



Capacity Building and Development of Civil Society Organisations for Business in Trinidad and Tobago

Duration: 30 months

Overview:

There is an increasing acknowledgement among governments and development practitioners that civil society involvement is critical to the elaboration of appropriate, relevant and sustainable development policies. CSOs have the opportunity to not only influence the creation of policies, but also to assist in implementation and improve the functioning of governments alongside public institutions. Since 2011, there has been a more formal approach to networking among CSOs as they work together to educate, lobby and share knowledge on sourcing financing as an NGO. Despite this increased networking, however, there has been limited interaction among the CSOs affiliated with business development and the economy.

Discussions with key CSO stakeholders have led to identification of the need for improved leadership and governance within their associations. They believe that a lack of formal organisational structures within their individual entities and lack of larger network support for lobbying activities results in their concerns not being appropriately ventilated or addressed.

Objectives

To strengthen the capacity of national and local CSOs and improve the effectiveness of national CSOs to participate effectively in the decision making and implementation of national and local policies related to business and the economy.

Specific Outcomes

- Increased organisational and operational efficiency of those CSOs that support the development of businesses
- Improved leadership capacity and decision making within those organisations
- Improved ability of CSOs to advocate for changes that support business growth in T&T
- Increased networking and collaboration among CSOs
- Improved and constructive dialogue between CSO's and government leaders/decision makers.

Beneficiaries: Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, The Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago; Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association