



Thursday, 15 October, 2020

Priority: **HIGH**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES REACHES OUT TO CHASE VILLAGE FAMILY AFFECTED BY MINI TORNADO**

Mere hours after the rooftops of their homes were blown off after a mini tornado passed through the Chase Village area on Wednesday afternoon, staff of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services have reached out to render immediate disaster relief assistance to the affected families. Among those most affected was the family of six. Ms Beharry Crowe who lives with her husband, three children and nephew, indicated that the entire family is still traumatized by the incident, and is now grateful for any assistance provided, since most of their furniture and appliances, school supplies and food supplies were all destroyed.

The heavy wind and rains resulted in damage to the roofs of three homes, and several houses in the area. Following a visit by the Disaster Management Unit of the Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Regional Corporation, it was disclosed that at least nineteen (19) families were affected and some were without shelter. Officers attached to the National Social Development Programme (NSDP) and National Family Services Division of the Ministry of Social Development visited the family of six, as well as other affected persons and conducted assessments in order to provide the necessary disaster relief assistance.

According to Director of the NSDP, Patricia De Leon Henry, “My heart goes out to this family and we are doing everything that we can to help them feel a sense of comfort and encouragement at this time”. According to De Leon-Henry: “One of the children is still distressed from the incident and we will be providing counselling support to the family”. She also indicated that the family was assessed and will be recommended for the housing repairs grant which amounts to a maximum of \$20,000 for persons who were affected by a disaster. She also indicated that the family will be eligible for temporary food support and the household assistance grant from the Ministry, to assist in the replacement of household items. The Ministry is also prepared to assist with replacing any school items which were lost as a result of the incident.

While the Ministry is unable to replace all that has been lost at this time, it remains committed to assisting in restoring some level of normalcy to all the affected families. Persons may contact the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services’ Hotline at 800-1MSD or any of our Social Welfare District offices for further information and assistance.

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*Officers attached to the National Social Development Programme conduct assessments in Chase Village for families affected by the mini tornado.*



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*Officers attached to the National Social Development Programme speak to families affected by the mini tornado in Chase Village.*