

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

▪ Country/Region:	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO/CCB - Caribbean Group
▪ TC Name:	Implementation Support for the Support Program for Vulnerable Populations Affected by Coronavirus
▪ TC Number:	TT-T1113
▪ Team Leader/Members:	Ian Ho-A-Shu (SCL/SPH) Team Leader; Isabel Delfs Ilieva, and Dominique Afoon Jones (SCL/SPH); Priya Ramsumair-John (CCB/CTT); Paula Louis-Grant (VPC/FMP); and Carmen Carolina Lopez (CID/CNI)
▪ Taxonomy:	Operational Support
▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC:	Support for Vulnerable Populations Affected by Coronavirus in Trinidad and Tobago - 5218/OC-TT
▪ Date of TC Abstract:	19 May 2021
▪ Beneficiary:	Republic of Trinidad & Tobago via Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
▪ Executing Agency:	Inter-American Development Bank
▪ IDB funding requested:	US\$200,000.00
▪ Local counterpart funding:	US\$0.00
▪ Disbursement period:	24 months
▪ Types of consultants:	Individuals
▪ Prepared by Unit:	SCL/SPH - Social Protection & Health
▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility:	CCB/CTT - Ctry Off Trinidad & Tobago
▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n):	No
▪ TC included in CPD (y/n):	No
▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020:	Social inclusion and equality; Productivity and innovation; and Institutional capacity and rule of law

II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 The general objective of the Technical Cooperation (TC) is to support the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) in the execution of the loan operation “Support for Vulnerable Populations Affected by Coronavirus in Trinidad and Tobago” (5218/OC-TT). To achieve this, the TC will finance institutional strengthening activities at the MSDFS to improve organizational efficiency, including the administration of cash grants being funded from 5218/OC-TT.
- 2.2 On March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic. In Trinidad and Tobago, the first confirmed case was recorded on March 12th, 2020. As of May 19th, 2021, there have been 17,150 confirmed cases and 317 deaths (Ministry of Health of Trinidad and Tobago, 2021). Due to the social and financial constraints on the vulnerable population posed by COVID-19, the Government requested support in the form of loan financing from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the loan operation 5218/OC-TT which was approved in January 2021. The Loan 5218/OC-TT seeks to contribute to ensuring minimum levels of quality of life for vulnerable persons amid the crisis caused by COVID-19 by supporting minimum income for those affected by the coronavirus in the immediate period and during the recovery. Specifically, the loan will finance the: (i) expansion of emergency cash transfers to beneficiaries of three of the existing cash grant programs delivered by the MSDFS: (a) Food Support Programme, (b) Senior Citizen Pension, and (c) Disability Assistance Grant; and (ii) the temporary expansion of the Food Support Programme for households where a member working in the informal sector experienced a loss in income due to the COVID-19 crisis.

- 2.3 In 2018, the MSDFS began implementation of its National Social Mitigation Plan (NSMP) which sets out the overall framework for the institutional transformation process of the MSDFS to becoming more agile and responsive to the needs of vulnerable persons. In keeping with the NSMP, the MSDFS is carrying out the following key transformation activities: (i) consolidating the management systems and processes of four existing main cash grant programs (namely: Food Support Programme, Senior Citizen Pension, Disability Grant and Rental Assistance Grant) into a single integrated “one-stop shop” delivery unit in order to improve efficiencies in processing applications and making cash grant payments; (ii) implementing the rollout of its Integrated Social Enterprise Management System (ISEMS) to support the integrated “one-stop shop” unit as set out (i) above, the design for the ISEMS was completed in 2019 and when fully implemented, it will be an online portal for facilitating client communication and access. It will serve to fully automate the cash grant processes including the implementation of online applications with end-to-end processing-from intake to payment; and (iii) undertaking the required change management strategies to support the smooth transition of (i) and (ii) above.
- 2.4 A key element of the NSMP was the creation of a Social Support and Empowerment (SSE) Unit at the MSDFS to lead the institutional transformation process. However, with the sudden urgency brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential for wider negative social impact on vulnerable groups, the MSDFS now wishes to strengthen the SSE Unit in order to accelerate the transformation process.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I: Institutional Strengthening of the SSE Unit of the MSDFS.** It will fund: (i) a program management consultant who will develop and supervise the implementation of a step-by-step action plan for the consolidation of the 4-cash grant programs into one single integrated “one stop shop” unit; (ii) a change management specialist to design and oversee implementation of a step-by-step change management plan; and (iii) an IT Specialist to supervise the roll-out of the ISEMS Information Technology platform for the single integrated “one stop shop” unit.
- 3.2 **Component II: Project Administration/Final Evaluation.** Preparation of a final evaluation report and completion of three change management stakeholder workshops.

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget (US\$)

Activity/Component	IDB/Fund Funding	Counterpart Funding	Total Funding
Component 1: Institutional Strengthening of the SSE Unit of the MSDFS	180,000.00	0.00	180,000.00
Project Administration/Final Evaluation	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
Total	200,000.00	0.00	200,000.00

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The Executing Agency will be the Inter-American Development Bank through the Social Protection and Health Division (SCL/SPH).
- 5.2 The executing agency of this TC is the IDB through SCL/SPH. The Bank’s execution of this operation was requested by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The request was based on the Bank’s experience with the design and preparation activities for 5218/OC-TT.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 There is a clear need for robust coordination among various administrative and technical departments within the MSDFS as well as other key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance. The products from the TC will provide process inputs into the administration of the cash grants being funded from 5218/OC-TT so it is critical to maintain a close coordination with the participating Government Ministries, including the Ministry of Finance to ensure there is ownership of the final products from the different consultancies. This will be achieved through well documented meetings in which every step for the execution of the TC will be agreed upon with the MSDFS.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 The ESG classification for this operation is "undefined".