



Report on the SDGs Catalysts Network 5th Quarterly Meeting

under the project

***CSOs For Good Governance:
Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in
Trinidad and Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)***

December 6, 2018

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, Barataria, Trinidad & Tobago

1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of the *SDGs Catalysts Network's* fifth Quarterly meeting held on December 6th, 2018 at Caribbean Natural Resources Institute's Office, Barataria, Trinidad. The report provides an overview of the participants, objectives and methods, and recounts the main activities of the CSOs4GoodGov project. The following were addressed in the meeting:

- Discussion on ongoing and upcoming activities within each project component, including initial presentation of the draft SDGs Knowledge Platform and updates on key actions and activities requiring participation and inputs of Catalysts
- Recap and sharing on EU Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) Mission held in November 2018
- Status update on the CSO Advocacy Paper
- Updates on current small grants activities under the CSOs4GoodGov project

Participants:

Twenty (21) persons, representing 15 of 23 members of the *SDGs Catalysts Network*, attended the fifth Quarterly meeting. All recipients of small grants under the project¹ were specifically invited to make presentations on their projects; all representatives attended in person or virtually, excepting WINAD.

See Appendix 1: List of participants.

2 Meeting Objectives

The specific meeting objectives were to:

1. Facilitate sharing on small grants activities by Catalysts under the CSOs4GoodGov project, and engage all participants in dialogue on lessons and ideas for improvement
2. Share latest CSOs4GoodGov progress reports and provide Catalysts with updates on key actions and activities for their participation and inputs

See Appendix 2: Specific workshop agenda.

3 Methodology

Verbal updates were given by project component leads on status of various activities under their components. A draft version of the knowledge platform was presented for viewing. Individual presentations (verbal, virtual, PPT) by small grants recipients were used to facilitate sharing of learnings and experiences on small grants projects. Q&A's were accommodated throughout the sessions.

4 Review of Key Sessions / Discussion and findings

4.1 CSOs4GoodGov progress reports and updates

Key points from the updates given by project component leads and follow-on discussions are noted below

UWTT:

¹ TTTI, CKFTO,, CYENTT, IAMovement, ACSOTT, CAISO, UWI-IDGS, WINAD

UWTT provided a debrief of EU results-oriented monitoring (ROM) mission and update on the CSO Advocacy Paper next steps.

EU results oriented monitoring (ROM) mission

- The CSOs4GoodGov project was selected to be evaluated by an independent evaluator Ms. Valerie Gordon, by the European Union Delegation. The interviews were conducted from 15th November – 21st November 2018. The project's sustainability, effectiveness, relevance and efficiency were assessed.
- There were overall positive reviews on the project. Issues raised include adequacy of financing and overall sustainability especially what happens after project close. Extension of the project was raised but does not assist if no additional financing.
- The approach to the evaluation was relatively unstructured compared to the ROM review of the Cropper Foundation's EU funded project, however this methodology provided more in-depth conversations on the project and worked to unveil learnings (both positive and negative) from the project. Catalysts shared that the ROM gave them the opportunity to reflect on the project including value added from their networks, and what they are benefitting from the project.

The full (draft) report of the ROM is available here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/bnifksajnp0n0pd/AACb_WVBCfOSudL0NFB8SDhMa?dl=0

CSO Advocacy Paper

- A final draft of the Paper will be circulated to the SDG Catalysts Network and shared on the Knowledge Platform.
- A new consultant will be contracted to develop the strategy and roll out the CSO Advocacy Paper under the stewardship of the Legal and Fiscal Working Group; a TOR will be completed in January 2019
- It was noted there needs to be greater involvement from the SDGCN to ensure the CSO Advocacy Paper is being actively used to support advocacy to help address needs of the sector e.g. when at meetings etc.
- On a related note, a draft Non-profit organisations Bill is to be tabled in Parliament before the end of 2018 which focuses on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing but does not address CSO fiscal issues. This was not shared with CSOs due to the expeditious due date the government has to meet under international regulations. UWTT received an unofficial copy of the Bill which was reviewed and comments provided by the Legal and Fiscal Working Group to the Attorney General's Office. UWTT provided a copy of the CSO Advocacy Paper to the Attorney General's Office. The question was raised on what can be done to have formal communication and be included in dialogue on fiscal concerns that are not part of current legislation.

A copy of the (final draft) CSO Advocacy paper is available here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/sk6zsrc51w1rvgn/CSOs4GG%20Advocacy%20Paper%20Legal%20and%20Fiscal_%20Nov_2018.pdf?dl=0

CANARI:

SDGs Knowledge Platform

- CANARI aims to have the Knowledge Platform updated by end of December 2018 with the goal to launch early 2019. Overall development has been slow. At this stage the main interface is built and coding is currently being undertaken to refine the home page and individual sections, and testing.
- The latest design version was shared for viewing during the meeting; CANARI will follow up to share the knowledge platform concept and product communication plan for Catalysts comments, and any updated links for viewing.

- CANARI is currently collating content; the platform is being populated with documents such as the CSO Advocacy Paper. Content submissions are invited; initial requests were made from Grantees engaged in small grants projects.
- Reminder was given that content submissions for the [CSOs4GoodGov Facebook](#) page were also welcomed.

SDGs Catalysts Network membership

- CANARI has been reviewing the current Catalysts Network membership engagement and participation. Given limited participation, in some cases, in addition to past recommendations from other Catalysts to add members to the Network, the question was raised whether there was a need to amend the TOR to address a process for adding new members.
- Catalysts agreed it was not necessary to increase the size of the network with new members, but there should be better engagement of these interested CSOs, as part of their networks (in keeping with project design re: intent of the Catalysts Network). If members are invited their organisation should contribute to the representation of the SDGs.

Commonwealth Foundation Call

CANARI flagged that a call was recently put out, offering grants of up to £200,000 over four years on strengthening civic voices to engage with governments & improve governance/development outcomes through their active participation. CANARI is thinking about exploring complementary work to CSOs4GG for example - shadow reporting on SDGs for civil society and welcomed interested Catalysts to join in developing idea/proposal. The time frame was noted to be short; CANARI would follow-up to see whether feasible or other opportunities should be explored.

Veni Apwann:

VA reported on the CPDC advocacy communications workshops which were a parallel action to the CSOs4GoodGov project, and implementation of the capacity building strategy.

- On October 4th, participants took part in a dialogue with government and media focused on raising awareness on the recommendations made in the CSO Advocacy paper and CSOs’ input into National legislation. Some key issues of interest for advocacy by the CSO sector were drawn out. On October 25th participants worked on developing communications plans for advocacy action projects, some of which had been identified at the previous section.
- Next actions include specialist clinics to assist Catalysts e.g. with proposal writing and better defining advocacy projects, and leadership training with SHIFT! Caribbean, to be linked to small grant projects.
- It was noted scheduling of next sessions needed to be done soon so various activities under the project could be well coordinated to minimise clashes and stakeholder fatigue

4.2 Sharing on small grants activity

UWTT provided broad overview of current and upcoming small grants rounds. To date, there has been three rounds of Small Grant Advocacy Action yielding 12 projects with a total allocation of \$273,886 TT in grants.

Updates were provided as follows:

Small grant awardee	Key points
IAMovement Presenters: Jonathan Barcant & Nicole Sharbodie	IAMovement is working on two projects with small grants received from CSOs4GoodGov Round 2: Rethinking Energy project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IAMovement, used its small grant under the project to produce a three-part video series - REthinking Energy, about TT's energy use and why switching to renewable energy makes sense. The last video is due to be launched soon. • Lessons were learned around use of video for advocacy; process more time consuming than originally thought and can be costly. Benefits are that it is able to reach a wide audience <p>Round 3: Organic Garden School Programme (OGSP): Expansion, Awareness and Outreach IAMovement is currently working on an organic garden project with partners Servol and the Cotton Tree Foundation, targeting schools and aiming to raise greater awareness and public support for organic gardening/sustainable agriculture. Social media campaigns will be used for advocacy.</p>
<p>ACSOTT Presenter: David Shim</p>	<p>Governing our sector & ease of doing business: Voices & Stories from T&T's CSOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under this project, ACSOTT is currently working on documenting the story of their formation and capturing CSOs' voices and experiences with the regulatory and enabling environment in Trinidad & Tobago and needed changes. • Survey will be done to consult with CSOs in Trinidad and Tobago toward making recommendations for the future role of the organisation. • Intended that findings will be used to reflect and support advocacy related to state and self-governance of the social sector
<p>UWI IGDS Presenter: Dr. Gabrielle Hosein (verbal update via Skype)</p>	<p>Advancing Partnerships Toward Gender Responsive Budgeting in Trinidad and Tobago</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal is to provide a gendered analysis of the national budget process and its implications for peace, security and empowerment within households, highlighting how the national budget process and budgetary allocations have differential and inequitable impact on women, men, girls and boys. • Work is currently being done with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development regarding national gender responsive budgeting • Also developing a new grant proposal with Transparency Institute around the topic
<p>CKFTO Presenter: Krista Hamel Smith (verbal update)</p>	<p>Disabilities Awareness Programme: Count Me In puppet show</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of CKFTO's Count Me In puppet show is to promote disability awareness in the education system and wider communities as a means of fostering positive awareness and inclusion of children and adults in society who are differently abled • Puppets were created as an innovative teaching tool to educate children about their peers with disabilities and promote inclusion in schools • Puppet shows have been conducted at schools all around Trinidad with positive responses. Approximately 16 shows were held between October-November 2018 reaching around 2086 viewers from 12 primary schools. • Changes in behaviour were seen in schools after presentation
<p>Habitat for Humanity Presenter: Tracy Hutchinson Wallace (verbal update)</p>	<p>Public Awareness Campaign to promote Hurricane Resilient Housing Practices and Healthy Housing Habits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About to launch project in January 2019 on low cost technical improvements and easy-to-keep habits to make houses hurricane-resilient and healthier. • Elements of the project include doing safe housing awareness related to hurricanes, flooding. A media campaign will be held. The aim is to ensure this is done as part of early preparedness measures for the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season • There will be focus on the disability sector – autism, deaf
<p>CYENTT Presenter: Curmira Gulston (verbal update via Skype)</p>	<p>YIELD – Youth Initiative for Empowering Leadership and Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project will be launched in January 2019 focused on empowering young people and helping them develop leadership skills. This will be centered on the sustainable development issues/SDGs more broadly, and not just environmental ones. • It will target schools and involve training of members to go out to schools to share knowledge on SDGs issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will also aim to build youth capacity to become involved in policy and how to use advocacy.
Transparency Institute Presenter: Martin Farrell (verbal update)	Integrity Clubs: Planting seeds of purpose, compassion, honesty and integrity in our future leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of this project TTTI partnered with the Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (ICTT) and the Trinidad and Tobago National Council of Parent Teacher Associations (NPTA) to set up integrity clubs in 6 secondary schools, including one in Speyside, Tobago. This will ultimately help to enlist youth support as advocates in the fight against corruption. Activities included workshops with teachers, parents and students and development of ambassadors Thus far the project has been well received in the schools. There is potential to partner with others such as CYENTT also working with schools. The project was further supported by co-Financing from another source
CAISO Presenter: Colin Robinson	Completed project: Human Rights & State Accountability: CSO Action Learning on Strategy, Collaboration & Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAISO worked on this project in 2018 with the broad goal of increasing state accountability for human rights in T&T and CSO participation in governance activity related to human rights. 2 day workshop was held in October 2018 - Involved training and transfer of knowledge and experience (from regional UN human rights institutions and a leading human rights organization from Jamaica) with CSOs on supranational human rights mechanisms and CSOs role towards the fulfilment of a national human rights institution <p>CAISO has accessed another small grant under CSOs4GoodGov to continue this work and is launching a new campaign in 2019 titled 'Add All 3 – Champions Campaign in Coalition for Equal Opportunity and Stronger Institutions'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project seeks to add age, LGBTI and health conditions to equal opportunity categories and is looking for champions. CAISO will seek to undertake social media campaign, develop videos and radio ads, hold equal opportunity orientation sessions and monthly limes and ultimately seek parliamentary action. They will link with IAM for their experience in developing videos for advocacy. Separate EU financing has also been acquired toward the project.

See available presentations here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qjbhf66zjii1hmo/AACAPJupKeTpZ8kcKdUzOMN5a?dl=0>

Additional sharing was done by Catalyst Member Youth Business Trinidad and Tobago who is awarded a parallel grant separately through UWTT's own grant program. YBTT's project is - An Entrepreneurial Development and Financing Programme of Youth Business Trinidad and Tobago: To offer capital in the form of a market research/prototype grant to support 10 young persons.

5 Wrap up and next Steps for the SDGs Catalysts Network

Wrap-up points included:

- Continued sharing of experiences and lessons from implementing small grants advocacy projects is highly encouraged-beneficial for Catalysts learning from each other and for project accountability
- Catalysts should be encouraged to use the communications platforms being provided under the project - Facebook page, Knowledge Platform and otherwise, to support each other's work
- Catalysts should look to keep abreast of what each other is doing and capitalise on common interests and opportunities to work together

Next steps:

The next quarterly meeting of the SDGs Catalysts Network would be scheduled for **March 2019**. Upcoming activities for participation, and inputs of Catalysts are summarised below:

	January 2019	February 2019	March 2019
VA specialist clinic (capacity building lead up to SHIFT! Training – dates to be announced)	Date TBC		
Round 4 Call for small grants projects			
Inputs to SDGs Knowledge Platform – features on small grants projects			
6 th Quarterly meeting of the SDGs Catalysts Network			

Appendix 1: List of participants

	Name	Organisation	Contact No.	Email
1.	Jennifer Sancho	United Way Trinidad & Tobago (UWTT)	625-8286	jsancho@uwtt.com
2.	Kristen Francis	United Way Trinidad & Tobago (UWTT)	625-8286	kfrancis@uwtt.com
3.	Giselle Granger	United Way Trinidad & Tobago (UWTT)	625-8286	ggranger@uwtt.com
4.	Candice Ramkissoon	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	626-6062 / 779-0407	candice@canari.org
5.	Nicole Leotaud	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	626-6062	nicole@canari.org
6.	Sasha Harrinanan	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	626-6062	sasha@canari.org
7.	Colleen Davis	Veni Apwann (VA)	741-1139	daviscolleen99@gmail.com
8.	Sandra Pyke-Anthony	Veni Apwann (VA)		sandrapykeanthony@ymail.com
9.	David Shim	ACSOTT	633-4724/787-7815	assoc.csott@gmail.com
10.	Curmira Gulston (via Skype)	Caribbean Youth Environment Network Trinidad & Tobago (CYEN-TT)		curmira.g25@gmail.com
11.	Martin Farrell	Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute	734 3382	martin.farrell@transparency.org.tt
12.	Joslyn Lee Quay	Trinidad and Tobago Unified Fisherfolk	481 0181	joslee_56@outlook.com
13.	Bertrand Bikharry	Environment Tobago (ET)	620-2080	bertrand@bhikarry.net
14.	Tracy Hutchinson-Wallace	Habitat for Humanity	702-4663	contactus@habitat-tt.org
15.	Beverly Beckles	National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD)	678 9392	ncpdtrinidad@gmail.com

	Name	Organisation	Contact No.	Email
16.	Colin Robinson	Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO) / Alliance for Justice & Diversity	782-2290, 322-7373	caisott@gmail.com
17.	Krista Hamel-Smith	Caribbean Kids and Families Therapy Organisation (CKFTO)	628-3268, 384-8937	gmanager@ckfto.org
18.	Dionne Guishard	Families in Action	622-6952, 324 9693	dionne.guishard@familiesinaction.net
19.	Shedron Collins	Youth Business Trinidad and Tobago	480 5366	entrepreneur@ybtt.org
20.	Jonathan Barcant	IAMovement		iamovementorg@gmail.com
21.	Nicole Sharbodie	IAMovement	689 5190	iamovementorg@gmail.com

Appendix 2: Meeting Agenda



SDGs Catalysts Network 4th Quarterly Meeting

under the project

CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)

CANARI Conference Room

December 06, 2018

9:30am – 1:30pm

Meeting Objectives:

1. To facilitate sharing on small grants activities by Catalysts under the CSOs4GoodGov project, and engage all participants in dialogue on lessons and ideas for improvement
2. To share latest CSOs4GoodGov progress reports and provide Catalysts with updates on key actions and activities for their participation and inputs

AGENDA

9:30am	Registration	
10:00am	Welcome and introductions	CANARI
10:15am	CSOs4GoodGov Progress reports and updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UWTT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Debrief of EU results oriented monitoring (ROM) mission o CSO Advocacy Paper next steps - CANARI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Update on deliverables o Expansion of SDGs Catalysts Network o Exploring potential opportunities - Commonwealth Foundation Call - VA – report on Advocacy Communications workshop, implementation of capacity building strategy 	Component leads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CANARI - UWTT - Veni Apwanni
11:00am	Sharing on Small Grants activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of small grants activities under CSOs4GoodGov - Sharing on small grants actions by Catalysts - Early lessons and needs for improving practical advocacy actions 	UWTT SDGs Catalysts Network members engaged in small grants projects UWTT/CANARI/VA
12:30pm	Recap of meeting and next steps Evaluations Wrap up and close	CANARI