



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minister Cox says Trinidad and Tobago is poised for a Promising Future with the Integration of Adaptive Social Protection Systems to Support the Vulnerable

Bridgetown, Barbados- Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services says the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the Ministry's ability to adapt its response to vulnerable groups by vertically expanding several existing programmes and temporarily increasing the quantum of grants. Minister Cox was speaking at the XI Ministerial Forum for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean which is being held in Bridgetown Barbados from October 31st to November 1st, 2024.

In her presentation under the theme 'Adaptive Social Protection Systems for Vulnerable Populations', Minister Cox expressed the Government's support of steps being taken across the region to deepen exchanges among countries on poverty reduction and enhancing social policies and programmes to navigate uncertainties in these times.

Minister Cox emphasised Trinidad and Tobago's Social Protection Eco-system which spans across thirteen (13) Government Ministries and Agencies and several non- governmental institutions. She says this allows for a multi-pronged collaborative approach which results in the delivery of assistance to the vulnerable across one hundred and twenty (120) social protection programmes, which are aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the country's National Development Strategy, Vision 2030.

She says that lessons learnt from the pandemic allowed the Government to put systems in place to reduce the intensity of the impact of future shocks as in cases of natural disasters, such as flooding. The expansion of the social protection systems also includes temporary grants in cases of disaster relief, flood grants to farmers as well as salary relief and income support grants and emergency loans for small and micro enterprises.

Minister Cox also alluded to a number of other steps that the Government is taking, such as the Social Indicator Registry, which will allow for real time access to information on the vulnerable thereby allowing rapid response to their needs. She also pointed to plans for the Social Services Management System and other planned technologies including the Digital Wallet, Social Benefits Wallet, National Electronic ID (E-ID) and Interoperability Project which all point to a very promising future for Trinidad and Tobago.

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Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services at the XI Ministerial Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean



Minister Cox during discussions at the XI Ministerial Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean. Sitting behind to her right is Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Lenor Baptiste-Simmons.