

# PROJECT STATUS REPORT

JULY 2017 - DECEMBER 2017

## SECTION 1: PROJECT SUMMARY

**PROJECT NAME:** This is Me

Project Number: TT-M1032 - Project Num.: ATN/ME-15369-TT

**Purpose:** At the results level this project will adapt the This is ME arts for social change model to develop micro entrepreneurial abilities and market linkages for at-risk youth in Cocorite and Belmont.

**Country Admin**

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**Country Beneficiary**

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**Executing Agency:**

Caribbean in Transit

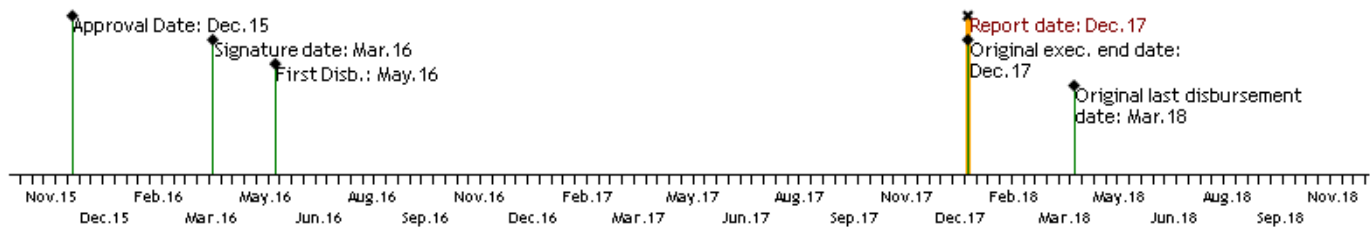
**Design Team Leader:**

VASHTIE DOOKIESINGH

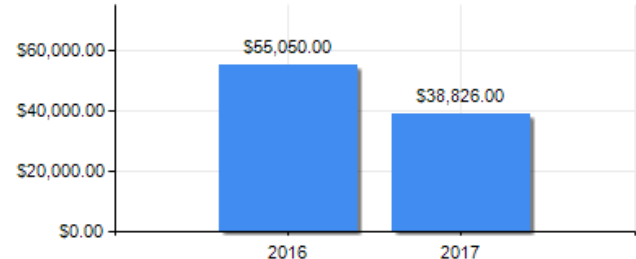
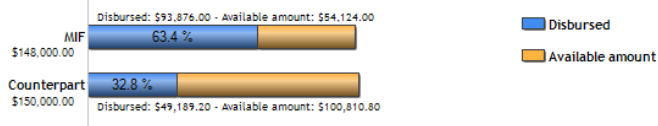
**Supervision Team Leader:**

VASHTIE DOOKIESINGH

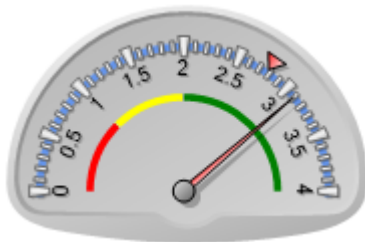
### PROJECT CYCLE



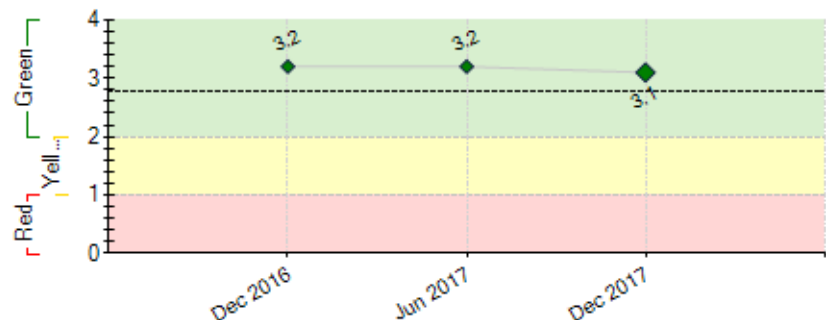
### FUNDS



### PERFORMANCE SCORE



Current score: Satisfactory: 3.1  
MIF Average: 2.779



### EXTERNAL RISKS

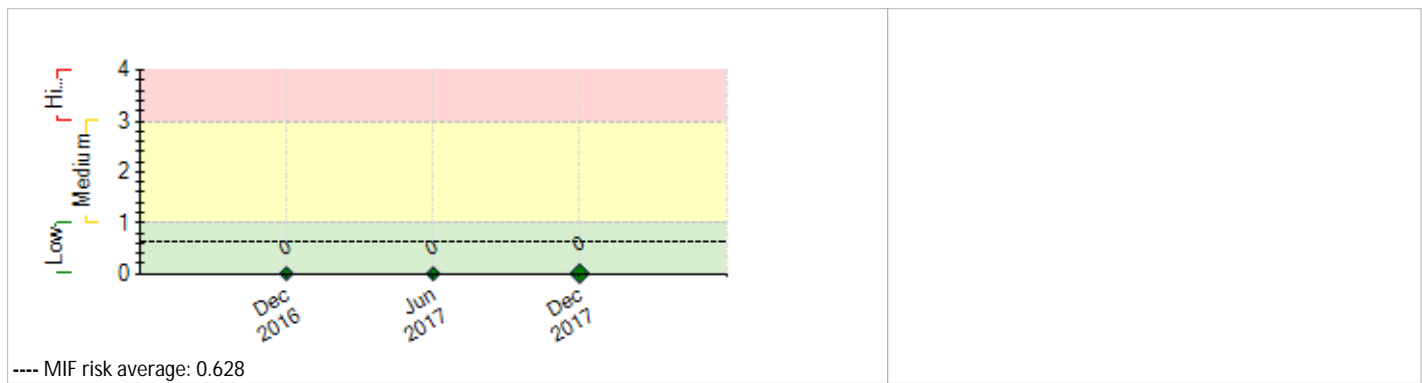
### INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Risk

Financial Management:

Procurement:

Technical Capacity:



## SECTION 2: PERFORMANCE

### Summary of project performance since inception

1. Trainees of the program developed strong preliminary business pitches during especially during their Leadership class. They were extremely motivated and enthusiastic and conducted sound research toward their businesses.
2. Costs of fixing, maintaining and addressing equipment and space constraints remain challenging. Staffing the SIP instructor position proved very challenging as qualified persons were extremely busy during the Christmas season. Finally, as YTEPP did not run its program, we were able to hire the YTEPP instructor.
3. Students often miss class because of jobs, **financial and emotional** challenges. Art Based Intervention, Mindfulness Seminars, access to a psychologist and various motivational speakers/ mentors are all means used to address students' emotional challenges.
4. We recruited 27 candidates for Cohort 2. 17-20 students regularly attended classes. Students remain enthusiastic. We intend to use this final semester to re-integrate alumni offering them the opportunity to participate in some aspects of the program, earn credits missed, do specialization courses and graduate.
5. Creation of a SIP Business Plan: This plan includes 7 Action Areas: Development of Stores & Retail opportunities; Packaging, Branding; Sourcing; Export; Strategic Stakeholder Engagement; Student Engagement and Contracts & Workshops. Together these areas aim at presenting a brand image that aids in recruitment, retention and revenue generation.

### Comments from the Supervision Team Leader

Agree with the Executing Agency comments  
Caribbean in Transit has developed and disseminated key lessons that can inform further interventions with at risk youth and has worked consistently to build partnerships and attain project objectives and targets

### Summary of project performance in the last six months

**Revenue Model:** Development of new income streams to enable sustainability. Two event brands assist in visibility, partnerships and sales: EmpowHer and EMBARK. EmpowHer includes a tea party and EmpowHer salons at homes in order to offer personalized shopping parties. EMBARK involves onboarding new stakeholders toward a 3-5 year sustainability plan.

#### ii) Strategic Hiring:

a. Fashion Expert hired as Asst Project Coordinator- this builds in-house capacity, trust and respect of students and helps to engineer a more sustainable program through the provision of consistent, sound direction for students pertaining to the Fashion Industry.

b. An expert with qualifications in Environment, Development and Policy specializing in Fashion Product Development hired to build the revenue earning capacity of the Sustainable Income Project through workshops and product development specifically as well as retail outlets for products.

#### iii) Focus of Board on Development of the This is ME portfolio

iv) This is me Vision/ Sustainability Plan developed, intended partnerships with Myla etc. Living Water and other entities to conduct week and month long workshops for their clientele. Economic Cooperative including the Fashion Arch, Sew Lisa, Bene Caribe, This is Me to join a local Fashion Cooperative.

**Comments from the Supervision Team Leader**

Agree with the Executing Agency comments

**SECTION 3: INDICATORS AND MILESTONES**

| Indicators   |       | Baseline  | Intermediate 1 | Intermediate 2 | Intermediate 3 | Planned  | Achieved | Status    |
|--|-------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| <b>Goal:</b> At the impact level this project will contribute to the development of micro business opportunities in the fashion sector for at risk youth in low income urban areas near Port of Spain, the capital city of Trinidad and Tobago | I.1   | Number of micro-businesses with links to strategic business partners in the fashion industry (CRF 230200) sex disaggregated               | 0              |                |                | 60       | 0        |           |
|  |       |   | Mar 2016       |                |                | Dec 2017 |          |           |
|  | I.2   | Percentage of micro-businesses in operation one year after project completion (CRF 330201) disaggregated by gender of micro-business head | 0              |                |                | 50       | 0        |           |
|  |       |   |                |                |                | Feb 2019 |          |           |
| <b>Purpose:</b> At the results level this project will adapt the This is ME arts for social change model to develop micro entrepreneurial abilities and market linkages for at-risk youth in Cocorite and Belmont.                             | R.1   | Number of at risk youth participants who complete the fashion certification program   | 0              |                |                | 50       | 0        |           |
|  |       |   |                |                |                | Dec 2017 |          |           |
|  | R.2   | Number of new micro businesses established (CRF 230300) – disaggregated by gender of micro-business head                                  | 0              |                |                | 40       | 0        |           |
|  |       |   | Mar 2016       |                |                | Dec 2017 |          |           |
|  | R.3   | Number of at-risk youth participants who access micro credit products for microbusiness start up (CRF 210800) – sex disaggregated         | 0              | 12             | 35             | 50       | 0        |           |
|  |       |   | Mar 2016       | Feb 2017       | Sep 2017       | Dec 2017 |          |           |
|  | C1.11 | Number of at-risk youth participants recruited  | 0              | 25             | 75             | 125      | 170      | Finished  |
|  |       |   | Mar 2016       | Sep 2016       | Jan 2017       | Nov 2017 | Sep 2017 |           |
| <b>Component 1:</b> awareness raising and recruitment of participants<br><br><b>Weight:</b> 25%<br><br><b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory   | C1.12 | Number of strategic public appearances by Caribbean in Transit representative to promote project  | 0              | 1              | 2              | 3        | 15       | On Course |
|  |       |   | Mar 2016       | Jun 2016       | Sep 2016       | Feb 2017 | Nov 2017 |           |
|  | C2.11 | Curriculum adaptation committee established   | 0              | 1              |                | 1        | 6        | Finished  |
|  |       |   |                | Apr 2016       |                | Apr 2016 | Jul 2017 |           |
| <b>Component 2:</b> Curriculum adaptation<br><br><b>Weight:</b> 25%<br><br><b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory   | C2.12 | Curriculum tailored to the local context and adapted after completion of first cohort   | 0              |                |                | 1        | 1        | Finished  |
|  |       |   |                |                |                | Jan 2017 | Jul 2017 |           |
|  | C2.13 | MOU to pursue Certification of programme by National Training Agency (NTA) executed with CIT  | 0              |                |                | 1        | 1        | On Course |
|  |       |   |                |                |                | Sep 2017 | Jul 2017 |           |
|  | C2.14 | Number of Mentors recruited   | 0              | 10             | 15             | 20       | 20       | On Course |
|  |       |   |                | Jun 2016       | Jun 2017       | Nov 2017 | Dec 2017 |           |
|  | C3.11 | Number of at-risk youth trained in technical and life skills and improved business skills (CRF 110100) –sex disaggregated                 | 0              |                |                | 50       | 14       | Finished  |
|  |       |   | Mar 2016       |                |                | Dec 2017 | Jul 2017 |           |
| <b>Component 3:</b> Technical and life skills training for Micro Business<br><br><b>Weight:</b> 25%<br><br><b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory   | C4.11 | project fact sheet  | 0              | 1              |                | 2        | 20       | On Course |
|  |       |   |                | Feb 2017       |                | Feb 2018 | Jul 2017 |           |
|  | C4.12 | Case Study disseminated to strategic audiences/stakeholders   | 0              |                |                | 1        |          | On Course |
|  |       |   |                |                |                | Jan 2018 |          |           |
| <b>Component 4:</b> Knowledge and Communications<br><br><b>Weight:</b> 25%<br><br><b>Classification:</b> Satisfactory  |       |   |                |                |                |          |          |           |
|  |       |   |                |                |                |          |          |           |

| Milestones   | Planned | Due Date | Achieved | Date of achievement | Status   |
|--|---------|----------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| M3 Conditions Prior                                      | 1       | Sep 2016 | 6        | May 2016            | Achieved |
| M1 curriculum design                                     | 1       | Nov 2016 | 1        | Nov 2016            | Achieved |
| M2 completion of training for cohort 1                   | 1       | Mar 2017 | 75       | Mar 2017            | Achieved |
| M3 completion of training for cohort 2                   | 1       | Aug 2017 | 36       | Aug 2017            | Achieved |
| M4 [*] completion of stakeholder training to share model | 1       | Feb 2018 |          |                     |          |

[\*] Indicate that the milestone has been reformulated

**CRITICAL ISSUES THAT HAVE AFFECTED PERFORMANCE**

[X] Design of project/Components

**SECTION 4: RISKS****MOST IMPORTANT RISKS AFFECTING FUTURE PERFORMANCE**

PROJECT RISK LEVEL: Low TOTAL NUMBER OF RISKS: 6 IN EFFECT RISKS: 0 NOT IN EFFECT RISKS: 0 MITIGATED RISKS: 6

**SECTION 5: SUSTAINABILITY**

Likelihood of project sustainability after project completion: P - Probable

**CRITICAL ISSUES THAT MAY AFFECT PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY**

| Issue  | Comments  |
|--|---|
| [X] Lack of <b>cost recovery</b> mechanisms or <b>external financing sources</b> (government, donors and/or private sector) to continue the activities of the project once MIF resources are expended  | As a small NGO Caribbean in Transit will need to partner with a larger organization to finance sustainability of the This is Me model |
| [X] Lack of organizational, managerial and financial management capacity to <b>continue</b> and sustain the program once the execution phase is finalized.   | As a small NGO Caribbean in Transit will need to partner with a larger organization to finance sustainability of the This is Me model |
| <b>Actions related to sustainability which have been taken in the reporting period:</b>  |   |
| i) Revenue Model: Development of new income streams to enable sustainability. Two event brands assist in visibility, partnerships and sales: EmpowHer and EMBARK   |   |
| ii) Strategic Hiring:  |   |
| a. Fashion Expert hired as Asst Project Coordinator- this builds in-house capacity, trust and respect of students and helps to engineer a more sustainable program through the provision of consistent, sound direction for students pertaining to the Fashion Industry. |   |
| b. An expert with qualifications in Environment, Development and Policy specializing in Fashion Product Development hired to build the revenue earning capacity of the Sustainable Income Project  |   |
| iii) Focus of Board on Development of the This is ME portfolio   |   |
| iv) This is me Vision/ Sustainability Plan developed- the Orange Academy, partnerships with Ministries, Economic Cooperative-Immortelle, Sew Lisa, Bene Caribe. The Sustainability plan was presented at the EMBARK event with good success.                             |   |
| v) EXPORT: DHL has offered 50% off their fees to enable This is ME to export products. TheProject Manger will distribute within the US.  |   |
| vi) Our E-commerce platform and branding is being further developed including fashion lines, packaging, photos   |   |

**SECTION 6: PRACTICAL LESSONS**

|   | Relative to Implementation | Author                   |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I) Our team has to conduct regular reviews, understand students seasonal rhythm of life and adapt the program accordingly in order for them to stay in the program.<br>2) Regular student activities to generate buy in should also include recreational activities<br>3) Students often have to give up employment in order to participate in the program and so need additional sources of income.<br>4) Building trust is a major component of success for the program. The program thus put in place an Intellectual Property Policy developed jointly through workshops with an expert with the students.<br>5) In order to develop a stable supply of goods to meet expected demands and opportunities, we must hire a student on a part-time basis. |                            | Barrow, Marielle Patrice |