SUBSTANTIVE AREA OF RFF REQUEST

(Please choose the most relevant area)

- ❑ Continued Health Crisis Support
- ❑ Governance
- ❑ Social protection
- ❑ Green economy
- ❑ Digital disruption and innovation

PROPOSAL DETAILS (MAXIMUM APPROXIMATELY 3 PAGES)

Country:	**Trinidad & Tobago**
Requestor:	**Sharifa Ali-Abdullah, ARR**
Project title (5-7 words)	**Support to the Development of a Social Registry**
Requested amount:	**USD $200,000**
Gender Marker:	**GEN 2**
Date of submission:	**October 16, 2020**
Implementation Start Date:	**December 1, 2020**
Implementation Complete Date:	**May 31, 2022**

1. **Situation analysis** *(maximum 3,000 characters)*
   Within the analysis, please include the gender differentiated impacts of COVID-19.

Trinidad and Tobago is a high-income economy with a population of 1.4 million. Trinidad and Tobago's GNI per capita rose from less than US$4,000 in the early 1990s to about US$16,550 in 2018. As a small island developing economy, Trinidad and Tobago is vulnerable to exogenous shocks with economic cycles tied to the volatility of global oil and gas prices. After expanding at an annual average rate of 7.8 percent between 1995 and 2007, the country's economy has been on the decline mainly as a result of the developments in the global energy sector.   Significantly, real GDP contracted on average by 2.2 percent between 2016 and 2019 and the economy is expected to decline in real terms by 6.8 percent in 2020.

The fallout in economic activities and increased spending to contain and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods is expected to exacerbate the already weak fiscal position and increase indebtedness.   Trinidad and Tobago's debt to GDP ratio is now at a record 80%.   Unemployment is expected to increase as the real impact of the pandemic is felt and poverty is expected to rise.   The latest household survey data is from the Survey of Living Conditions done in 2005 which recorded the poverty rate at 16.7% with indigence at 3.7% and a Gini coefficient of 0.39. Disparities exist in socio-economic status, geographic divide and gender.   Notably, 38% of the poorest households were headed by women compared to the national average of 33%. Further, a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) was estimated for Trinidad and Tobago based on the 2011 Census data. The MPI value associated with this survey year was 0.002. The data also suggested that 0.1% of the population was in severe multidimensional poverty and 3.7% were found vulnerable to multidimensional poverty. (UNDP Human Development Report 2019)

Trinidad and Tobago have supported persons identified as vulnerable through numerous social assistance programmes targeting specific groups and/or individuals identified through means testing. Currently, 200,000 persons or 14.3% of the population fall within the social safety net, which was expanded during the pandemic with the provision of income support, food cards and rent relief for persons who lost their jobs. While official data is not yet available, anecdotal evidence suggests that more women are now vulnerable given that the services sector which employs more women (tourism, personal care services, security etc.) has been adversely affected by the pandemic.

Maintaining the social protection safety net consumes 6% of the country's income and as the full impact of COVID-19 is felt, expenditure on the social safety net is projected to increase to between 7% and 10% of GDP in the short-term, which is among the highest spend by sector and not sustainable. In addition, there have been widespread reports by Government and the media of significant numbers of fraudulent claims for social assistance during the pandemic. Further, the social protection system is fragmented with over 100 social programmes and initiatives across various ministries and agencies. Given that these programmes are not linked nor centrally coordinated means that there are major inefficiencies in the system leading to duplication as well as serious gaps in coverage as numerous vulnerable persons are being left behind, including migrant women and children. Other issues include a lack of transparency, accountability and equitable access; inadequate mechanisms to monitor and respond to the dynamic nature of poverty and to changing circumstances or crisis situations.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has articulated a vision for a single registry for some time. The expectation was that there would be a phased approach in rolling out the system. The first phase is the social registry which will facilitate a more efficient, effective, and agile social protection provision that is gender transformative and mindful of various levels of vulnerabilities, especially the 'missing middle' or the 'hidden poor'. The registry will streamline targeting and registration tools, including the use of digital data collection and dissemination as a substitute for paper-based forms and will create a basis for protocols and processes to quickly expand in response to shocks as part of integrated disaster risk management plans and in alignment with the National Social Mitigation Plan (2017-2022). This supports the ongoing efforts by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services to better link social protection's selection and identification of beneficiaries for shock-response with Disaster Risk Management frameworks. The social registry will go a long way in building a more efficient, effective, inclusive and resilient social protection system.

The Government, through the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services has approached the UNDP to support the development of its social registry. The Government has allocated close to one million dollars for the ICT component of the project in the national budget. However, in discussions with the Ministry's personnel, the capacity to design and implement the registry appears is limited.

2. **Proposal overview and expected outputs** *(maximum 3,000 characters)*
   Please elaborate on the proposal approach and how it is expected to lead to change at the output level. All Rapid Financing Facility proposals must be GEN2 or GEN3; therefore, please indicate how the country office proposes to address gender inequalities through concrete interventions.

This proposal seeks to assist the Government to support the development of a Social Registry. It should be noted that social registries are but one component of a social protection information system. The proposal is aligned to UNDP's COVID offer 2.0 on Social protection and will provide an opportunity to uproot the inequalities that permeate the existing Social Protection system in Trinidad & Tobago. Developing a social registry – one that enables the flow and management of information within the social protection sector and

sometimes beyond – can ensure a more equitable, responsive and inclusive distribution of resources while also increasing efficiency and effectiveness of delivery and most importantly, better serving citizens.

Output 1: Technical support provided to the Government in the development of a Social Registry

Output 1 will consist of supporting the development and implementation of a Social Registry within the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services. This will involve the hiring of technical expertise in social protection, specifically in setting up social registries. The focus of the support will include:

- Identification of inefficiencies in the current fragmented system and tailoring an appropriate social registry model for Trinidad and Tobago.

- Conducting a desk review on varying methodologies and experiences of social registries and multidimensional poverty targeting in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Reviewing questionnaire for the intake and registration phase particularly relevant information needed to determine potential eligibility for social programmes, especially information on categorical variables (age, gender, household composition, disability status) and socio-economic factors (incomes, employment, property, assets, education, health etc.). Use of the SEIA tool will be done where possible.

- Identifying a periodicity for updating the social registry since the socioeconomic situation of individuals and households change over time. Information regarding the household demographics (birth and death, ageing); their location and addresses; economic status, employment status; educational status; health events, conditions, and expenses; housing and assets; and other factors will be collected through the Social Registry.

- Assessing the current legal framework for database management and developing a specific legal framework for the social registry. Preparation of a policy and legal framework should make explicit the roles and responsibilities of different actors, the purpose and use of the Social Registry, rules governing the use of the information provided, the rights and obligations of the population providing information, including data privacy, data exchange procedures and control mechanisms.

- Developing the basic architecture of the social registry as an information system to include: (a) information & data; (b) software applications, including the visual interface and business logic; (c) database management, and (d) ICT infrastructure.

- Developing the Institutional, Financial and Governance frameworks inclusive of the establishment of a steering committee to provide oversight and guidance, towards successful implementation.

At the end of the project, it is expected that the Social Registry will be piloted with three social assistance programmes.

Output 2: Capacity building to the Government to support the successful implementation of the social registry.

Output 2 will comprise of developing capacity within the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services as well as the other Ministries which are involved in implementing social protection programmes. As with any new system there is need to provide technical training and skills. The expectation is that a core group of staff who will be involved in the development and roll out of the social registry will be trained both in social protection policy and information system. A particular emphasis will be put on measuring and analyzing data from a gender perspective, to make public servants aware of the importance of shaping policy in a way that contributes to closing gender gaps. This becomes even more relevant under the pandemic as the feminization of poverty has been exacerbated.

3. **Management arrangements** *(maximum 2,000 characters)*
   Describe how the initiative will be managed within UNDP.

The project will be implemented over 18 months beginning in November 2020 and will be directly implemented by UNDP. The project's lead Partner Agency will be the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services. The Ministry and UNDP will jointly monitor and evaluate all project activities. A committee will be established comprising representatives from the various ministries involved in social assistance programmes, the new ministry of digital transformation, the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender Unit), UNICEF, WFP and ILO as well as CSO's involved in supporting social protection. This committee will provide valuable input in the design and implementation of the social registry. The inclusion of CSOs will ensure that feedback from the beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries are included in the design and implementation of the registry. A National Project Manager will lead the project implementation, ensuring a high quality of project planning, management and technical and financial progress monitoring and reporting. Additional local staff will be hired to support the Project Manager as needed. UNDP will provide overall coordination support and ensure the preparation of required reports. UNDP will also contribute, in partnership with key Ministries, to a Concept Note at the end of the 18-month project to guide the future support required by the Government in the area of social protection. The preparation of such note will be undertaken jointly with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services.

4. **Partnerships** *(maximum 2,000 characters)*
   Describe how the country office will work with partners to achieve results.

Successfully implementing a Social Registry Information System will require strong political commitment to integration within the social protection sector as well as careful assessment of the country context and possible costs and tradeoffs of centralizing data and information management. Therefore, building consensus and advocating for collaboration and integration among all stakeholders will be important throughout this process. The UNDP TT-CO will develop strategic partnerships with the Ministry of Social Development & Family Services, in addition to the Office of The Prime Minister (Gender Unit), the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Digital Transformation. Numerous CSOs are also involved in the social protection sector and several key CSOs inclusive of women organizations and women community leaders will be included in the process to ensure strong support and solid national ownership for this initiative. Finally, in view of the multi-dimensional nature of Social Protection, several UN Agencies have already expressed interest in collaborating with UNDP on this initiative. UNDP already had a joint programme with UNICEF on multi-dimensional poverty measurement and will support this initiative as well.

5. **Complementarity with other funds available for COVID-19**
   If the country office already has resources available for COVID-19 (e.g. core resources, Rapid Response Facility, government C/S, third-party C/S, vertical funds, etc.), please indicate how the requested funds will complement other funds or help mobilise additional resources toward programmatic ambitions and sustainability.

Funding source	Amount	Purpose of / period covered by Funding

UNICEF and UNDP	74,000	Joint Programme on Measurement of Multi-Dimensional Poverty.
UNDP RRF	100,000	Food support (cash transfers to reach the most vulnerable, included those who have been infected with COVID-19 and in home quarantine) Food security initiative targeted women and at-risk youth to grow home gardens, complete with video tutorials, seeds, basic gardening supplies.
UNDP Funding Window	50,000	Support to incarcerated youth during COVID-19. Provision of psycho-social support and vocational skills.
Government Cost Sharing (Ministry of Health)	50,000	Support to vulnerable families during COVID-19 to assist with coping skills.
Government – MSDFS	1,000 000	Allocation for Information System (Integrated Social Enterprise System).

6. **Risk mitigation** *(maximum 2,000 characters)*

Identify the key risks that may threaten the achievement of results and describe how project risks will be mitigated.

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Managing Expectations of stakeholders	October 16, 2020	Organizational	P = 3 I = 4	Extensive collaboration and internal communication with MSDFS on the objectives of the initiative and activities	Project Team	UNDP		
2	Resistance to changes with the implementation of a new system	October 16, 2020	Organizational	P = 2 I = 4	Extensive collaboration and internal communication with members of the MSDFS on the initiative and activities	Project Team	UNDP		
3	Lack of Consensus by stakeholders	October 16, 2020	Organizational	P =3 I =4	Establishment of a steering committee to provide oversight and guidance	Project Team	UNDP		
4	Data Breaches and incompatibility of interfaces	October 16, 2020	Technology	P=1 I=5	Security Licenses, Data Protection agreements are secured and validated	Project Team	UNDP		

5	Operational Processes are unclear	October 16, 2020	Organizational	P=1 I-5	Development of procedural manuals and materials, inclusive of an advocacy campaign that focuses on education through participation	Project Team	UNDP		
6	Underestimated project work	October 16, 2020	Organizational	P-2 I-5	Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation	Project Team	UNDP		
7	Economic environment worsens	October 16, 2020	Financial	P-3 I-5	Continuous Monitoring and evaluation with contingency plan developed	Project Team	UNDP		

OUTCOME 1 Strengthen the national social protection system with the establishment of an integrated social registry to provide for a more equitable, inclusive and resilient system.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME								RESPONSIBLE PARTY	PLANNED BUDGET		
	List all activities including M&E to be undertaken during the year towards stated CP outputs	2020		2021				2022			Source of Funds	Budget Description	Amount
		Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2				

Output	Activity									Responsible	Fund		Budget
Output 1: *Technical support provided to the Government in the development of a Social Registry*	1.1 Recruitment of Project Manager and Support.		x							UNDP	RFF		50,000
	1.2 Conduct desk review of best practice of establishing social registries and multi-dimensional poverty targeting in LAC		x							UNDP	RFF		10,000
	1.3 Review current system as well as current proposal for the social registry in Trinidad and Tobago		x							UNDP	RFF		10,000
	1.4 Design, develop and implement an appropriate social registry for Trinidad and Tobago.			x	x	x	x	x	x	UNDP/MSDFS	RFF		70,000
	1.5 Use SEIA tool to inform intake registration phase of process			x	x	x				UNDP/MSDFS	RFF		10,000
				x	x	x				UNDP/ODPM	RFF		0

	1.6 Collaborate with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management to ensure that shock responsive protocols inclusive of gender responsive strategies are in place.														
Output 2: *Capacity Building to Support the Successful Establishment of the Social Registry*	*2.1 Prepare training materials and conduct training for Government staff on training on social registries design and implementation, means testing, effective targeting, gender sensitive vulnerability considerations.*		X	X							UNDP/MSDFS			25,000
	2.1 Provide specialized training to staff on the basic architecture of the social registry as an information system to include: (a) information & data; (b) software applications, including the visual interface and business logic; (c) database management, and (d) ICT infrastructure			X	X						UNDP/MSDFS			25,000
Overall Total															200,000

In line with Outputs with gender marker GEN2 or GEN3, it is recommended to allocate at least 15% of the funding to activities in support of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS[1]	BASELINE		MILESTONES AND TARGETS							
				2020		2021				2022	
		Value	Year	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Output 1: *Technical support provided to the Government in the development of a Social Registry*	1.1 SP-3 Number of comprehensive assessments completed that improves social protection delivery.	0	2020				1				
	1.2 SP-3 Number of social programmes impacted by updated and available disaggregated data	0							3		
	1.3 Number of new households added to the system by the end of the project (gender disaggregated)	0									40,000
	1.4 Number of target beneficiaries of social protection schemes and services, also related to the COVID-19 pandemic impact, identified and disaggregated by type of programme, territory (rural/urban), sex, age group and at-risk population	0									20,000
	1.5 DD-1 Number of digital solutions adopted to address the COVID-19 Pandemic for social assistance grants	0									1
	1.6 Number of protocols and SOPs that are developed and inclusive of gender responsive strategies										6
	1.7 Number of women survivors of domestic violence who access cash transfer programmes										200
	1.8 Number of women who exit social registry and exit poverty										50

---

[1] It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF COVID-19 indicators, as relevant. Due to the nature of the COVID-19 response work, quarterly milestones and targets are recommended. Monitoring will be conducted using the COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard. Reporting will be streamlined into the COVID-19 reporting exercise (mini-ROAR and COVID-19 indicators.) No separate reporting will be required for rapid financing facility.

Output 2: *Capacity Building to Support the Successful Establishment of the Social Registry*	2.1. Number of training workshops organized for Government stakeholders. 2.2 Number of representatives from Government participated in training. 2.3 Number of female representatives from Government participated in training.	**0**	**2020**			**5** **50** **At least 50%**				**5** **50** **At least 50%**	