



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

Helping...Empowering...Transforming lives, Social Development supports ODPM Caravan

Port-of-Spain --- As the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services continues to collaborate and partner with organisations to help, empower and transform lives, several of its grants, programmes and services were showcased at the ‘National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Month Public Education Caravan’, hosted by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) at the Brian Lara Promenade, earlier today, Friday May 6th 2022.

In commemoration of National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Month (NDPPM) 2022, the National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Multi-Sectoral Committee (NDPPMC) planned a day full of informative, fun and educational activities, geared towards encouraging individuals, communities, the public and private sectors and NGOs to become better prepared by firstly, understanding their risks and then taking action to prevent or mitigate these risks. As such, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was one of several state institutions and peer agencies invited by the ODPM to promote its programs, grants and services. Other booth holders included the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, Ministry of Sport and Community Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Works and Transport and various divisions of the Ministry of National Security.

In keeping with the Ministry’s thrust to *build resilience* across families and communities, so that the most vulnerable are enabled to withstand economic and other types of shocks, the Ministry took the opportunity to showcase its Minor House Repair, Sanitary Plumbing and House Wiring Assistance facilities, which are some of the core grants offered under its *National Social Development Programme (NSDP)*. This was complemented by information about the Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) Programme, which is also promoted under the NSDP, and supports the development of entrepreneurs who cannot qualify for assistance at the established financial institutions. Several persons were also eager to access information about the Food Support Programme and the Public Assistance Grant.

Representatives from the Ministry's National Family Services Division were on hand to provide critical information to address issues such as proper parenting, coping with stress, domestic violence, as well as, counselling and psycho-social support services for individuals and families in crisis. A National Family Services Social Worker noted that clients need more than a grant, they often need counselling during challenging times.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MSDFS Caravan would have been roving across several communities to share information on accessing social grants and services. The Ministry was therefore pleased to resume this outreach initiative.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services congratulates the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) on the success of this initiative and remains committed to helping, empowering and transforming the lives of all persons.

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The Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds, Minister of National Security visits the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services' information booth



Event attendee learns more information on the Ministry's various grants and services



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Staff of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services pose by the Ministry's information booth