



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 05 December 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

UPDATE #2 ON FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services continues to partner with the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government to support the relief efforts to many households affected by flooding as a result of inclement weather last week. Field Officers were out over the weekend, with the Disaster Management Units (DMU) of the municipal corporations, to take applications and assess the needs of the persons impacted negatively. Social Workers attached to the National Family Services Division (NFSD) are also in the field and are ready to provide counselling and psychosocial support to individuals and families, to help them cope with and manage stress during this time.

At present, the Ministry's teams are working in collaboration with the DMU at community facilities located in Real Spring, Bamboo No 2, Mafeking, Woodland and Barrackpore. They are also doing door to door surveillance with the DMU. Validation of loss is being undertaken in the field, making processing and payments of claims easier for the MSDFS. The Ministry is using the ARCGIS system to assess and validate all claims being made in order to have these claims processed quickly. This GIS system captures photographs of actual losses. Persons making claims must have some form of National Identification, evidence of their loss. The loss must be validated by the DMU or the officers in the field from the Ministry. It is noted that persons eligible to make claims through their insurance companies, are not eligible for the disaster relief grant.

To date, approximately **3246** applications have been received for processing by a special unit within the National Social Development Programme, using a different process flow from the past. This will see payments being made within a shorter period (two weeks). The Ministry has added additional resources to support the effort in the field and augmented the administrative processing staff who are managing the online systems.

Several Constituencies, through their Members of Parliament and Councilors have received emergency Food Support for their constituents impacted. These include, Toco/Sangre Grande, Cumuto/Manzanilla, Lopinot/Bon Air West, Fyzabad, Arouca/Maloney, San Fernando East,

Tunapuna D'Abadie/O'Meara, Arima, Naparima, Barataria/San Juan.

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 has also set up a special unit with the National Social Development Programme to fast track processing of claims.

DISASTER RELIEF GRANTS include:

- Temporary Food Support - Valued at \$550 will be given where food items were destroyed.
- Household Items: Up to \$10,000.00
 - These items include:

Item	Cost \$
○ Refrigerators	4,000.00
○ Stove	2,000.00
○ Bed (with Mattress)	1,000.00
○ Living Room Sets	3,500.00
○ Mattresses	1,000.00
○ Dining Room Sets	3,500.00
○ Chest of Drawers	2,000.00
○ Washing Machine	3,500.00 (Not Dryers)
○ Wardrobe	3,000.00
○ Kitchen Cupboards	2,000.00
- Clothing Grant: \$1,000.00 per person
- School Supplies Grant
 - Primary School - \$700.00 per student
 - Secondary School - \$1,000.00 per student
- Rental Assistance Grant – Maximum of \$2,500 per month for the period of 3months
- Minor House Repairs - Up to \$20,000.00 in materials only to effect repairs/upgrades in the event of a disaster.
- Sanitary Plumbing Assistance - Up to \$15,000 in materials only.

Persons needing help to cope may contact the National Family Services Division at 623-2608, or call the Toll Free Suicide Prevention Hotline at 800 – COPE (2673), for urgent counselling services over the phone.

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For more information:

Communications Unit

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

(868) 623-2608; Ext 5405/5424/5432