



December 22, 2022

Priority: **HIGH**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Social Development distributes
emergency food support cards to flood victims**

Port of Spain--- On December 20, 2022, a total of one hundred and twenty-six (126) emergency food support cards were distributed to households affected by flooding in the Bamboo area as a result of rainfall experienced within the past month. This distribution took place at a community space in Bamboo #1 between 10:00AM and 2:00PM.

The Ministry advises that all recipients who were not present at the time of distribution will be contacted with information on distribution dates and times. To date, the Ministry received one-hundred and ninety-one (191) submissions for food support for the Bamboo area.

The food support cards valued at \$550.00, are given to households where food items were destroyed, and seeks to ensure that vulnerable families who are experiencing hardship and are unable to fully provide for the nutritional needs of their respective families are provided with the necessary support. Persons should note that these cards will be valid until January 31st, 2023.

The process for collection and distribution involves the Ministry's teams working in collaboration with the Disaster Management Unit (DMU) and other stakeholders to assess and validate all claims being made in order to have these claims processed quickly. Persons making claims must have some form of National Identification and, evidence of their loss. The loss must be validated by the DMU or the officers in the field from the Ministry. Once this process is complete, recipients are called and informed of their collection dates and time.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) continues to partner with the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government and the Disaster Management Units attached to the Regional Corporations to provide support and flood relief to affected households. Persons who were not yet seen by the DMU can log on to our Critical Incident Online Dashboard at <https://grants.social.gov.tt/> and complete the Disaster Relief form and submit this online or they can visit the nearest Social Welfare Office with their information and have an officer of the Social Welfare Division complete the form and have it submitted.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is pleased to be able to provide this support to those most in need as it continues to meet its mandate of helping, empowering, and

transforming lives. For further information on the Disaster Relief Grant, persons may contact the Ministry's toll free number at 800-1MSD (1673) or visit the Ministry's social media pages.

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For more information:

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Staff of the Ministry staff distribute emergency food support cards to households affected by flooding in the Bamboo on December 20, 2022.