equal rights of men and women are guaranteed under the 1976 Republican Constitution. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to the implementation of concrete measures aimed at promoting gender equity and equality.

Office of the Prime Minister Gender Affairs Division is the national focal point for gender and development. The Division works collaboratively with state agencies, academia and civil society to promote an active and visible policy to mainstream gender perspectives in policies, programmes, and projects. Gender and development is also guided by several national and international mandates including the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the CIM/OAS Plan of Action

We have made progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) identified achievements, gaps and challenges and provides an indication of areas for future action.

Strengthening human well-being and capabilities, Women in the Media: Education and Training:

What have been the most important achievements, challenges and set-backs in progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years?

BACKGROUND

Trinidad and Tobago is a twin island state situated at the Southern-most tip of the Caribbean.

NATIONAL POLICY ON GENDER

Which of the following have been the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country over the past five years through laws, policies and/or programmes? (please check relevant categories)

Women in Health, Women in Poverty; Violence Against Women and Girls; Domestic Violence and Human Rights: Women in the Environment

- We then launched the project at the Trinidad and Tobago Police Training Academy in collaboration with The Office of the Prime Minister Gender Affairs Division, UNFPA, The Community Police Secretariat and Police Youth Clubs.

Over the past five years, have you taken specific measures to prevent discrimination and promote the rights of women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination? (please check relevant categories)

Has the increasing number of humanitarian crises—caused by conflict, extreme weather or other events—affected the implementation of the BPfA in your country?

Yes! The different crisis caused some setback in the BPfA. The Mayor of San Fernando was next



to sign see Flyer

Which of the following does your country consider to be the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through laws, policies and programmes? (please check relevant categories

- a) Domestic Violence**
- b) Human Rights/ Gender Base Violence**
- c) The Girl Child**
- d) Education and training**
- e) Women and Health**

The Draft Policy on Gender and Development for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was submitted to the Cabinet for its consideration and approval. The Government's Development Framework the "Seven Interconnected Pillars for Sustainable Development has an inclusive theme of "Prosperity for All", with Pillar One focusing on People Centred Development as the basis for national development. Additionally, the Trinidad and Tobago Republican Constitution of 1976 acknowledges the "equal and inalienable rights" of all citizens, and the "recognition and protection of their fundamental human rights and freedoms... without discrimination by reason of race, origin, colour, religion or sex". The National Policy on Gender and Development provides a timely and comprehensive platform on which to include gender aware approaches in development, thereby enhancing the possibility of successful, effective and sustainable

Recently launched following on the CSW63 Civil Society Parallel Workshop on "The Economic Cost of Domestic Violence " contribution to Community Action for Ending Gender-Based Violence". This project focuses specifically on reducing violence against women and girls, through the strategies of increasing state actor competencies, strengthening accountability and the promotion of social and cultural change through youth-led, gender responsive social communications.

The project is expected to be completed in 2021. The overall project is comprised of two main components namely: To conduct research to provide data, baseline reviews of legislative policy and programmatic action and Consultation of Multi-sectoral Responses to address GBV and SV. To contribute in the development of the national strategic plan on Gender Based and Sexual Violence for Trinidad and Tobago, and to be involved in the conduct National Consultations with Government Agencies, Civil Society; Local and National Government Officials with focus on the National Action Plan (NAP)

The GAD collaborates with other state and non-state agencies.

Which of the following does your country consider to be the top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in your country for the coming five years through laws, policies and programmes? (please check relevant categories

• Victims and Witness Support Unit, of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service: This unit provides services and support to victims and witnesses of crime. They provide help for victims of:

- Sexual violence, Domestic violence, Child Abuse
- Stalking and Harassment,

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to recognize, reduce and/or redistribute unpaid care and domestic work and promote work-family conciliation?

- Women and Girls in rural areas benefit from mobile health services provided by Nongovernmental organisations such as the Trinidad and Tobago Family Planning Association and the Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society. Both organisations provide health services specific to women. The Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago provides sexual and reproductive health services and the Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society provides breast examinations and pap smears for women.

Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?

Yes, we have seen austerity measures and cuts in public expenditures

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?

From November 2013 to the present the GAD partnered with commemorate International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25th November 2013.

In celebration of International Women's Day 2014, the MGYCD partnered with other state and non-state stakeholders in hosting a series of Business Clinic for Women in Rural Community during the month of March 2014.

Stakeholders included: Ministry of Community Development. Ministry of Agriculture. Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro-Enterprises Development (Ibis/Fair Share) **Network for Rural Women Producers** and Network of NGOs for the advancement of Women. The Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP). Central Bank (National Financial Literacy Programme). National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO)-Development Support Centre Toco Foundation and Ministry of Local Government and Local Government

Has your country introduced austerity/fiscal consolidation measures, such as cuts in public expenditure or public sector downsizing, over the past five years?

No, not visible

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls?

The Network of Rural Women Producers provides an on-going forum for women from various communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago, involved in agriculture and environmental projects to collectively deal with the issues confronting them. The Network has participated in various local, regional and international fora aimed at strengthening technical skills and marketability. The Office of the Prime Minister, Gender Affairs Division gives annual support to the celebration of world food and environment days

Additionally we host since 2008 the annual Trinidad and Tobago Mango Festival encouraging members to use the fruit in the production of marketable innovative products, such as sweet and savoury items as well as toiletries such as body creams, bath soaps, lip gloss, deodorant, and hand crafted paper products, as such four members now own their Spas and boutique and shops. Earning to keep them in business and upkeep their families.

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve access to social protection for women and girls?

MENTAL HEALTH

In collaboration with UNFPA WORLD POPULATION DAY open the door to our focus on disease, arthritis, glaucoma, mental depression, high blood pressure, epilepsy, and thyroid disease. Stress related trauma in collaboration with several government ministries to address the need and raise awareness

- The Ministry of Health and its network of health facilities seeks to protect victims of sexual violence/ rape from HIV transmission and pregnancies as a result of such violence through the provision of free health service- The Prevention of Mother to Child (PMTCT) Programme:

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve health outcomes for women and girls in your country?

We need to have improvement in this area, however the austerity measures impact on the health sector

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls?

We have seen over the last few years women and girls are leading on the educational front

In the last five years, which forms of violence against women and girls, and in which specific contexts or settings, have you prioritized for action?

We have focused on the Projects introduced by the United Nations and UN Women as the priority

What actions has your country prioritized in the last five years to address violence against women and girls

Action to finalize the National Gender and Development Policy, which will guide an effective approach by state and private institutions to promoting gender equity and equality in Trinidad and Tobago. The National Policy on Gender and Development provides a framework for including gender perspectives in all activities of government and civil society, thereby promoting the full and equal participation of men and women in the development process. On November 5th, 2015

This civil society launched the UN Women HeForShe Global Campaign with a visit to the Head of State, and followed with courtesy calls on His Worship The Mayor of Port of Spain to sign on to the campaign, on Orange Day every month; the following continued by signing

- The Mayor of Arima and members of Council, on Orange Day
- Sangre Grande Regional Corporation and members of Council and staff: on Orange Day
- The Representatives of the Sangre Grande Rotary Club and Youth Rota act members
- Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services Fire Chief and all Senior Divisional Officers
- In Collaboration with UN Women, PalAmericas, The Honourable Speaker of the House and the Honourable President of the Senate, UNFPA Members of Parliament and Senators all participated in a Workshop and signing on to UN Women HeForShe on UN Women Orange Day
- Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (see text message from Commanding Officer)

In Defence of Gender Equality

- Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2016
- Trinidad and Tobago, 05 June 2016: In a live link up, the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (the Regiment, Coast Guard, Air Guard, Reserves and Specialised Youth Services Programmes) demonstrated their commitment to gender equality through signing onto HeForShe.
- He For She - Trinidad and Tobago Armed Forces
- Acting Chief of Defence Staff (Ag CDS) Colonel Archie Phillips said their support was in acknowledgement of the efforts of the UN Women's HeForShe Campaign as a solidarity movement for gender equality, as well as the energy and support of the Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago.
- The ceremony led by the Acting Commander, included senior officers and enlisted ranks of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, the Representative for the UN Women Multi Country-Office Caribbean Christine Arab, Minister of State in the Office

of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Gender and Child Affairs, Ayanna Webster-Roy, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Ms Maria Joseph and the Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago (NRWPTT) , led by President Gia Gaspar-Taylor. The NRWPTT continues to mobilise commitment for the Campaign through its work to realise women's empowerment and gender equality.

- The Acting Chief of Defence Staff encouraged the members of the Defence Force to see their support for the initiative as a noble undertaking.
- “As we gather to collaborate with a Network that has sought to address one of the most persistent failings of our time, that of gender inequality among women/girls and men/boys internationally, the Defence Force recognises that gender disparities do exist in Trinidad and Tobago, and as a sector of the society that is committed to supporting the efforts of civil society, we see it as a matter of importance that we continue to align ourselves in support of these types of initiatives.”
- “We the Defence Force recognise that men and boys can play many roles: they can be marginalised and often voiceless victims, as well as perpetrators, silent bystanders, supporters and even advocates.”
- Colonel Phillips explained that they had recently co-hosted with the United States Southern Command (US SOUTHCOM) the 2nd Regional Women in the Military Conference (WIMCON) which focussed on how military organisations across the region are doing (or not) with respect to the issue of championing gender integration issues within and across their forces.

“It is with some pride that I appreciated that notwithstanding the fact that we here in the Defence Force still have some way to go towards identifying and treating with some of the issues to which our still largely male dominated environment has to go, that we were not doing too badly generally. In that regard our efforts here today ought not to be seen as a mere public relations gimmick but rather another step along the way towards ensuring that sooner rather than later we would have assisted in advancing the cause of gender equality and integration to the point that noble efforts like these in the future would no longer need to be referred to as ‘HeforShe’ but more like ‘WeforUs’.

- UN Women Representative Christine Arab noted: “Given the crucial role of men and boys as advocates and agents of change, HeForShe provides a platform for men to self-identify with issues of gender equality and its benefits, which liberate not only women and girls, but also men and boys, from prescribed social roles and gender stereotypes.
- In launching this initiative globally, UN Women notes that in addition to focusing on dialogue which is critical to establishing genuine and equitable partnerships between women and men, these initiatives are also aimed at challenging and eliminating attitudes, norms, beliefs and practices that perpetuate gender based discrimination and which reinforce tolerance for all forms of violence against women and girls.”
- Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Gender and Child Affairs, Ayanna Webster-Roy, highlighted that Trinidad and Tobago, through its military forces, was working to amass ten thousand (10,000) signatures, in support of gender equality as part of the HeForShe Campaign.

- “The HeForShe Campaign puts men at the centre of activism and dialogue to end persistent inequalities faced by women and girls around the world. The ends of these inequalities are not just to please the ‘womenfolk’, or make us look good to the world. There are real tangible benefits for individuals and the country. For our nation, gender equality can help boost employment rates, narrow pay inequalities and create stronger family connections,” the Minister added.

What strategies has your country used in the last five years to prevent violence against women and girls

- As the drive continues, UN Women Introduced the Foundation Programme, NRWPTT took this project to the Community Police Secretariat and Police Youth Clubs where we were able to train 27 Officers from our Sister Island Tobago, the East/West Corridor and the Victims and Witness Unit, the roll out is taking place in the 10 Divisions



- Three of the participants attended CSW63

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (online sexual harassment, online stalking, non-consensual sharing of intimate images

Work is being conducted in this area with the use of ICT and the police is offering media advice on the subject via social media

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to address the portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media?

This is an area being addressed by the civil society in the project “Women and the Media”

Has your country taken any action in the last five years specifically tailored to address violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination?

Yes we continue to develop projects to address the specific groups of women

What actions and measures has your country taken in the last five years to promote women's participation in public life and decision-making?

For many years the civil society organizations have conducted PUT A WOMAN campaign training women to run for political office, we have seen and upgrade in the amount of women taking the lead we have had a Woman Prime Minister, A Woman Head of State, A Woman Leader of the Opposition, A Woman President of the Senate and Woman Speaker of the House of Representative while most head of the Public Service are led by women

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase women's access to expression and participation in decision-making in the media, including through information and communication technologies (ICT)?

Action is taking place but slow as the men and boys are leading the process

Do you track the proportion of the national budget that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

Yes! Assessment takes place annually before and after the budget presentation

As a donor country, does your country track the proportion of official development assistance (ODA) that is invested in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women (gender-responsive budgeting)?

Consultations and training in progress to be implemented

Does your country have an action plan and timeline for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (if a State party), or of the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or other United Nations human rights mechanisms that address gender inequality/discrimination against women?

It's being planned and will be taken to Parliament sooner than later

Is there a national human rights institution in your country?

Within recent times Gender Focal Points were established within each government Ministry

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to build and sustain peace, promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and implement the women, peace and security agenda?

WOMEN AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Because Women suffer disproportionately from social and environmental effects of extraction, yet are often excluded from decision making process, together with four (4) other civil society organizations we submitted and received funding for the proposal to the European Union (EU) to participate in the governance of their countries natural resources. as citizens we need to have the necessary information to champion and defend our right to participate for the benefit of current and future generation; build capacity and leadership to become more effective and inclusive to strengthen our capacity to conduct evidence based advocacy, engage in collective leadership and building by forging links with other civil society such as those for gender justice, and climate justice, we are therefore working with 17 fence line and rural communities nationally

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to increase the leadership, representation and participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution, peace building, humanitarian action and crisis response, at decision-making levels in situations of armed and other conflicts, and in fragile or crisis settings?

Leadership representation and participation of women in conflict prevention is taking place with the support of women in civil society as well as the Gender Affairs Division working together

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to enhance judicial and nonjudicial accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed and other conflicts or humanitarian action and crisis response?

Now receiving attention based on advocacy

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to eliminate discrimination against and violations of the rights of the girl child?

We now have a unit within the Gender Affairs Division

This matter is being addressed by the Gender Affairs Division and the Court

Environmental conservation, protection and rehabilitation?

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What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies?

ENHANCING CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY for GOVERNANCE of ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSPERENCY and ACCOUNTABILITY in the Trinidad and Tobago EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

As a civil society organization working in collaboration with 17 other civil society organizations and government in Baseline Capacity Assessment of Civil Society Organizations to engage in Environmental Governance

What actions has your country taken in the last five years to integrate gender perspectives into policies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation

CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

In reducing their vulnerability to continuing climate-change related disasters, it is critical to equip these female leaders to understand community risk assessment and to build a baseline which will thereafter be updated on a semi-annual basis or at such intervals deemed appropriate, in keeping with international best practice. In addition, building on their natural positions as leaders, the programme will seek to formally build their capacity for leadership and organizational skills to leverage their new skills in community risk assessment

The programme is being piloted in three (3) rural communities most at risk to climate change-induced disasters. Each community will be represented by ten (10) female participants and there will be a further twenty participants (girls) from schools and other non-governmental youth organizations focusing on women and girls in each community.

The outcome to have a cadre of Community Leaders to serve as first responders in their communities, in the event of natural or man-made disasters

What is your country's current national machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women? Please name it and describe its location within Government?

This machinery is handled effectively by the Gender Affairs Division

Are there formal mechanisms in place for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

Both the Ministry of Planning and the Gender Affairs Division are the formal mechanisms for different stakeholders to participate in the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action with the support of Civil Society

Which of the following stakeholders participate formally in national coordination mechanisms established to contribute to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

Ministries of Government, Civil Society, Women Groups, Youth Groups and those with the understanding and interests

Do you have mechanisms in place to ensure that women and girls from marginalized groups can participate and that their concerns are reflected in these processes?

As a rural women network we are very concern and offer each and every member the opportunity to participate

Are gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls included as a key priority in the national plan/strategy for SDG implementation?

Yes! As far as we are concern in bringing it to them and on their behalf

What are the top three areas in which your country has made most progress over the past five years when it comes to gender statistics at the national level?

Quality Education; Political participation and representation; Women Entrepreneurship and Enterprise

Out of the following which are your country's top three priorities for strengthening national gender statistics over the next five years?

Women in rural Communities; Older Women will be an issue in the next few years – need to be prepared. Women's Health Domestic Violence and Human Rights

Has data collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and on gender-specific indicators under other SDGs begun?

Yes! Within Civil Society

Submitted by The Network of Rural Women Producers

