



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Communications Unit

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday March 24, 2025

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
Distributes \$2.5 Million in SEED and Disaster Relief Grants

Port of Spain, March 24, 2025 -The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting vulnerable citizens through the distribution of \$2.5 million in grants under the Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) Programme and the Disaster Relief Programme.

At the distribution ceremony which was held today, Monday March 24, 2025 at the Auditorium Hall, San Fernando City Corporation, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, highlighted the Government's ongoing efforts to reduce poverty, strengthen families, and promote self-sufficiency. In her feature address, Minister Cox underscored the significance of the initiative and the Government's dedication to empowering those in need.

"This event is more than a ceremony. It is a demonstration of the Government's pledge to support those who are willing to uplift themselves. We remain committed to providing tangible and meaningful assistance to those most in need and most deserving," Minister Cox stated.

Through the SEED Programme, fifty-one (51) recipients received grants to either start or expand their small businesses. This initiative continues to provide individuals with the resources needed to achieve financial independence, while contributing to economic growth and community development. Minister Cox commended the recipients for their resilience and determination, emphasising that entrepreneurship plays a vital role in strengthening the social and economic fabric of Trinidad and Tobago.

Additionally, the sum of two million, two hundred and forty-five thousand, seven hundred and ten dollars and ninety cents (\$2,245,710.90) was distributed to one thousand, three hundred and fifteen (1,315) individuals under the Disaster Relief Programme. This financial assistance, which is processed through the National Social Development Programme, will support families affected by natural or man-made disasters, helping them to rebuild their homes and restore their livelihoods. Recognising the urgency of disaster relief, the Ministry has introduced digital advancements to improve the efficiency of application processing and ensure timely assistance to those in need.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to empowering and uplifting citizens through sustainable social programmes. By providing grants and support services, the Ministry continues to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families have access to the resources needed to enhance their quality of life and achieve long-term stability.

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For more information:

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Caption: Minister Cox presents a recipient of the Disaster Relief Grant with her cheque.



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Caption: Minister Cox presents a recipient of the of the SEED Grant with her cheque.



Caption: Lenor Baptiste-Simmons, Permanent Secretary, MSDFS presents a recipient of the SEED Grant with his cheque.



Caption: Minister Cox presents a recipient of the Disaster Relief Grant with her cheque.



Caption: (l-r) Ryan Ramcharan, Permanent Secretary (ag.); Vera Deonanan-Balkaran, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Alderman Patricia Alexis, Deputy Mayor, San Fernando listen intently as Minister Cox delivers the feature address.



Caption: A section of the attendees at the distribution ceremony awaiting their grants.



Caption: Minister Cox with (1-r) Alderman Patricia Alexis, Deputy Mayor San Fernando (2nd from left); Vera Deonan-Balkaran, Deputy Permanent Secretary (3rd from left), Lenor Baptiste-Simmons, Permanent Secretary 7th left); Ryan Ramcharan, Permanent Secretary (ag); Patricia De Leon-Henry, national Director, National Social Development Programme with some of the recipients of the Disaster Relief grant.



Caption: Minister Cox with (l-r) Alderman Patricia Alexis, Deputy Mayor San Fernando; Vera Deonan-Balkaran, Deputy Permanent Secretary 2nd left), Lenor Baptiste-Simmons, Permanent Secretary 7th left); Ryan Ramcharan, Permanent Secretary (ag); Patricia De Leon-Henry, national Director, National Social Development Programme with some of the recipients of the SEED grant.