

TC ABSTRACT

I. Basic Project Data

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| ▪ Country/Region: | TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO/CCB - Caribbean Group |
| ▪ TC Name: | Smart Town Arima |
| ▪ TC Number: | TT-T1115 |
| ▪ Team Leader/Members: | Rajack, Robin Michael (CSD/HUD) Team Leader; Chona, Gilberto E. (CSD/HUD) Alternate Team Leader; Bouskela, Mauricio Simon (CSD/HUD); Garcia Sierra, Ana Cristina (CSD/HUD); Jimenez De Arechaga, Pilar (LEG/SGO); Maria Alejandra Villota Coral, Silvia Perez, and Avila, Francy Dianela (CSD/HUD); Ramsumair-John, Priya Elizabeth (CCB/CTT); Wilks, Jason Malcolm (IFD/ICS); Ali, Faz (CCB/CTT); Kim, Kidae (CSD/HUD); Arti Ramdhanie (INE/TSP); Iglesias Rodriguez, Enrique (IFD/CMF); Garcia Zaballos, Antonio (IFD/CMF); Henriquez Revoredo, Patricia and Johnson, Jodi (VPS/ESG) |
| ▪ Taxonomy: | Operational Support |
| ▪ Number and name of operation supported by the TC: | Urban Upgrading and Revitalization Program - TT-L1056 |
| ▪ Date of TC Abstract: | 14 Feb 2022 |
| ▪ Beneficiary: | Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) of Trinidad and Tobago. |
| ▪ Executing Agency: | INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK |
| ▪ IDB funding requested: | US\$450,000.00 |
| ▪ Local counterpart funding: | US\$50,000.00 (In-Kind) |
| ▪ Disbursement period: | 24 months |
| ▪ Types of consultants: | Consultant Firms and Individuals Consultants |
| ▪ Prepared by Unit: | CSD/HUD - Housing & Urban Development |
| ▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility: | CCB/CTT - Country Office Trinidad & Tobago |
| ▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n): | No |
| ▪ TC included in CPD (y/n): | Yes |
| ▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020: | Social inclusion and equality; Productivity and innovation; Climate change and environmental sustainability; Gender equality; and Diversity. |
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II. Objective and Justification

- 2.1 This Technical Cooperation (TC) aims to support the design of an urban regeneration initiative in the town of Arima in Trinidad & Tobago, centered on smart urban infrastructures to improve local economic activity, mobility and accessibility, and social interactions. Furthermore, this TC will support the execution of the Urban Regeneration Component of the Urban Upgrading and Revitalization Program (TT-L1056; 5048/OC-TT), approved by the IDB Board in June 2020, which became fully eligible in April 2021.
- 2.2 The town of Arima, with 34,000 inhabitants, located at the eastern end of the main public transport route and a mere 8 Km from the Piarco International Airport, has a rich cultural heritage, diverse ethnic makeup, is home to the nation's First Peoples, and boasts some unique public facilities in the sporting and health arenas. In recent decades, public spaces, services, and infrastructure have seen little investment or adaptation to respond to changing demographics and economic and climatic factors. Despite being an

intersection point for main transit routes, the Borough lacks a dedicated transit hub to serve the needs of service providers and users adequately. Also, flash flooding in low-lying areas at the foothills of the Northern Range is a growing concern.

- 2.3 Smart city solutions by businesses and government services in the town are widely adopted and adapted. As a baseline, only 19% of Micro, Small, and Medium-size Enterprises (MSMEs) in Arima had access to the internet in 2014. A 2022 Survey confirmed strong interest in free public Wi-Fi in the downtown area. The business community regularly cite the need for increased security, including closed-circuit television (CCTV). Gender inequalities are prominent in the town, according to a 2012 assessment. The national and local governments are committed to addressing these constraints, emphasizing digital transformation through an urban regeneration program called Connected Arima.
- 2.4 The TC is aligned with the Update to the Institutional Strategy – UIS (AB-3190-2) through the development challenges of: (i) Social Inclusion and Equality by promoting enhanced social interactions and economic opportunities; and (ii) Productivity and Innovation by the development of a plan that seeks to improve e-commerce adoption, patronage of existing businesses, and attracting new enterprises. Also, this TC is consistent with the cross-cutting issues of (iii) Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability by strengthening resilience through new and rehabilitated infrastructures; and (iv) Gender Equality, and Diversity by supporting the collection of gender-disaggregated data to inform designs.
- 2.5 Korea has significant expertise in addressing the challenges of developing new towns and innovating with smart city solutions, especially those solutions directed at improving mobility, accessibility, and connectivity in dense urban areas. The Bank has collaborated with Korea on the issue of smart cities since 2015 when the Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) and the IDB co-sponsored the Knowledge Sharing Forum on Comparative Development Experiences from Korea and Latin American and the Caribbean. This initial collaboration was followed by financing key smart city case studies. A stronger collaboration on smart city solutions and urban regeneration was consolidated by establishing the Korea-IDB Urban Development Academy (KIUDA) which engages urban professionals from Korea and LAC in peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges. The Korean experience is valuable given that Korea addressed its urban regeneration and smart city solutions needs by a systematic consolidation of several agencies (MOLIT, LH, LX, KRIHS, Korean Association of Spatial Information, Surveying & Mapping (KASM)) dedicated to geomatics and developed the prototype of the Digital Twin City, which allows for better urban planning and management. This outstanding experience could be applied to cities in LAC.

III. Description of Activities and Outputs

- 3.1 **Component I. Diagnostic Assessments.** This component will support diagnostic studies and consultation processes benchmarking cases of smart Korean cities and urban regeneration experiences, producing gender-disaggregated data and recommendations. It will include assessments of local economic development, mobility and accessibility, social interaction, technological capacity, and adoption.
- 3.2 **Component II. Infrastructural Designs and App development.** This component will finance the conceptual, architectural, and engineering designs of key pieces of resilient infrastructure recommended from the diagnostic assessment to be completed under Component I. It will also finance the development and piloting of one or more Apps to enhance access to services, businesses, attractions, and recreational opportunities in and around the town.
- 3.3 **Component III. Capacity Building.** This component will finance the equipping of key local stakeholders, as well as dissemination of the diagnostics and knowledge

exchanges with international partner institutions (for example, the Korean Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT), KRHIS, Land and Housing Corporation (LH), etc.).

IV. Budget

Indicative Budget

| Activity/Component | IDB/Fund Funding | Counterpart Funding | Total Funding |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Diagnostic Assessments | US\$150,000.00 | US\$0.00 | US\$150,000.00 |
| Infrastructural Designs and App development | US\$200,000.00 | US\$0.00 | US\$200,000.00 |
| Capacity Building | US\$100,000.00 | US\$50,000.00 | US\$150,000.00 |
| Total | US\$450,000.00 | US\$50,000.00 | US\$500,000.00 |

V. Executing Agency and Execution Structure

- 5.1 The IDB will execute this TC through the Housing and Urban Development Division (CSD/HUD), working closely with the IDB's Country Office in Trinidad & Tobago (CCB/CTT).
- 5.2 The Bank is currently working by invitation of the Government of Trinidad & Tobago across sectors with the main local development partners for the Connected Arima Project. Also, the IDB has strong international ties, in this particular case with Korea, which the Government of Trinidad & Tobago wants to deepen for developing the Connected Arima Project. The Bank's reputation for innovation, convening power, multi-sectoral expertise, and strong local presence is important for executing this TC.

VI. Project Risks and Issues

- 6.1 The main risk to this TC is that counterpart funds may be delayed due to a tighter than expected fiscal situation. If this materializes, it will be partially mitigated by the potential availability of local counterpart funds from multiple sources, including the loan TT-L1056, the Ministry of Digital Transformation, and the Local Government. The Bank will maintain a continuous dialogue with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and emphasize the necessity of timely allocating the budget resources to finance the investments identified under this TC.

VII. Environmental and Social Classification

- 7.1 This TC will not finance feasibility or pre-feasibility studies of investment projects with associated environmental and social studies; therefore, it falls outside the scope of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF)."