**Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago** 



# Universal Service Implementation Report June 2020 – May 2022

# Contents

1.0 Introduction	3
1.1 Purpose of Universal Service	3
1.2 Objectives of the USF	4
1.3 USF – The Role of the Authority	5
1.4 Legislative Basis for the Management of the USF	5
2.0 Universal Service Fund Reports	6
2.1 Universal Service Fund Accounting Report	6
2.2 Universal Service Implementation Report	6
3.0 Universal Service Fund Initiatives	7
3.1 Contractual Universal Service Initiatives	7
3.2 Mandatory Universal Service Initiatives	7
3.3 GoRTT Initiatives	7
4.0 Current Universal Service Projects as at June 2020	8
4.1 National free Wi-Fi Initiative (TTWiFi)	8
4.1.1 Overall Project Objective	8
4.1.2 Overall Project Description	9
4.1.3 Implementation Progress	9
4.1.4 Status Update – TTWiFi Locations	10
4.1.4.1 Transportation Hubs	10
4.1.4.2 National Libraries	11
4.1.4.3 Public Health Institutions	11
4.1.4.3.1 COVID-19 Designated Hospitals	11
4.1.5 Future Plans	12
4.2 Persons with Disabilities Initiative	12
Caribbean Video Assistance Service Pilot Project	12
4.2.1 Project Objective	12
4.2.2 Project Description	13
4.2.3 Implementation Progress	13
5.0 Proposed Universal Service Projects for the Period July 2020 - June 2022	17
5.1 Provision of ICT-Enabled Devices and Internet Connectivity Access Service to Students in Trinidad and Tobago	17
5.1.1 Project Objective	17
5.1.2 Project Description	18
5.2 Establishment of Five Community-based ICT Access Centres in Trinidad and Tol	bago
	18
5.2.1 Project Objective	18
5.2.2 Project Description	18

5.3 Free Public Mobile Wi-Fi in Buses, Water Taxis and Inter-Island Ferries Operating	-
within Trinidad and Tobago	19
5.3.1 Project Objective	19
5.3.2 Project Description	19
5.4 Broadband Internet Access Infrastructure Project	20
5.4.1 Project Objective	20
5.4.2 Project Description	20
Appendix I: Proposed Budget for the Current and Upcoming Universal Service Projects	22
Appendix II: TTWiFi Site Location Listing	23
Transportation Hubs (11)	23
National Public Libraries (16)	23
Public Health Institutions (133)	24
COVID-19 Designated Hospitals (3)	25
Appendix III: Persons with Disabilities Initiative - Partner Agencies	25

# **List of Tables**

Table 1. Current universal service projects as at June 2020	8
Table 2. National 'Free' Wi-Fi Initiative – Progress update of locations as at June 2020	9
Table 3: Number of authorisation letters issued and pending collection as at June 2020	14
Table 4. Proposed universal service projects - July 2020 to June 2022	.17

# **List of Figures**

Figure 1. Implementation schedule of TTWiFi locations 10
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#### **1.0 Introduction**

#### **1.1 Purpose of Universal Service**

The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (the Authority) was established in 2004 as the agency responsible for managing the telecommunications and broadcasting sectors. The Authority has been charged with the mandate of promoting universal service in Trinidad and Tobago. Section 2 (1) of the Telecommunications Act<sup>1</sup>, Chap. 47:31 (the Act) defines universal service as:

"the provision of telecommunications services throughout Trinidad and Tobago, taking into account the needs of the public, affordability of the service and advances in technologies;"

Specifically, universal service aims at ensuring that telecommunications services are available to all. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT) has recognised information and communications technologies (ICTs) as critical to socio-economic development, particularly in a post-coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID 19) world. The National ICT Plan has identified ICTs as a discrete sector and a crucial enabler to many other sectors, contributing to the diversification of the national economy and the strengthening of the country's competitiveness and viability in the global arena. Telecommunications services are essential to social and economic inclusion and are to be made available to all citizens, either on an individual or shared basis. Broadband Internet access availability, affordability and accessibility is the foundation for ICT-enabled, socio-economic development, and many countries have aggressive programmes to encourage the build out of broadband networks and services.

Universal service initiatives are intended to ensure that persons on low incomes, those living in remote communities, persons with disabilities (PwDs) and other vulnerable groups benefit from basic telecommunications services.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Act was promulgated in 2001 and amended in 2004. This Act governs the operations and sets the framework of the Authority.

The Authority discharges this mandate pursuant to section 28 (1) of the Act, which states:

"In accordance with the policy established by the Minister, the Authority shall determine the public telecommunications services in respect of which the requirement of universal service shall apply."

To this end, the Authority has prepared a *Universal Service Framework for Telecommunications Services in Trinidad and Tobago* (USFTT)<sup>2</sup> to inform the public and all stakeholders about the key aspects, considerations and principles that the Authority shall uphold in administering the Universal Service Fund (USF). The USF collects universal service contributions and manages the discharging of the Authority's mandate under Section 28 (1) of the Act.

#### **1.2 Objectives of the Universal Service Fund (USF)**

The Authority will direct USF resources towards achieving the objectives of the USF as contained in the USFTT. These objectives are listed below and will inform the Authority's decisions when selecting any USF mechanism:

- Facilitate the achievement of the policy objectives in both the Authority's Universal Service Framework and GoRTT's Universality Policy<sup>3</sup>
- ii. Ensure that an unfair financial burden is not placed on any concessionaire
- iii. Promote the use of competitive market forces in funding communities and population groups in the access gap

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  The USFTT was finalised by the Authority in June 2012 and seeks to institute regulatory mechanisms that will facilitate bridging the gap between those who have access to telecommunications services and those who do not in Trinidad and Tobago. The USFTT is available on the Authority's website at <u>http://tatt.org.tt</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>GoRTT's Universality Policy promotes the initiative to ensure that all citizens of the country have access to information and knowledge through ICTs.

### 1.3 USF - The Role of the Authority

For each financial year, the Authority will define several broad USF programmes associated with the objectives listed above and will implement specific USF projects. The Authority will seek to balance the USF activities and financing among these different initiatives, within the limitations of available budget and capacity. The Authority will determine, based upon consultations, where applicable, and/or its own market assessment, the appropriate projects and the allocation of funding for each project, which will be accounted for in each biennial implementation report.

## 1.4 Legislative Basis for the Management of the USF

The Authority has legislative powers to impose universal service obligations, in accordance with section 18 (1) of the Act, which states:

"... the Authority may exercise such functions and powers as are imposed on it by this Act and in particular-

(c) determine universal service obligations throughout Trinidad and Tobago, pursuant to section 28, and ensure that such obligations are realised;"

In addition, the Act mandates the Authority to be responsible for the management and administration of the USF, pursuant to section 28 (3) which states:

"In accordance with the policy established by the Minister, the Authority shall periodically determine the manner in which a public telecommunications service or value added service shall be provided and funded in order to meet the requirements of universal service for that service, including the obligations, if any, of the providers and users of the service."

In light of the above, the management of the USF shall be executed in accordance with the *Telecommunications (Universal Service) Regulations* (the Regulations)<sup>4</sup> and the USFTT.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Regulations were amended in 2019 and are available on the Authority's website at http://www.tatt.org.tt

## 2.0 Universal Service Fund Reports

#### 2.1 Universal Service Fund Accounting Report

The Authority shall prepare an annual Universal Service Fund Accounting Report which shall be published no later than three months after the end of the Authority's financial year and shall present information relating to the collection and disbursement of funds from the USF for the preceding financial year.

#### 2.2 Universal Service Implementation Report

The Authority shall prepare a biennial Universal Service Implementation Report in accordance with Regulation 25 of the Regulations, as follows:

"25. (1) The Authority shall publish on a biennial basis a Universal Service Implementation Report by June of the financial year of the Authority which shall contain– (a) an outline of the Mandatory Universal Service initiatives and Contractual Universal Service initiatives and the proposed budget for the implementation of such Universal Service initiatives for the succeeding two years;

(b) a report on the progress of the current Universal Service initiatives being funded by the Universal Service Fund; and

(c) the objectives identified by the Authority for the regulation of Universal Service for the succeeding financial year or any revision of such objectives."

#### 3.0 Universal Service Fund Initiatives

#### **3.1 Contractual Universal Service Initiatives**

Contractual universal service obligations are projects to be implemented by concessionaires selected through the reverse auction process, pursuant to Regulation 19 (4) of the Regulations. The successful concessionaire will be contracted to carry out the universal service obligation(s) with funding made available through the USF.

Where no concessionaire submits a bid under Regulation 19 (1) of the Regulations, the concessionaire who is authorised to provide the service or services that comprise the contractual universal service initiative and who, in the opinion of the Authority, has the highest available network capacity and requires the least infrastructure build out to roll out services for that particular universal service initiative, may enter into, and be bound by, a contract of service with the Authority for the implementation of the universal service initiative.

#### 3.2 Mandatory Universal Service Initiatives

Mandatory universal service initiatives are obligations to be imposed on all relevant concessionaires, pursuant to Part IV of the Regulations and in accordance with guidelines published by the Authority from time to time. Mandatory universal service initiatives identified in Schedule 3 of the Regulations may be eligible for funding from the USF.

#### **3.3 GoRTT Initiatives**

Pursuant to Regulation 24 (1) and (2) of the Regulations, the Authority may contribute an amount not exceeding 5% of the value of the contributions to the USF in any given year towards the provision of services for universal service initiatives, as approved by the Authority, which are established by the State or state agencies.

Generally, proposals for GoRTT identified projects are to be submitted by the State or state agencies to the Authority for consideration and execution, where appropriate.

# 4.0 Current Universal Service Projects as at June 2020

Table 1 identifies the current universal service initiatives being funded through the USF as at June 2020. A detailed breakdown of the budgeted expenditure for the current and upcoming universal service initiatives is provided in Appendix I.

No.	Project Name	Type of Initiative	Overall Budget <sup>5</sup> (TT\$)	Proposed Start	Proposed Finish
			Transportation hubs/national libraries		
1	National Free Wi-Fi Initiative (TTWiFi)	Mandatory	\$8,100,998 Health institutions: budget to be determined	February 2020	April 2021
2	Persons with Disabilities Initiative	Mandatory	\$3,834,000		February 2022
_	Caribbean Video Assistance Software (CVAS) Pilot	Mandatory	\$201,000	2	October 2020

#### Table 1. Current universal service projects as at June 2020

## 4.1 National Free Wi-Fi Initiative (TTWiFi)

## 4.1.1 Overall Project Objective

This project aims to implement free public Wi-Fi at specified locations (including public transportation hubs, national libraries and public health institutions) throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The current and full list of proposed sites is presented in Appendix II.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Overall budget figures are value added tax (VAT) exclusive.

#### 4.1.2 Overall Project Description

This initiative seeks to facilitate a platform for enhanced productivity via access to the Internet, as well as enhanced engagement between citizens and GoRTT, in their daily lives and as they go about doing business with GoRTT. The project will result in the deployment of free public Wi-Fi within Trinidad and Tobago, at major target locations including, at a minimum, public libraries and waiting areas at major public transport hubs, all public hospitals and health centres.

#### **4.1.3 Implementation Progress**

Table 2 provides an update on the implementation of TTWiFi by site type (public transportation hubs, national libraries, public health institutions and COVID-19 hospitals), as at June 2020.

Site type	Total Scope	Completed as at June 2020	Planned Start	Planned Finish
Public transportation hubs - Port of Spain and San Fernando	2	2	February 2020	February 2020
Public transportation hubs - other locations	9	0 Sites allocated; contracts to be signed	May 2020	October 2020
National libraries	16	0 Sites allocated; contracts to be signed	June 2020	October 2020
Public health institutions	133	0 Sites to be allocated to ISPs	October 2020	April 2021
COVID-19 designated hospitals	3	0 Negotiations ongoing with ISPs	To be determined	To be determined

Table 2. National Free Wi-Fi Initiative — progress update on locations as at June 2020

Figure 1 depicts the proposed implementation schedule for the identified TTWiFi locations by site type (public transportation hubs, national libraries, public health institutions and COVID-

19 hospitals), as at June 2020. Start dates, end dates and durations to implement at each site type are detailed alongside the graphical timeline.

				r 3, 2019 Qtr 4, 2019	Qtr 1, 2020	Qtr 2, 2020	Qtr 3, 2020	Qtr 4, 2020	Qtr 1, 2021	Qtr 2, 2021
Task Name 👻	Duration 👻	Start 👻	Finish 👻	I Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun	Jul Aug Sep	Oct Nov Dec	Jan Feb Mar	Apr May Jun
Public Transport Hubs (Port of Spain, San Fernando) - Planned	7 days	Mon 10/02/20	Tue 18/02/20	Public Transport Hubs (P	ort of Spain, S	5an Fernando)	Planned			
Public Transport Hubs - Planned	99 days	Thu 21/05/20	Tue 06/10/20			Transpo	rt Hubs - Plann	ed		
National Libraries - Planned	87 days	Fri 12/06/20	Mon 12/10/20			Lik	oraries - Planne	d		
Public Health institutions - Planned	150 days	Mon 05/10/20	Fri 30/04/21					Health I	nst Planned	

Figure 1. Implementation schedule for TTWiFi locations

### 4.1.4 Status Update on TTWiFi Locations

#### 4.1.4.1 Transportation Hubs

The scope of the project includes 11 transportation hubs, as detailed in Appendix II. These were allocated to Internet service providers (ISPs) based on the Authority's approved allocation methodology, considering factors such as contribution to the USF, least cost, availability of infrastructure and timeframes for deployment. The proposed timeline for this project phase spans from May 2020 to October 2020, as Table 2 and Figure 1 show.

As at June 2020, two transportation hubs have been completed and free Wi-Fi is currently available to the public. These locations are:

- i. PTSC, Port of Spain, South Quay
- ii. PTSC, San Fernando

For the remaining hubs, the Authority is in the final stages of contract signing with ISPs and clients responsible for each location, as a prerequisite to the start of implementation.

#### 4.1.4.2 National Libraries

The current proposed scope of the project includes 16 national libraries, as listed in Appendix II. These were allocated to ISPs based on the Authority's approved allocation methodology, considering factors such as contribution to the USF, least cost, availability of infrastructure and timeframes for deployment. The proposed timeline for this project phase spans from June 2020 to October 2020, as illustrated in Table 2 and Figure 1.

The Authority is in the final stages of contract signing with ISPs and the clients responsible for each location, as a prerequisite to the start of implementation.

#### 4.1.4.3 Public Health Institutions

The proposed timeline for the implementation of Wi-Fi at the 133 health institutions (see Appendix II) is October 2020 to April 2021, as shown in Table 2 and Figure 1. Due to the large number of sites, they will be divided into four batches of approximately 32 sites per batch, to accelerate the process of site allocation to ISPs.

The first batch of institutions is pending allocation to ISPs. This exercise is expected to be completed by September 2020.

#### 4.1.4.3.1 COVID-19 Designated Hospitals

Due to the need for special facilities for treating patients with COVID-19, Internet access is under consideration, to enhance services at COVID-19 designated hospitals. The hospitals currently included are the Arima General Hospital, Couva Hospital and Multi-Training Facility and Caura Hospital.

The current proposal is for the implementation of Wi-Fi at these hospitals for a three-month period. However, it is proposed that implementation will be done temporarily, through remote bandwidth-only service, using the existing ISPs at the COVID-19 hospital locations. These COVID-19 designated hospitals will return to the pool of public health institutions and allocated when the risk associated with COVID-19 subsides to a level to allow on-site work.

#### 4.1.5 Future Plans

The full and current list of all TTWiFi sites is presented in Appendix II. Contract signing is imminent for all transportation hubs and national libraries. Implementation is to continue under the scheduled timeframes shown in Figure 1 and Table 2, with an overall end date of April 2021. The implementation approach will be adjusted if necessary, based on lessons learnt from previous sites.

Simultaneously, planning will be finalised for the public health institutions. This includes finalising scope and agreements among all parties. Particular attention will be paid to initiating the contract negotiation phase as expeditiously as possible for any additional upcoming sites.

One major external risk identified is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with both local and global impacts. As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, Wi-Fi will be implemented on a case-by-case basis and adjustments made to the schedules, based on inputs from the relevant stakeholders.

## 4.2 Persons with Disabilities Initiative Caribbean Video Assistance Service Pilot Project

#### **4.2.1 Project Objective**

The objectives of the PwD initiative are to:

- i. ensure that persons with disabilities (PwDs) have access to basic telecommunications mobile services.
- ii. make ICTs more affordable to PwDs.
- iii. reduce the digital divide by promoting digital inclusion of PwDs.
- enhance quality of life by enabling those with disabilities to participate more fully in society at school, work and in civic life.
- v. enable independent living for PwDs.

The Caribbean Video Assistance Service (CVAS) is a highly complementary service to the PwD initiative. The CVAS pilot project will be implemented in tandem with the PwD initiative, which was officially launched in February 2020 but delayed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

CVAS is a collaboration between the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and VTCSecure. VTCSecure is a global leader in communication access for PwDs and provides secure on-demand video, voice and text call-centre services. The Authority will partially fund the introduction of CVAS in Trinidad and Tobago for the blind and deaf community. Participants will be invited to register to use the service in order to resolve any issues arising over the first weeks of operation.

#### 4.2.2 Project Description

The PWD initiative aims to subsidise the cost of mobile devices with assistive technologies for the visually impaired and/or the hearing impaired communities. The amount of the subsidy is equivalent to 90% of the first TT\$600 of the cost of the device plus VAT, i.e., TT\$540 plus VAT.

CVAS aims to enable the deaf, hard of hearing and/or speech impaired, sign language users not only to call each other and communicate directly but also to speak with agents (sign language interpreters) who can relay conversations between them and hearing persons. An innovation of CVAS is that not only will it provide the usual video relay service (VRS) but, as a result of the technological innovation inherent in the platform, it will also enable video assistance for the blind or the visually impaired. CVAS agents will aid blind users by enabling them to resolve issues for which they need the help of a sighted person.

#### **4.2.3 Implementation Progress**

Table 3 gives the number of authorisation letters issued and pending collection as at June 2020.

Total Target Participants (Pilot Phase)	100
Authorisation letters issued	16
Authorisation letters Pending collection	2
Total Participants	18

A database of target participants for the PwD project was generated from September 2019 to January 2020. Potential candidates were nominated by local non-governmental agencies (NGOs), as well as through collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) and other stakeholders. The full list of partner agencies is presented in Appendix III.

On February 3, 2020, the pilot phase of the initiative was launched, with a target goal of 100 participants within the first three months. However, all appointments were postponed during the period March 6 to June 7, 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The pilot phase was thus extended into September 2020 and will move directly into full implementation. Currently, continuous correspondence and networking are being sustained throughout the pilot phase, as other agencies had been contacted to promote awareness of the PwD initiative.

The scope of the project is being frequently assessed in order to optimise uptake by qualifying participants. Steps have been taken to bridge any communication gaps with the PwDs. As such, the Authority, in collaboration with the MSDFS, trained frontline staff of the Authority as well as the retailers of the assistive devices, to enable them to properly engage with the PwDs. A sign language video was also prepared, targeting the hearingimpaired participants. Additionally, an on-demand shuttle service between the Authority's h ead office and the bus route was coordinated to facilitate persons using public transportation.

As at June 2020, 18 authorisation letters have been generated, of which 16 were issued to qualifying participants to allow receipt of the subsidies from the mobile service providers.

Alongside the PwD initiative, the pilot for the CTU's CVAS initiative for the deaf and blind community is in train. This is the first time a service such as this has been offered in the Caribbean. Much preparatory work was done over several months, leading up to the engagement and training of agents from April 2020 to May 2020. Beta testing, with the invited deaf and blind testers, commenced in May 2020.

#### **4.2.4 Future Plans**

Project outreach will continue with constant networking with participants and partner agencies. The eligibility criteria will be frequently assessed and adjusted to optimise the project impact, by the inclusion of additional GoRTT grants as part of the qualifying criteria for the subsidy, thereby expanding the pool of potential participants.

Advertising will be increased as the project moves from the pilot phase into full implementation. The project will seek the most effective methods for appropriate marketing and communications to the intended PwDs. This includes plans to produce a professional sign language video featuring well-known figures in the visually impaired and hearing impaired communities. This step is intended to encourage participants and showcase the validity of the project.

As numbers increase, awareness campaigns will be launched to promote the project, and registration will be expanded beyond the Authority's head office, in strategically accessible locations. This will include Tobago and remote areas in Trinidad.

One major external risk identified is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with both local and global impacts. As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, plans and activities involving physical contact, including the scheduling of appointments, will be approached on a case-by-case basis and adjustments made based on inputs from stakeholders. In addition, the Authority intends to launch an online platform via which qualifying candidates can apply for the subsidy.

The implementation of CVAS is highly dependent on the quality of Internet connectivity provided to its users and the agents, who are located throughout the country. Since both agents and users are served by different ISPs, they may be subject to different quality of service levels. The COVID-19 restrictions, which contributed to a significant increase in Internet usage and degradation of Internet services, presented a major challenge to the delivery of this highly beneficial service. As a result, the beta testing mode continued into June 2020, longer than originally planned. CVAS is being comprehensively tested to ensure it can be efficiently launched to the deaf and blind communities.

The CTU and its partners are pleased with the progress made in implementing the service thus far. In addition, its users have taken advantage of accessing the subsidised mobile devices with assistive technologies currently being offered to the hearing impaired and/or visually impaired communities by the Authority.

# 5.0 Proposed Universal Service Projects for the Period July 2020 — June 2022

Table 4 lists the proposed universal service projects which the Authority intends to pursue during the period July 2020 to June 2022.

No.	Project Name	Type of Initiative	Overall Budget <sup>6</sup> (TT\$)	Proposed Start	Proposed Finish
1	Provision of ICT-enabled devices and Internet connectivity access service for three months to students in Trinidad and Tobago		\$14,892,200	September 2020	November 2020
2	Establishment of five community- based ICT access centres in Trinidad and Tobago		\$6,000,000	November 2020	July 2021
3	Free public mobile Wi-Fi in buses, water taxis and inter-island ferries operating within Trinidad and Tobago	<b>C i i 1</b>	To be determined	February 2021	August 2021
4	Broadband Internet access infrastructure project — Brasso Venado/St. John's Parish		To be determined	January 2021	March 2022

#### Table 4. Proposed universal service projects — July 2020 to June 2022

## **5.1 Provision of ICT-Enabled Devices and Internet Connectivity Access** Service to Students in Trinidad and Tobago

## **5.1.1 Project Objective**

This project aims to fund the procurement and provision, through service providers, of 10,000 tablet devices and SIM cards, together with mobile Internet packages, to public schools, via the Ministry of Education (MoE). The Authority intends to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the MoE in October 2020, for the provision of the ICT-enabled devices

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Overall budget figures are value added tax (VAT) exclusive.

and Internet access service to underserved students in Trinidad and Tobago for a period of three months.

#### **5.1.2 Project Description**

GoRTT has instructed that all schools be closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of this development, the MoE has pressed ahead with ensuring all public school students have access to education/classes via the online platforms and media by, inter alia, provisioning ICTenabled devices and Internet access service to underserved students.

Acting in accordance with the Regulations, the Authority has established a mandatory universal service initiative to provide ICT-enabled devices and Internet connectivity to students most in need. The Authority has engaged the mobile service providers in procuring 10,000 tablet devices and SIM cards together with mobile Internet packages to public schools, via the MoE. The provision of the tablet devices is scheduled to be distributed by the end of November 2020.

# **5.2 Establishment of Five Community-based ICT Access Centres in Trinidad and Tobago**

#### 5.2.1 Project Objective

This project aims to establish five ICT access centres in the following underserved areas: Fifth Company, Lopinot, Moruga, Roxborough and Toco.

#### **5.2.2 Project Description**

The Authority proposes to embark on a contractual universal service initiative aimed at establishing the ICT access centres. These community-based centres will be located in Fifth Company, Lopinot, Moruga, Roxborough and Toco.

The initiative will improve the existing modes of Internet access in these targeted rural communities. The centres will be configured to host an Internet café/computer lab, an ICT-enabled classroom — subject to available space at the location — and free Wi-Fi throughout

the centre. The Ministry of Public Administration intends to enhance existing community centres within these areas and transform them into the ICT-access centres.

Upon completion, residents in these target communities will have:

- i. access to information and knowledge resources via the Internet.
- ii. access to ICT equipment (connected to the Internet) via a cyber-café.
- iii. free wireless Internet access based on a bring your own device (BYOD) concept.
- iv. access to ICT knowledge and vocational training via a community-centred training curriculum.

## 5.3 Free Public Mobile Wi-Fi in Buses, Water Taxis and Inter-Island Ferries Operating within Trinidad and Tobago

#### **5.3.1 Project Objective**

This project aims to provide free public mobile Wi-Fi service in the following modes of transportation: PTSC buses, water taxis and inter-island ferries that operate throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

#### **5.3.2 Project Description**

This Wi-Fi initiative seeks to leverage the competitive ICT and telecommunications environment to facilitate a platform for increasing productivity via access to the Internet, as well as enhanced engagement between citizens and GoRTT, in their daily lives.

The initiative will operate in tandem with the existing modes of Internet access and access to online services provided by GoRTT's National Free Wi-Fi initiative and ISPs.

Considering the foregoing, the Authority proposes to embark on a contractual universal service initiative aimed at making Wi-Fi accessible on PTSC buses, water taxis and the inter-island ferries. Upon completion, commuters who utilise these modes of transport will have Internet access service on their smartphones, tablets and/or laptops. This can allow for an early start to the workday and a means of relaxation at the end of it.

The advantages and benefits of this service include: full access to government online services, remote working capabilities, improved productivity, online bill payment and applications, and ease of access to information that can facilitate educational pursuits or provide entertainment.

#### 5.4 Broadband Internet Access Infrastructure Project

#### 5.4.1 Project Objective

This project aims to deploy telecommunications access infrastructure that will facilitate the provision of broadband Internet access service in two specified underserved areas, one in Trinidad and the other in Tobago.

These target areas are:

- Brasso Venado and the neighbouring village of Los Atajos in Trinidad.
- villages in the Parish of St. John, Tobago.

#### **5.4.2 Project Description**

The last digital divide survey conducted by the Authority was completed in 2013. The results revealed that there are many underserved and unserved communities in Trinidad and Tobago with respect to ICT availability, access and affordability. The survey showed that all these locations formed part of the access gap and, based upon current data from service providers, still are unserved and underserved.

The Authority, therefore, proposes to embark on a contractual universal service initiative aimed at making telecommunications access infrastructure and broadband Internet services available to identified underserved/unserved areas in Trinidad and Tobago. The initiative will commence with two geographically remote areas, one in Trinidad and the other in Tobago, with the ultimate goal of bridging the digital divide throughout the nation.

Upon completion, residents of these communities will be able to subscribe to broadband Internet access service commonly available in well-served areas. The advantages of this service include full access to government online services, remote working capabilities, improved productivity, online bill payment and applications, ease of access to information that can facilitate educational pursuits, provide entertainment and other social benefits.

# Appendix I: Proposed Budget for the Current and Upcoming Universal Service Projects

No.	Project Name	Type of Initiative	Total Budget (TT\$)
	National free Wi-Fi Initiative (TTWiFi):	Mandatory	
	- Transportation hubs <sup>7</sup>		\$3,651,669
1	- National libraries <sup>8</sup>		\$4,449,329
	- COVID-19 hospitals9		\$113,964
	- Health institutions		To be determined
2	Persons with Disabilities Initiative	Mandatory	\$3,834,000
3	Caribbean Video Assistance Software (CVAS)	Mandatory	\$201,000
4	Provision of ICT-enabled devices and Internet connectivity access service for three months to students in Trinidad and Tobago	Mandatory	\$14,892,000
5	Establishment of Five (5) Community-based ICT Access Centres in Trinidad and Tobago	Contractual	\$6,000,000
6	Free public mobile Wi-Fi in buses, water taxis and inter-island ferries operating within Trinidad and Tobago	Contractual	To be determined
7	Broadband Internet access infrastructure project — Brasso Venado/St. John's Parish	Contractual	To be determined

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Transportation hubs total budget figure includes operating expenditure for a three-year period and are value added tax (VAT) exclusive.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> National libraries total budget figure includes operating expenditure for a three-year period and are value added tax (VAT) exclusive.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> COVID-19 designated hospitals total budget figure includes operating expenditure for a three-month period and are value added tax (VAT) exclusive.

# Appendix II: TTWiFi Site Location Listing

# Transportation Hubs (11)

1. PTSC, Chaguanas	5. PTSC, San Fernando	9. PATT, Trinidad & Tobago Inter-Island Transportation Co. Ltd, - Scarborough
2. PTSC, Curepe	6. PTSC, San Juan	10. NIDCO Water Taxi Service Terminal, Port of Spain
3. PTSC, Point Fortin	7. PTSC, Sangre Grande	11. NIDCO Water Taxi Service Terminal, San Fernando
4. PTSC, Port of Spain - South Quay	8. PATT, Trinidad & Tobago Inter-Island Transportation Co. Ltd, - Port of Spain	

# National Public Libraries (16)

1. Arima Public Library	11. Rio Claro Public Library
2. Carnegie Lending Library	12. Roxborough Public Library
3. Chaguanas Public Library	13. Sangre Grande Public Library
4. Charlotteville Public Library	14. Scarborough Public Library
5. Couva Public Library	15. Siparia Public Library
6. Maloney Public Library	16. Tunapuna Public Library
7. Mayaro Public Library	
8. Moruga Public Library	
9. Point Fortin Public Library	
10. Port of Spain Public Library	

# Public Health Institutions (133)

1. Aranguez Health Centre	46. George Street Health Centre	91. Point Fortin Extended Health Centre
2. Arima District Health Facility	47. Golden Lane Outreach Centre	92. Point Fortin Health Centre
3. Arima General Hospital	48. Gran Couva Health Centre	93. Point Fortin Hospital
4. Arouca Health Centre	49. Grande Riviere Health Centre	94. Point Fortin Hospital (New)
5. Barataria Health Centre	50. Granville Health Centre	95. Port of Spain General Hospital
6. Barataria Wellness Centre	51. Guapo Health Centre	96. Princes Town District Health Facility
7. Belle Garden Health Centre	52. Guayaguayare Health Centre	97. Rio Claro Health Centre
8. Bethel Health Centre	53. Icacos Health Centre	98. Rochard Douglas Health Centre
9. Biche Health Centre	54. Indian Walk Health Centre	99. Roxborough Health Centre, Walk-In-Clinic & Hyperbaric Chamber
10. Black Rock Outreach Centre	55. La Brea Health Centre	100. Roxborough Hospital (New/Under Construction)
11. Blanchisseuse Health Centre	56. La Horquetta Health Centre	101. Roy Joseph Health Centre
12. Bloody Bay Outreach Centre	57. La Romaine Health Centre	102. San Fernando General - A&E, Clinic
13. Brasso Seco Health Centre	58. Lanse Fourmi Outreach Centre	103. San Fernando Teaching Hospital Clinics
14. Brothers Road Health Centre	59. Las Cuevas Health Centre	104. San Juan Health Centre
15. Buccoo Health Centre	60. Las Lomas Health Centre	105. San Rafael Health Centre
16. Canaan Health Centre & Walk-In- Clinic	61. Lengua Health Centre	106. Sangre Grande Enhanced Health Centre
17. Carenage Health Centre	62. Les Coteaux Health Centre	107. Sangre Grande Health Centre
18. Carenage Wellness Centre	63. Macoya Health Centre	108. Sangre Grande Hospital
19. Castara Health Centre	64. Maloney Health Centre	109. Sans Souci Health Centre
20. Caura Hospital	65. Manzanilla Health Centre	110. Santa Cruz Health Centre
21. Cedros Health Centre	66. Marabella Health Centre	111. Scarborough General Hospital
22. Chaguanas District Health Facility	67. Maracas/St Joseph Health Centre	112. Scarborough Health Centre, Walk-In-Clinic & Dialysis Centre
23. Chaguanas Health Centre	68. Maraval Health Centre	113. Siparia District Health Facility
24. Charlotteville Health Centre	69. Mason Hall Health Centre	114. South Oropouche Health Centre
25. Chatham Health Centre	70. Matelot Health Centre	115. Speyside Health Centre
26. Scarborough Child & Adolescent Centre - Mental Health	71. Matura Health Centre	116. St Ann's Psychiatric Hospital
27. Child Guidance Clinic	72. Mayaro District Health Facility	117. St James District Health Facility
28. Claxton Bay Health Centre	73. Moriah Health Centre	118. St James Medical Complex
	74. Moriah Health Centre	
29. Coryal Health Centre	(New/Under Construction)	119. St. Helena Health Centre
30. Couva District Health Facility	75. Moruga Health Centre	120. St. Joseph Enhanced Health Centre
31. Couva Extended Care Centre 32. Couva Medical Multi-Training	76. Morvant Health Centre	121. Ste Madeleine Health Centre
Facility (CMMF)	77. Mt Hope Women's Hospital	122. Success Laventille Health Centre
33. Cumana Health Centre	78. Mt. St. George Health Centre	123. Tabaquite Health Centre
34. Cumuto Health Centre	79. Scarborough Oncology Services	124. Tacarigua Health Centre
35. Cunupia Health Centre	80. Oxford St. Health Centre	125. Tacarigua Wellnes Centre
36. Debe Health Centre	81. Palo Seco Health Centre	126. Talparo Health Centre
37. Delaford Health Centre	82. Parlatuvier Health Centre	127. Tobago Health Promotion Clinic
38. Diego Martin Health Centre	83. Patience Hill Outreach Centre	128. Toco Health Centre
39. El Socorro Health Centre   40. Eric Williams Medical Sciences   Complex (EWMSC)	84. Pembroke Health Centre 85. Pembroke Street Mental Health	129. Todd's Road Health Centre
Complex (EWMSC)	and Wellness	130. Upper Laventille Health Centre
41. Erin Health Centre	86. Penal Health Centre	131. Valencia Health Centre
42. Flanagin Town Health Centre	87. Penal Rock Road Health Centre	132. Williamsville Health Centre
43. Freeport Health Centre	88. Petit Valley Health Centre	133. Woodbrook Health Centre
44. Fyzabad Health Centre	89. Pleasantville Health Centre	
45. Gasparillo Health Centre	90. Plymouth Health Centre	

# COVID-19 Designated Hospitals (3)

1.	Arima General Hospital
2.	Caura Hospital
3.	Couva Hospital and Multi-Training Facility

Appendix III: Persons with Disabilities Initiative — Partner Agencies

1.	Advocates for the Blind and Visually Impaired
2.	Audrey Jeffers School for the Deaf
3.	Caribbean Sign Language Centre
4.	Cascade School for the Deaf
5.	Deaf Pioneers Life Centre
6.	Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) - Trinidad and Tobago
7.	National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD)
8.	Persons Associated with Visual Impairment (PAVI)
9.	Trinidad and Tobago Association for Differently Abled Persons (TNT ADAP)
10.	Trinidad and Tobago Association for the Hearing Impaired
11.	Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association
12.	Voice of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Trinidad and Tobago
13.	We Care Deaf Support Network