



**MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

Level 14, Eric Williams Financial Building, Independence Square, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, WI
Tel: 612 3000 ext. 2016/1329

File Ref: 11/4/1

February 13th, 2023

Carina Cockburn
Country Representative
Country Office Trinidad and Tobago
Inter-American Development Bank
17, Alexandra Street, St. Clair
Port of Spain

Dear Ms. Cockburn,

Re: Inter-American Development Bank Country Programming 2023

I refer to correspondence received from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) regarding the IDB Country Programming 2023, especially as it relates to the Technical Cooperations (TCs) listed below:

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMS					
Project Name		Thematic Area	Objective	Proposed Executing Unit	Proposed Amount (US\$)
1	TT-T1120: Support to Strengthen the Execution of Country Strategy	Institutional Strengthening	This operation will aim to support the successful implementation of the Country Strategy 2021/2025 and related execution of the IDB SG portfolio.	IDB	\$300,000
2	TT-T1137: Securing the Digital Transformation of Trinidad and Tobago	Digital Transformation	This operation will aim to support the GORTT in strengthening cybersecurity systems, policies and human resource capacity for the safeguarding of state institutions and the national economy.	IDB	\$405,000
3	TT-T1138: Driving Economic Dynamism through Tech Transfer in Trinidad and Tobago	R&D Development	This operation will aim to strengthen the contribution of UWI research, development and innovation activities to the entire entrepreneurial eco-system of Trinidad and Tobago.	STACIE, UWI	\$300,000
4	TT-T1139: Digital Health Strategy & Roadmap	Health	This operation will aim to support the design of a Digital Health Strategy and Roadmap, adopt and adapt regional approaches and best practices for digital transformation of the health sector in Trinidad & Tobago.	IDB	\$350,000

5	TT-T1140: Tourism Airlift Policy	Tourism & Transport	This operation will aim to provide updated information on tourism demand and airlift determinants to inform policy decisions.	IDB	\$350,000
6	TT-T1141: Piloting a Blue Carbon Credit System in Tobago	Climate Change	This operation will aim to design a high-quality blue carbon credit scheme to improve the digital mapping, monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of ecosystem services and promote the management and ownership of natural capital.	IDB	\$550,000
7	TT-T1142: Strengthening Skills and Employment Policies in Trinidad and Tobago	Labour	This operation will aim to support the design and implementation of skills and employment policies in Trinidad and Tobago.	IDB	\$600,000
8	TT-T1143: Preventing Gender-based Violence in Public Transportation	Citizen Security	This operation will aim to increase citizen security for users of Public Transportation in Trinidad and Tobago by leveraging an artificial intelligence chatbot.	IDB	\$185,000
9	TT-T1144: Organizational and Technological Innovation of Public Investment in Trinidad and Tobago	Institutional Strengthening	The objective of the TC is to increase management efficiency and spending equality in the public investment cycle in Trinidad and Tobago.	IDB	\$200,000

The Ministry of Planning and Development has reviewed the objectives of the proposed TCs and understands the importance of the outcome of these projects to the relevant stakeholders as well as to the alignment with Trinidad and Tobago's Vision 2030 National Development Strategy.

In light of the foregoing, the Ministry of Planning and Development requests the IDB's support in the development of the aforementioned TCs as well as approves the IDB's engagement with the relevant Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) for the design and execution of the TCs. Furthermore, the Ministry of Planning and Development requests that the IDB executes the TCs on behalf of the stakeholders which will enable the concentration of the management of activities, thus minimizing the risk of delay of the projects.

I take this opportunity to thank the Bank for its support in these critical areas.

Sincerely,



Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Planning and Development

PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

From: [Vanessa Roodal Lutchman](#)
To: [Lewis, Alix](#)
Cc: [Debra Dipchansingh](#); [Dohnert de Lascurain, Sylvia Eva](#); [Rios, Sergio A.](#); [Marie Hinds](#); [Sandy Jaisree](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] IDB - TT-T1138 - Change in TC Funding Amount
Date: Friday, June 30, 2023 1:22:52 PM
Attachments: [MPD Correspondence to IDB Re-Country Programming Document 2023.pdf](#)

Dear Alix,

I acknowledge receipt of correspondence on behalf of PS Hinds.

Regards
Vanessa Roodal Lutchman, PMP
Ministry of Planning and Development
Email: Vanessa.Lutchman@planning.gov.tt

"Development is about transforming the lives of people, not just transforming the economies." ...Joseph Stiglitz

From: Lewis, Alix <ALEWIS@IADB.ORG>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2023 12:08:58 PM
To: Marie Hinds
Cc: Debra Dipchansingh; Vanessa Roodal Lutchman; Dohnert de Lascurain, Sylvia Eva; Rios, Sergio A.
Subject: [EXTERNAL] IDB - TT-T1138 - Change in TC Funding Amount

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Dear PS Hinds:

Happy Friday! We hope you're doing well.

Further to this exchange and the GORTT's correspondence to the Bank regarding the 2022 National Technical Cooperation pipeline (dated 13 February 2023 and attached for reference), we wish to share that there has been a decrease in the total amount of Technical Cooperation funding for TT-T1138: Driving Economic Dynamism through Tech Transfer in Trinidad and Tobago from US\$300,000 to \$150,000. The initial amount was indicative and subject to resource availability within the Bank. Project activities have been re-scoped to suit.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Sincerely,

Alix Lewis

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Alix Lewis
Operations Consultant
Country Office of Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: (868) 822-6446

17 Alexandra Street
St. Clair, Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago
www.iadb.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Vanessa Roodal Lutchman <Vanessa.Lutchman@planning.gov.tt>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 8:57 AM
To: Rios, Sergio A. <SERGIORI@iadb.org>
Cc: Debra Dipchansingh <Debra.Dipchansingh@planning.gov.tt>; Alyssa Ali <Alyssa.Ali@planning.gov.tt>; Melissa Bertrand <Melissa.Bertrand@planning.gov.tt>; Dohnert de Lascurain, Sylvia Eva <SYLVIAD@iadb.org>; Lewis, Alix <ALEWIS@IADB.ORG>; Marie Hinds <Marie.Hinds@planning.gov.tt>; Sandy Jaisree <Sandy.Jaisree-Samaroo@planning.gov.tt>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: IDB Country Programming Document 2023

Dear Mr Rios,

I am emailing on behalf of Ms Marie Hinds, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD), regarding your email below.

The MPD wishes to reaffirm that the TT-T1138: Driving Economic Dynamism through Tech Transfer in Trinidad and Tobago Technical Cooperation project is to be executed by the Inter-American Development Bank to reduce the risk of delays in implementation.

Please note that an official letter reflecting the same will follow.

Thank you.

Regards
Vanessa Roodal Lutchman, PMP
Ministry of Planning and Development
Email: Vanessa.Lutchman@planning.gov.tt

"Development is about transforming the lives of people, not just transforming the economies." Joseph Stiglitz

From: Rios, Sergio A. <SERGIORI@iadb.org>
Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 8:18:25 AM
To: Marie Hinds

Cc: Debra Dipchansingh; Alyssa Ali; Vanessa Roodal Lutchman; Melissa Bertrand; Dohnert de Lascurain, Sylvia Eva; Lewis, Alix
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: IDB Country Programming Document 2023

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Dear Marie:

Happy Friday!

Further to this correspondence received by the IDB on 14 February 2023 containing the formal Letter of Request from the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) to action the Technical Cooperations (TC) in the Country Planning Document (CPD) 2023, the Bank specifically wishes to seek formal confirmation from the Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD) regarding the Executing Agency of TT-T1138: Driving Economic Dynamism through Tech Transfer in Trinidad and Tobago.

In the Letter of Request, the table indicated that the proposed Executing Agency is the St Augustine Centre for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (STACIE) at the university of the West Indies (UWI). However, in a subsequent paragraph, the MPD requests that "the IDB executes the TCs on behalf of the stakeholders."

Initially, it had been intended by the IDB and STACIE that STACIE would be the EA for this TC. However, the Bank has been working closely on the operation's preparation with STACIE and in doing so, STACIE has expressed that they would prefer that the IDB executes this TC. As such, we wish to request confirmation from the MPD affirming that this TC be executed by the IDB at the request of the GORTT.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Have a nice weekend,
Sergio

From: Melissa Bertrand <Melissa.Bertrand@planning.gov.tt>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2023 10:16 AM
To: Hospedales, Carlos <CHOSPEDALES@IADB.ORG>; IDBTrinidad <IDBTrinidad@iadb.org>
Cc: Marie Hinds <Marie.Hinds@planning.gov.tt>; Debra Dipchansingh <Debra.Dipchansingh@planning.gov.tt>; Alyssa Ali <Alyssa.Ali@planning.gov.tt>; Vanessa Roodal Lutchman <Vanessa.Lutchman@planning.gov.tt>; Rios, Sergio A. <SERGIORI@iadb.org>; Agostini, Dorri Michelle <DORRIA@iadb.org>; Brathwaite, Neeca N. <NEECAB@iadb.org>; Lewis, Alix <ALEWIS@IADB.ORG>
Subject: IDB Country Programming Document 2023

Dear Carlos,

Please see the attached correspondence from the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development Re: IDB Country Programming Document 2023.

Regards,
Melissa

From: Hospedales, Carlos [<mailto:CHOSPEDALES@IADB.ORG>]
Sent: Monday, 6 February 2023 5:15 PM
To: Marie Hinds <Marie.Hinds@planning.gov.tt<mailto:Marie.Hinds@planning.gov.tt>>
Cc: Debra Dipchansingh <Debra.Dipchansingh@planning.gov.tt<mailto:Debra.Dipchansingh@planning.gov.tt>>;
Melissa Bertrand <Melissa.Bertrand@planning.gov.tt<mailto:Melissa.Bertrand@planning.gov.tt>>; Alyssa Ali
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<Vanessa.Lutchman@planning.gov.tt<mailto:Vanessa.Lutchman@planning.gov.tt>>; Rios, Sergio A.
<SERGIORI@iadb.org<mailto:SERGIORI@iadb.org>>; Agostini, Dorri Michelle
<DORRIA@iadb.org<mailto:DORRIA@iadb.org>>; Brathwaite, Neeca N.
<NEECAB@iadb.org<mailto:NEECAB@iadb.org>>; Lewis, Alix <ALEWIS@IADB.ORG<mailto:ALEWIS@IADB.ORG>>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] IDB Country Programming Document 2023

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Dear Ms. Hinds,

Please see the attached document as per the subject at caption for your attention.

Best regards,

Carlos Hospedales
Administrative Assistant - Operations
Country Office of Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: (868) 822-6480, Mobile: (868) 791-9088

[cid:image001.png@01D98F20.CC8C6A20]
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