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SECOND SESSIONS OF THE 12TH PARLIAMENT

FINANCIAL SCRUTINY UNIT

Office of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

***HEAD 78:
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
FAMILY SERVICES
Total Allocation - \$5,270,815,000.00***

Summary of the Ministry's Expenditure, Divisions and Projects.

Publication

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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services for the period 2016-2022. It provides Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Ministry's responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on:

- the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2022;
- the Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2022;
- the Public Sector Investment Programme 2022; and
- the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2020.

Head 78: Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Ministry Overview¹

Minister: Senator The Honorable Minister Donna Cox

Permanent Secretary (Accounting Officer): Mrs. Jacinta Bailey-Sobers

Permanent Secretary: Ms. Sheila Seecharan

Deputy Permanent Secretary: Mrs. June A. Belle

Mission

To lead in the enhancement of lives, with emphasis on the vulnerable, through a network of integrated, effective and accessible social services.

Vision

A dynamic, people-centred organization achieving sustainable human and social development.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services seeks to deliver its mandate in alignment with its Vision and Mission. The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) is the core social sector Ministry with responsibility for coordinating the implementation of Government's social and human development objectives. The MSDFS is mandated with responsibility for addressing

¹ Ministry of Social Development and Family Services website, accessed on August 31, 2021. <http://www.social.gov.tt/about-us-4/>

the social challenges of poverty, social inequality and social exclusion. Particular emphasis is placed on developing and executing programmes and services that protect and assist vulnerable and marginalized groups in society such as women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, the poor/indigent, the socially displaced, ex-prisoners, deportees and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Guided by the tenets 'Helping, Empowering and Transforming Lives', the Ministry seeks to empower its clientele through rehabilitative and skill enhancement initiatives, which promote human prosperity in the context of sustainable development. The MSDFS is also responsible for developing, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating social sector policies and programmes to ensure sustainability, cultural relevance and economic viability.

The major roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services are:

- Serving as a central coordinating body for the social sector with respect to the conduct of research, policy and programme planning and development; and monitoring and evaluation;
- Facilitating networking, information and data gathering and dissemination within the social sector and with external agencies;
- Facilitating networking, information and data gathering and dissemination within the social sector and with external agencies;
- Initiating and operationalizing programmes for subsequent hand over to relevant social sector Ministries;
- Developing systems, strategies and programmes to realize positive attitudes and behaviour in the citizenry;
- Identifying gaps and making recommendations for the drafting and amendment of legislation relevant to the sector;
- Fostering peace, harmony and social justice through programmes such as community mediation;
- Fostering good governance through the promotion of participatory development approaches;
- Delivering social services and providing social support for vulnerable groups, towards sustainable enhancement of their well-being.

The Ministry's seven (7) Strategic/Corporate Objectives according to its core stakeholder groups are as follows:

- Poverty Reduction To reduce the incidence of the poverty in society
- Persons with Disabilities To increase the level of participation of persons with disabilities in society toward the realisation of their full potential
- The Elderly To sustain and enhance the well-being of all elderly persons
- Social Displaced To reduce the number of socially displaced persons
- Substance Abuse To reduce substance abuse in the population
- Research, Policy Monitoring and Evaluation To develop, monitor and evaluate the policy framework for the effective delivery of social services
- Organizational Development To achieve a high performance, customer focused organization that meets its operational and strategic objectives in an efficient and effective way

Responsibilities of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

The responsibilities of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services as stated in the Gazette on September 09, 2020 are as follows²:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adult Education ▪ Ageing Division ▪ Disbursement of funds/ sponsorship ▪ Policy and Monitoring Interdisciplinary ▪ Child Development Centre | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrated Social Services ▪ National Family Services ▪ National Social Development Programme ▪ Senior Citizens Homes ▪ Social Impact Assessment and Review |
|---|---|

² Trinidad Gazette, Accessed August 31, 2021. <http://news.gov.tt/sites/default/files/E-Gazette/Gazette%202020/Gazettes/Gazette%20No.%20158%20of%202020.pdf>

- Social Planning, Development and Monitoring
- Social Policy
- Social Research
- Social Services Delivery and Policy (Change Management, Citizen Engagement, Disability Affairs, Halfway Houses,

NGOs, Poverty Alleviation Policy, Social Displacement, Social Welfare, Support for persons who cannot pay Utilities, Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme Policy)

- Social Services Measurement and Policies

Statutory Board and Other Bodies

There are a number of supporting statutory boards and agencies³ all working in unison to achieve the objectives set by the Ministry's mandate.

- Adoption Boards
- Social Welfare District Boards
- Trinidad and Tobago Association for Retarded Children
- Trinidad and Tobago Association in Aid of Deaf
- Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association

³ Trinidad Gazette, Accessed August 31, 2021. <http://news.gov.tt/sites/default/files/E-Gazette/Gazette%202020/Gazettes/Gazette%20No.%20158%20of%202020.pdf>

Auditor General Report Findings for the Fiscal year 2019

Ref: Auditor General's Report⁴

CONTRACTS

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

3.55 Contract Agreements were not produced for audit examination for six (6) service providers. As at 30th June, 2020 payments made to these service providers totalled \$4,524,420.89.

MONITORING

3.80 Evidence of the Strategic Management and Executive Office (SMEO) monitoring the votes in respect of the COVID-19 expenditure to ensure funds were applied for the purposes intended was not seen.

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

3.91 Contract agreements totalling \$243,512.50 were not produced for two (2) service providers.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS USED FOR PROCESSING OF COVID - 19 GRANTS

3.94 The audit covered the systems used for the processing of grants at the following entities:

- Ministry of Social Development and Family Services: The Income Support and Food Support and for retrenched/terminated/or persons who experienced reduced income for a period not exceeding three (3) months.⁶

⁴ Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year ended September 30, 2020, pg. 105,110,111,112.
<http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor-General-Report-2020.pdf>

- Ministry of Social Development and Family Services: Rental Fee Support for persons experiencing reduced income. Grant of \$2,500 per month for 3 months initially and up to 6 months. Beyond 6 months to be reduced to \$1,500.00 and then \$1,000.00. Rental grant was not to exceed 12 months.

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS)

Income Support and Food Support Grants

3.95 The number of applications for the Food Support grant was 49,433 totalling \$75,632,490.00 and the Income Support grant was 47,685, totalling \$145,467,750.00. A grand total of \$221,100,240.00 for both grants. Payment methods used were as follows:

Automated Clearing House - \$109,748,610.00

Debit Card - \$51,353,880.00

Cheque - \$59,997,750.00

3.96 Analysis of data relating to the Income Support and Food Support Grants revealed the following:

- i. Due to deficiencies in input controls, seventy-five (75) applicants were registered twice. This resulted in seventy-five (75) applicants receiving two payments each for the Food Support Grant and the Income Support Grant. As a consequence, double payments totalling \$330,660.00 were made.
- ii. There was one instance where an applicant received double payment for the income support grant only (person did not get the food support) in the amount of \$3,000.00.
- iii. The criterion for the payments of the Income and Food Support Grants, is that only one payment should be made per household. Evidence was not seen that proper checks were made to determine whether one (1) payment was made per household. In three hundred and twentyfive (325) instances for payments of Income Support Grant and three hundred and eighty-eight (388) instances for the Food Support Grant the same bank account number was used by more than one person.

Payments to these applicants totalled \$2,028,000.00 for the Income Support Grant and \$1,213.290.00 for the Food Support Grant. Due to the lack of monitoring by the Ministry, it could not be determined whether these payments were made to bona fide applicants.

- iv. Six (6) instances were noted where the method of payment was stated as Automatic Clearing House (ACH), however, the bank account numbers of the applicants were not entered in the database. Additionally, there was one applicant who received both grants but there was no name under the name column. This incomplete information indicates a lack of verification of input. Due to incompleteness of the database, there was difficulty in determining whether the monies were actually deposited into the applicants' bank accounts.
- v. There were six (6) Income Support Grant records and twenty (20) food support records where one National ID card number was used by more than one person. This was verified by the Election and Boundaries Commission (EBC). Twenty-six (26) payments totalled \$48,600.00 for both grants. Each person has a unique National ID card number and the database is supposed to indicate upon input if the ID card number was already in the system.

Key Statement from 2020 Standing Finance Committee Debate

During the Standing Finance Committee debate of 2020, the following statement was made by the Minister of Social Development and Family Services, in relation to the emphasis of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services for fiscal year 2020/2021⁵:

“The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is the social sector agency charged the remit of being dynamic and service-driven it is delivery of a multifaceted, responsive and social safety net for all citizens. The Ministry aims to build resilience and sustainability amongst the most vulnerable individuals and households in the country. And this remit is a critical component in Government’s national recovery relief efforts. We understand that the sum allocated to the Ministry is a direct investment of the people of Trinidad and Tobago by a government that is genuinely interested in the holistic development of all. As such, accountability, transparency, equity and efficiency must remain at the heart of all projects, programmes and initiatives. The executive and staff of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remain committed to the revitalization of the social services sector, and the modernized data-centric approach in support of the most at risk and marginalized households and population.”

- Minister of Social Development and Family Services

- Senator the Honourable Donna Cox

⁵ Standing Finance Committee Hansard of Ministry of Social Development and Family Services 16Oct20, Accessed August 31, 2021. Pgs. 189-190. <http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/hh20201016sfc.pdf>

Review of the Public Sector Investment Programme 2021⁶

In fiscal year 2021, a total of \$4.2 million was expended for the provision of facilities and services for vulnerable groups including the differently-abled, socially displaced persons, the elderly, victims of domestic violence and children.

Services to Differently-Abled Persons

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) advanced the development of the scope of works for the electrical, plumbing and civil works for the Development Centre for Persons with Challenges – National Enrichment Centre in Carlsen Field. In addition, the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the hiring of a service provider for the operationalisation of the Facility was revised to include additional services for differently-abled persons.

Establishment of Social Displacement Centres

The MSDFS acquired a property at the corner of Duncan and Independence Square in Port of Spain for the establishment of an Assessment Centre for street dwellers and socially displaced persons. However, the property was deemed to be structurally unsound and therefore was demolished to facilitate the construction of a new Facility. Demolition works at the proposed site were completed in June 2021.

Furthermore, discussions commenced with the TTPS and the Property and Real Estate Division (PRESD) for the acquisition of a property on Abattoir Road, Sea Lots in Port of Spain for the establishment of a facility for street dwellers. A structural integrity report conducted in 2011 by the Ministry of Works and Transport concluded that the property posed a serious safety risk and a recommendation was made for the demolition of the property. The bill of quantities and the scope of works were also completed for the refurbishment of a property at Caparo for the establishment of a transitional housing facility for socially displaced persons.

⁶ Public Sector Investment Programme 2022, pages 56-58. <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-2022.pdf>

Care of the Elderly

In order to improve the safety of homes for vulnerable senior citizens, the MSDFS embarked on a number of initiatives to ensure compliance with the Minimum Criteria for the Operations of Homes for Older Persons in Trinidad and Tobago.

Phase one (1) of the upgrade of the Chaguanas Senior Citizens Home was completed in fiscal 2021 at cost of \$0.3 million. Major refurbishment works completed included civil works, removal and replacement of doors, installation of windows inclusive of insect screens, replacement of defective plumbing fixtures and fittings and installation of cupboards.

Phase two (2) of the refurbishment of the Home included the replacement of the roof and was advanced to 61 percent completion. The upgrade of the Hernandez Place in Arima, which is a residential facility for elderly homeless persons, was completed at a cost of \$0.2 million. The major activities completed included civil works to the structure, refurbishment of the kitchen, installation of air conditioning units and outfitting of the Facility.

Implementation of a Social Mitigation Plan

The MSDFS continued the roll out of the National Social Mitigation Plan (NSMP) which seeks to mitigate the negative social impacts of the economic downturn in Trinidad and Tobago. Among the major achievements included:

- finalisation of a contract for the hiring of a consultant to conduct an assessment of the civil society and the Food Support Programme; and
- commencement of the remodelling of the Tunapuna and Rio Claro Social Services Offices for the establishment of two (2) Social Support and Empowerment (SSE) Units. The SSE units will provide a one stop service for persons seeking relief from economic hardship.

Variation of Appropriation for fiscal year 2021⁷

During fiscal 2020/2021, it was necessary to have a Variation of Appropriation of resources to fund urgent and critical expenditure associated with the provision of Covid-19 relief to September 30, 2021.

04/007/03 – Social Assistance - \$40,000,000

To enable the provision of an income support grant to persons who have experienced reduction or loss of earnings on or after May 1st, 2021, as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions implemented by the State.

⁷ Report of The Standing Finance Committee of the House of Representatives on the Consideration of Proposals for the Supplementation and Variation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2021 Accessed August 25, 2021. Available: <http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p12-s1-H-20210609-SFC-r1.pdf>

The Ministry's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2016 to 2022.

Year ⁸	Total Allocation ⁹	National Budget ¹⁰	Percentage of National Budget
2016	\$ 4,971,668,792.00	\$ 56,573,913,053.00	8.8%
2017	\$ 4,705,021,987.00	\$ 54,883,153,410.00	8.6%
2018	\$ 4,695,656,512.00	\$ 54,211,726,813.00	8.7%
2019	\$ 5,109,037,840.00	\$ 54,581,467,181.00	9.4%
2020	\$5,437,381,261.00	\$ 57,388,076,726.00	9.5%
2021	\$4,990,584,626.00	\$ 57,292,169,264.00	8.7%
2022	\$5,270,815,000.00	\$ 57,917,018,000.00	9.1%

- Total allocation for the Ministry as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated an increase in the allocation to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services **by 0.4%** between the period 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

⁸ For the Fiscal Years 2016-2020, actual figures were used to calculate the Ministry's total allocation. However, estimates were used to determine the Ministry's total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022.

⁹ Total Allocation for the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services= Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund

¹⁰ The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Total Development Programme Consolidated Fund

Where the Ministry spends its money

2022 Estimates of Expenditure¹¹¹²

The budget allocation of **\$5,270,815,000.00** for the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **\$5,253,015,000.00**; and
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme Consolidated Fund in the sum of **\$17,800,000.00**.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure - **\$41,390,114.00**;
- 02 Goods and Services - **\$141,080,059.00**;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases **\$5,859,250.00**;
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies **\$5,019,107,150.00**; and
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards & Similar Bodies **\$45,578,427.00**.

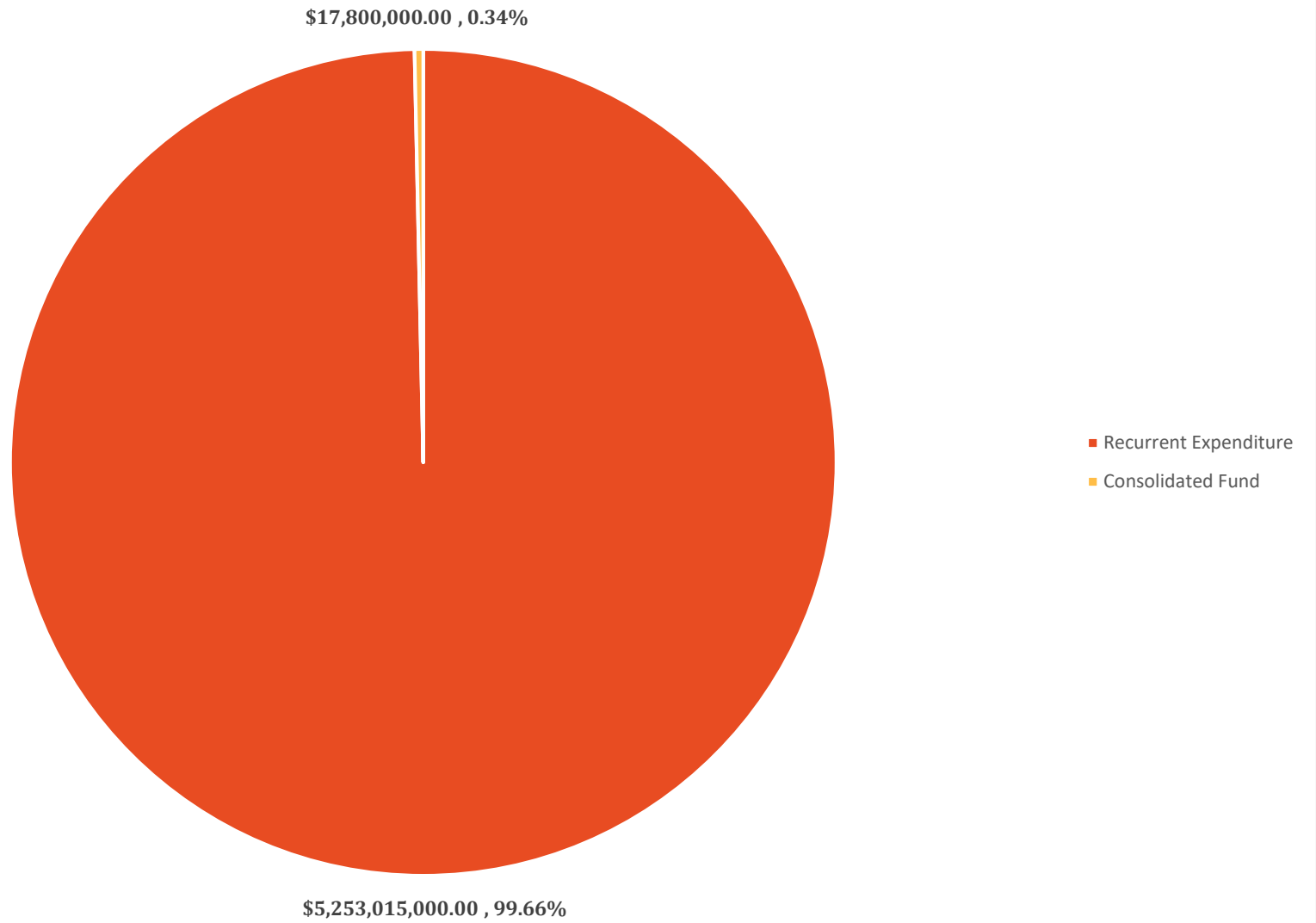
The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services’:

- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is **9.06%**; and
- Development Programme Consolidated Fund allocation as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is **0.71%**

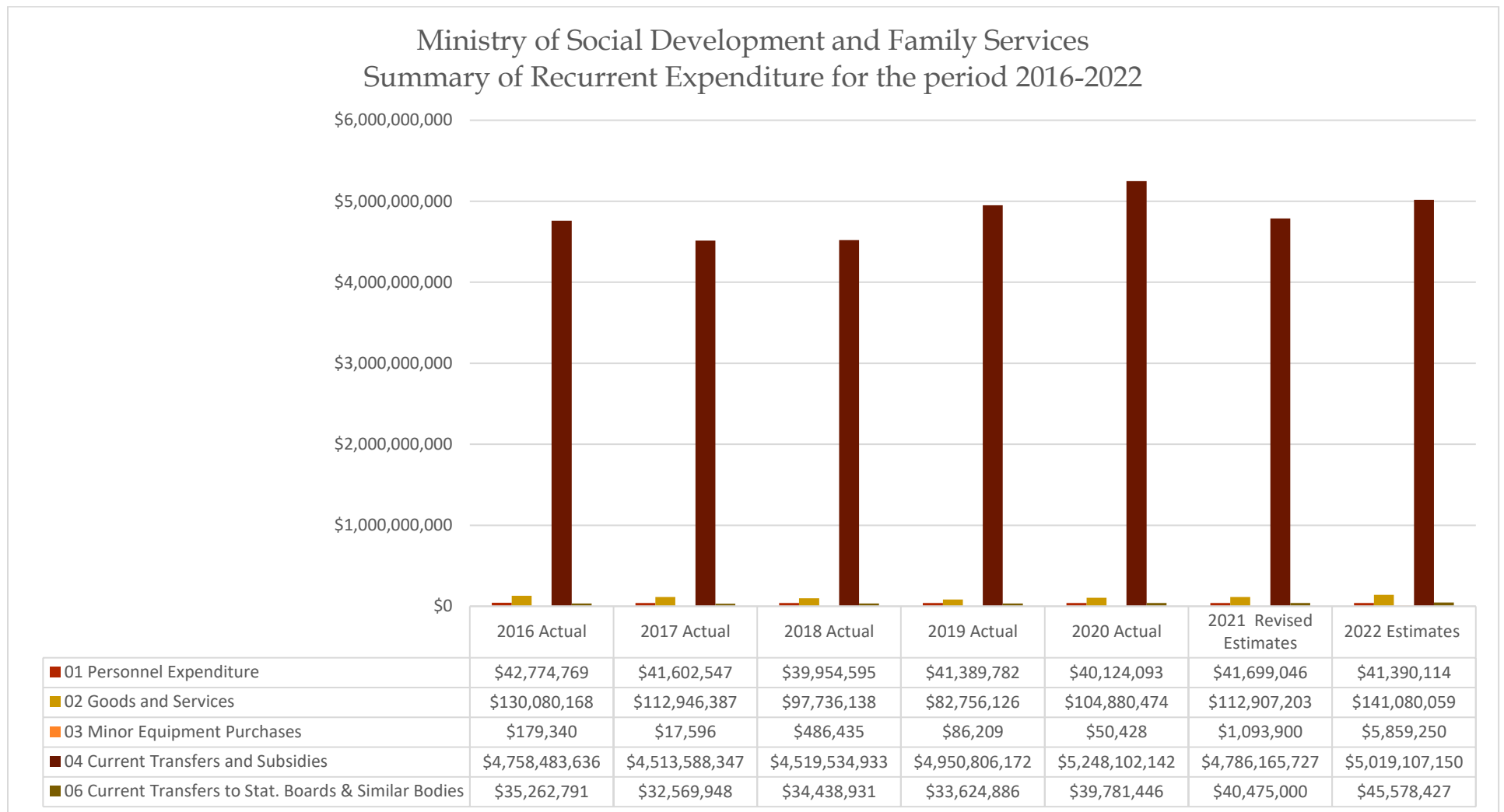
¹¹ Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2022. <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-2021-2022.pdf>

¹² Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2022. <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
Total Allocation -\$5,270,815,000.00



Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2016-2022¹³



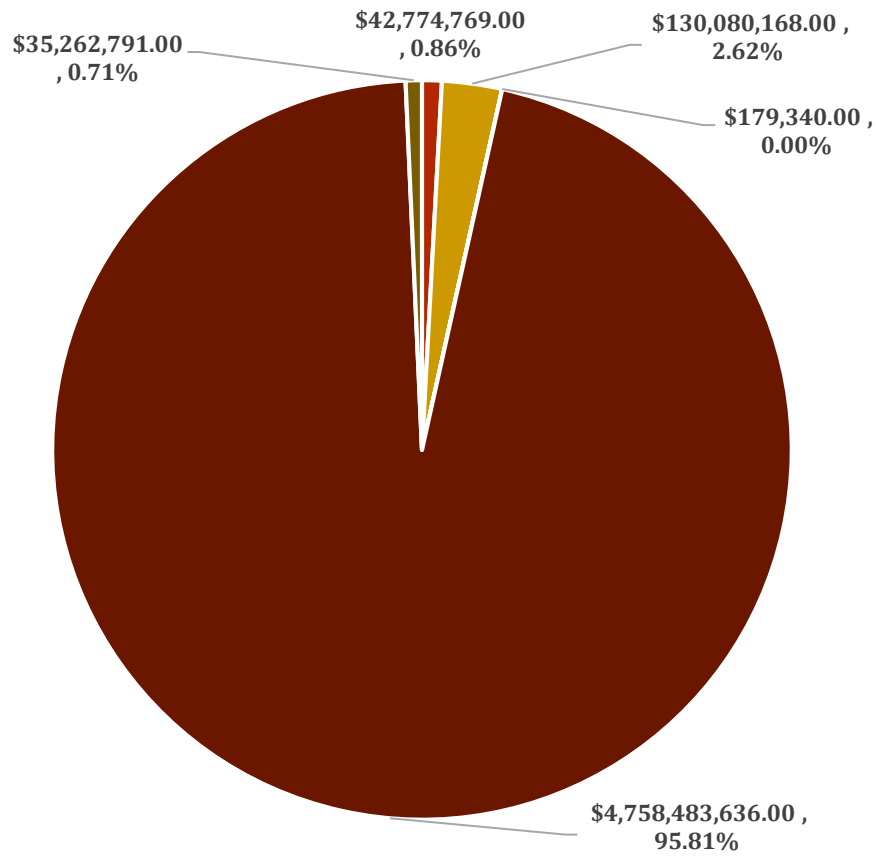
¹³ Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2022. <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-2021-2022.pdf>

Analysis and Summary of Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Ministry for Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, Minor Equipment Purchases, Current Transfers and Subsidies and Current Transfers to Stat. Boards and Similar Bodies.

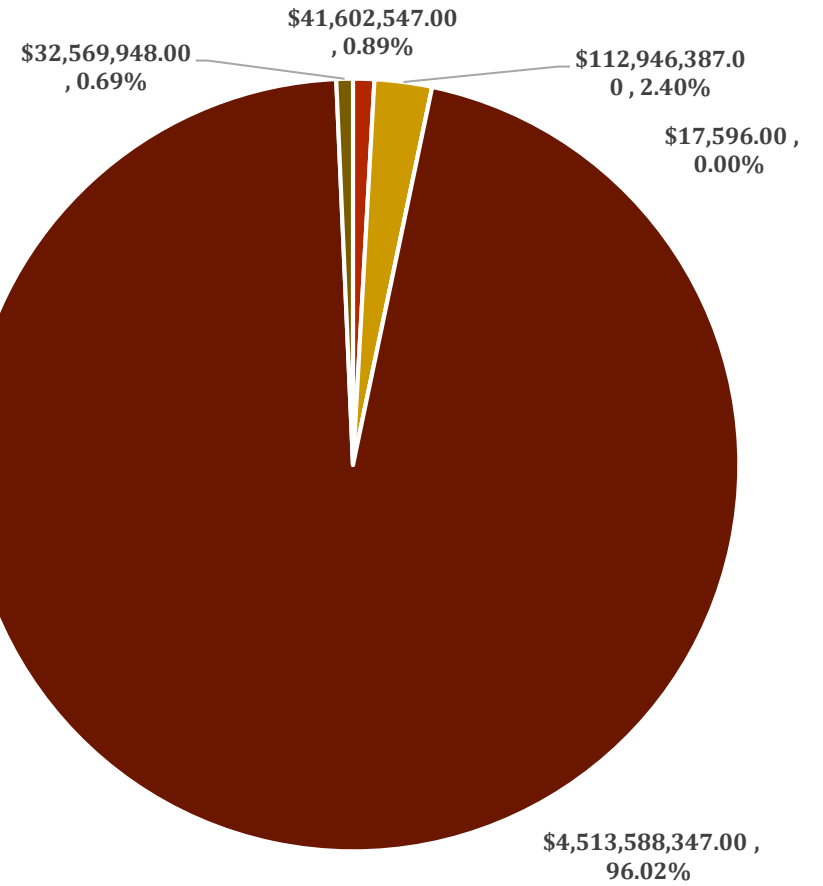
- The Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal year 2021/2022 was estimated **\$5,253,015,000.00** which represents approximately **99.66%** of the total budget allocation of **\$5,270,815,000.00** received by the Ministry for the financial year 2021/2022.
- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal year 2021/2022 increased by **\$270,674,124.00** in comparison to the Revised Estimate for the financial year 2020/2021 figure of **\$4,982,340,876.00**. This represents a **5.43%** increase between the two financial years.
- The largest portion of the allocation has consistently gone to **Current Transfer and Subsidies** for the years 2016-2022. This Sub Head will receive approximately **95.55%** of the total allocation for fiscal year 2021/2022.
- In fiscal year 2021/2022, **Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, and Current Transfers to Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies** will account for **0.79%, 2.69%** and **0.87%** respectively of the Ministry's total recurrent expenditure.
- **Minor Equipment Purchases** has received the **lowest portion** of the Ministry's allocation for the period 2016 to 2022 receiving approximately **0.11%** of the Ministry's total recurrent expenditure for fiscal year 2021/2022.
- The total actual/estimated expenditure for the five (5) sub heads has fluctuated over the seven (7) year period. On average, the Ministry received approximately **\$5,019,516,314.00** over the same period.

2016 Actual- \$4,966,780,704.00



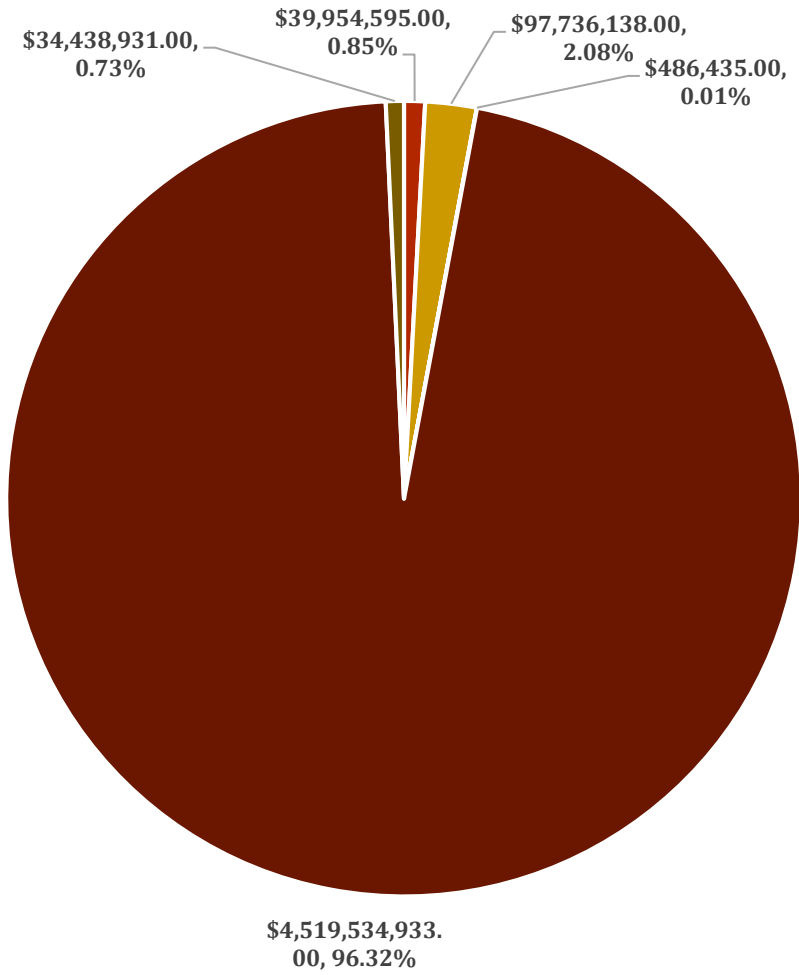
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards & Similar Bodies

2017 Actual- \$4,700,724,825.00



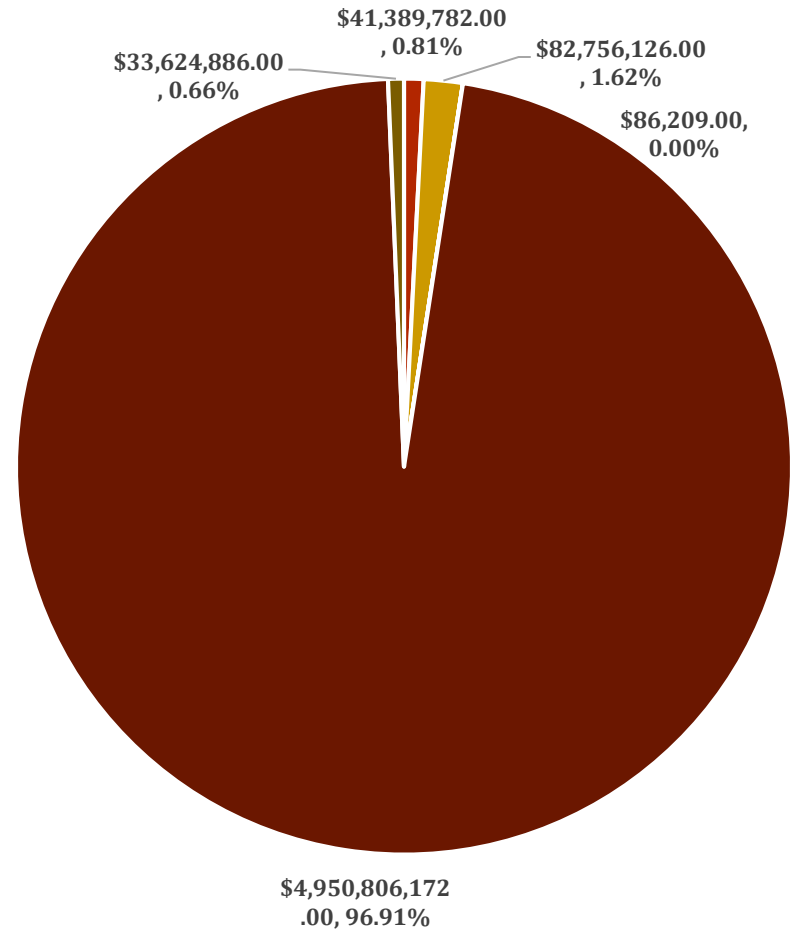
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
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2018 Actual- \$4,692,151,032.00



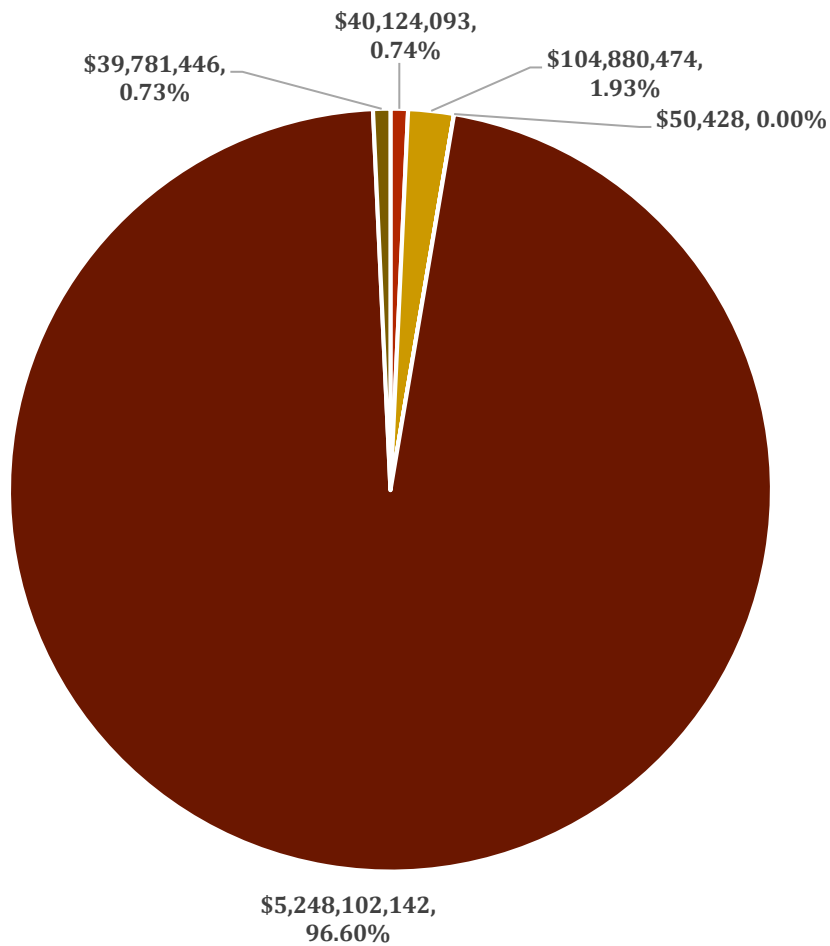
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards & Similar Bodies

2019 Actual- \$5,108,663,175.00



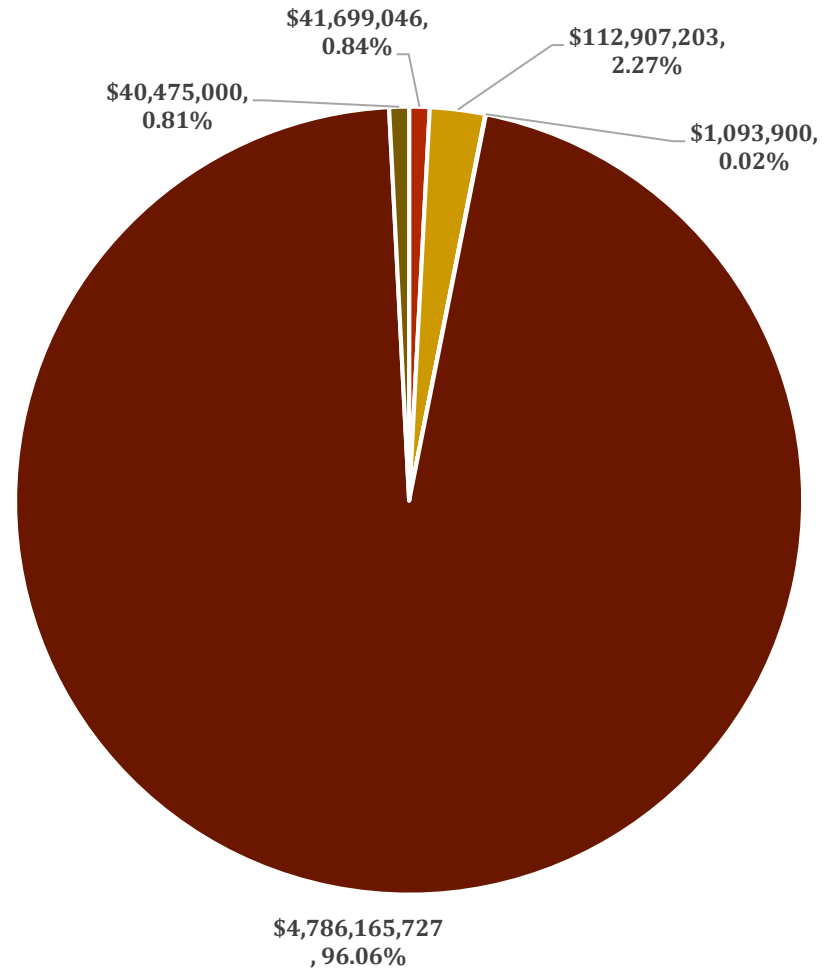
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards & Similar Bodies

2020 Actual- \$5,432,938,583.00



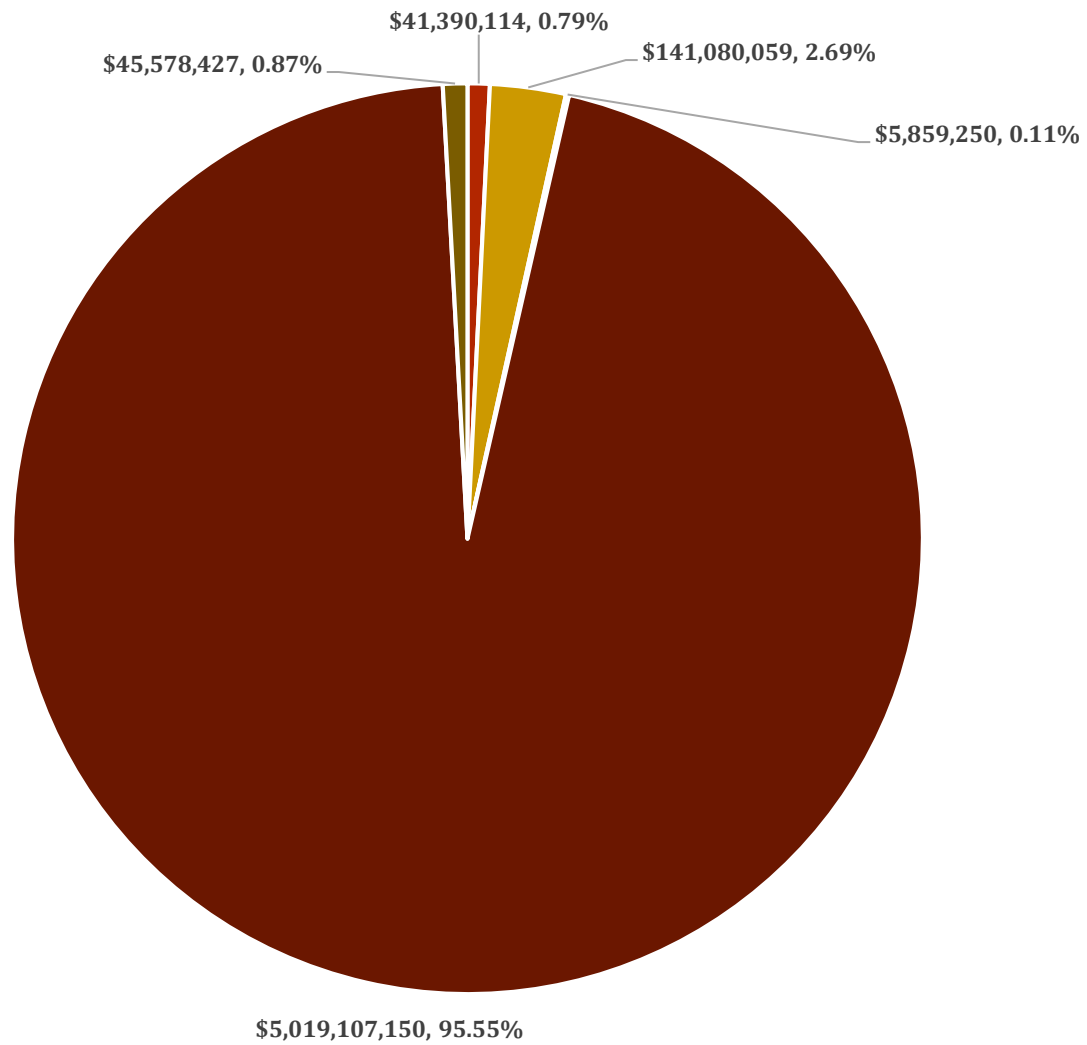
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards & Similar Bodies

2021 Revised Estimates- \$4,982,340,876.00



- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards & Similar Bodies

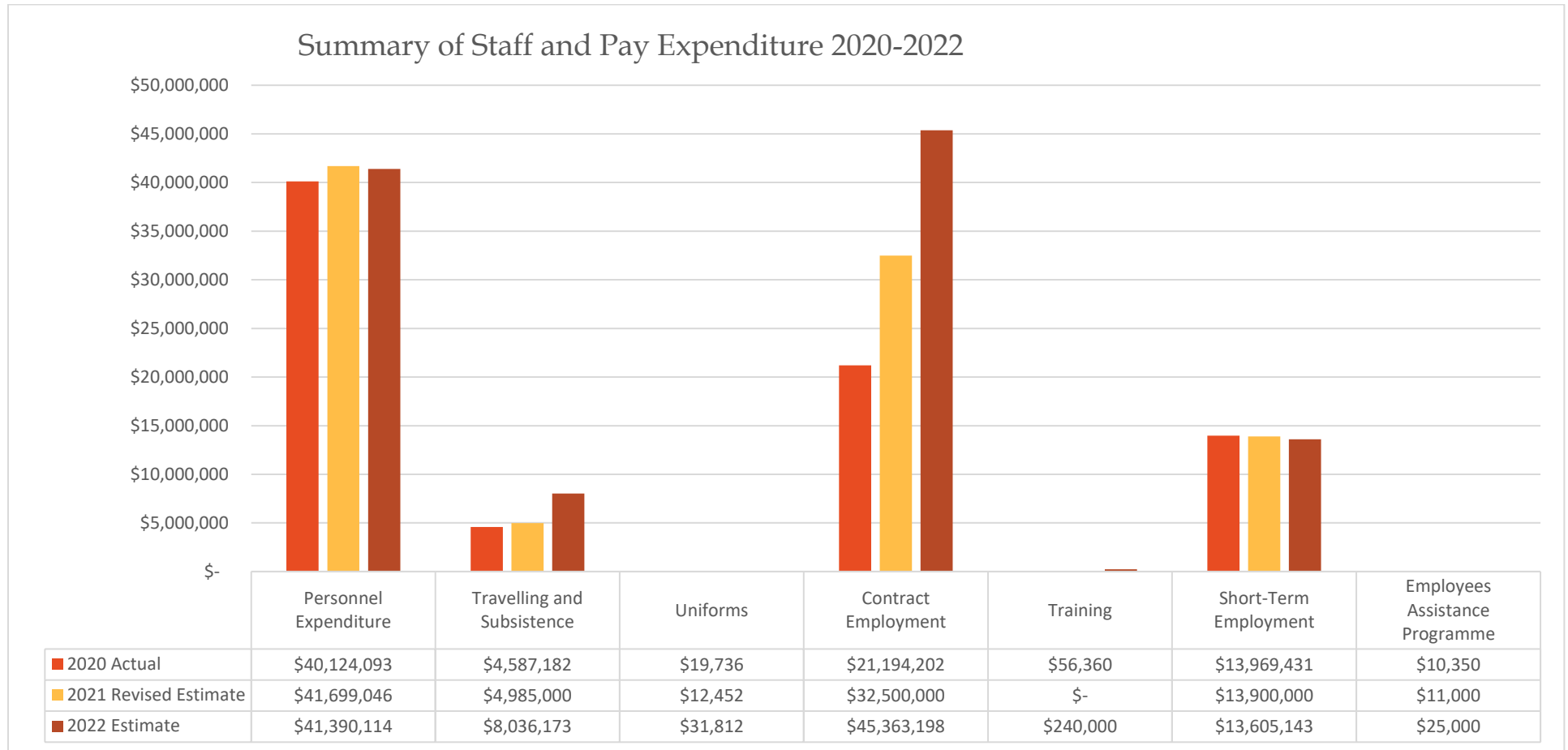
2022 Estimates- \$5,253,015,000.00



- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Boards & Similar Bodies

Staff and Pay¹⁴

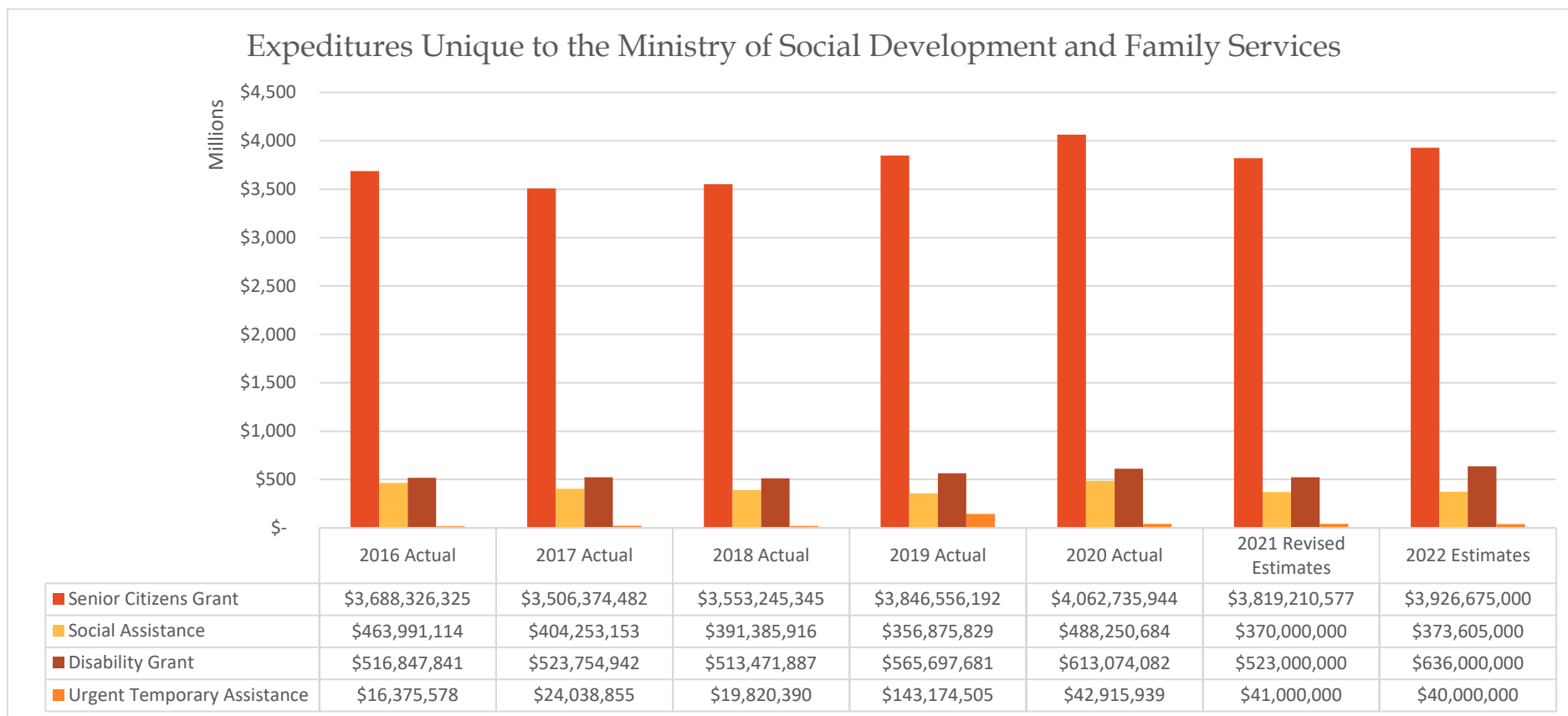
The allocation of staff expenditure for the fiscal year 2022 was **\$108,671,440.00** which represents an increase of approximately **16.74%** from the last fiscal year 2021. The following chart provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2020-2022.



¹⁴ Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2022. <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Expenditure-2021-2022.pdf>

Analysis of Expenditure Unique to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services that may not feature in other ministries or departments¹⁵.



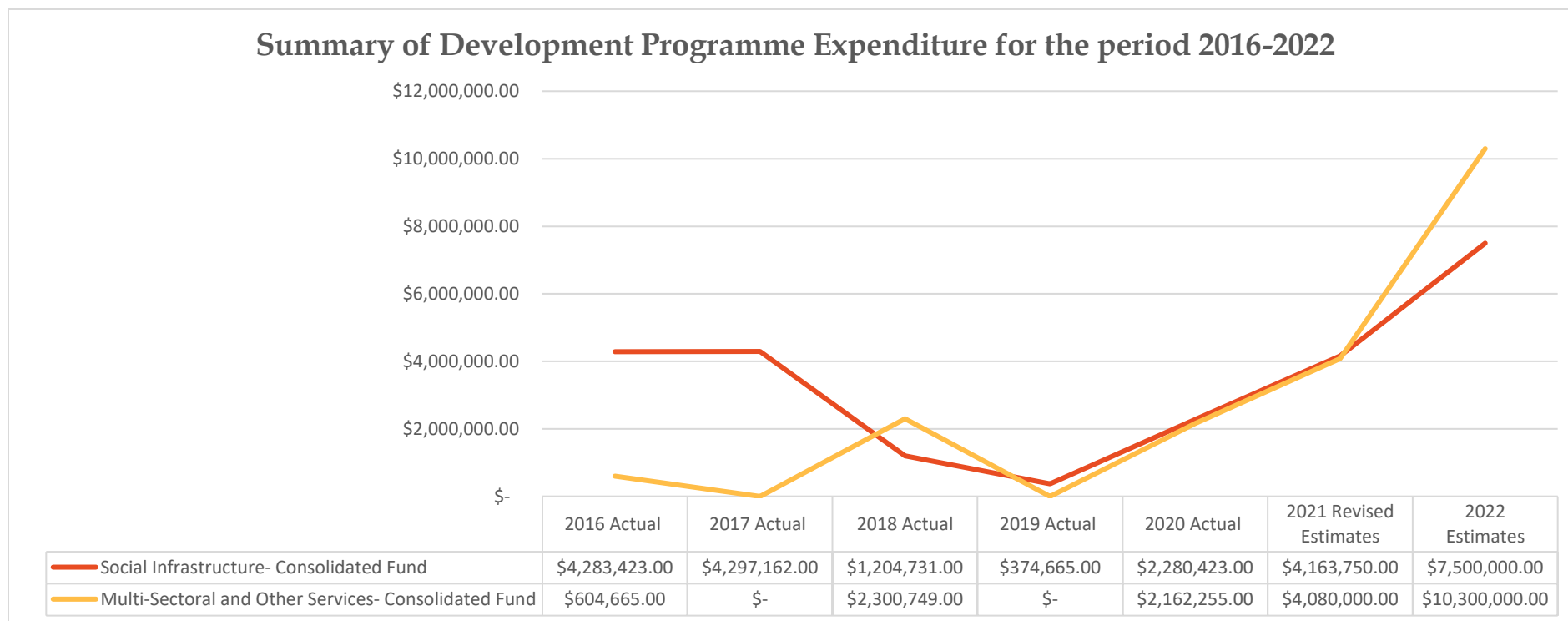
¹⁵ The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services distributed additional grants to citizens due to COVID-19 pandemic which accounts for the increased expenditure for grants in 2020.

Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2016-2022

Development Programme¹⁶ is capital expenditure aimed at improving and enhancing development in different areas of Trinidad and Tobago which includes human resources, economic and social development.

The allocation of **\$17,800,000.00** for development programmes and projects for fiscal year 2021/2022 are presented in one part as follows:

- Funds disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund = **\$17,800,000.00**.



¹⁶ Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2022. <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

Public Sector Investment Programme 2022 Projections¹⁷

Public investment will be focused on the continuation of activities related to the digitisation of social services delivered to the public with the aim of improving efficiency and effectiveness as well as access by all citizens; the delivery of support programmes which retrain and empower citizens to become self-sufficient; funding of transitional and emergency facilities; and the delivery of social programmes which encourage and enhance family development and positive nation building values.

Establishment of Social Displacement Centres

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services will invest a total of \$4.0 million for the acquisition and outfitting of three (3) buildings to utilise as transitional housing facilities at Pointe-ePierre, Mary Jenny Poole Building, Tragarete Road and corner Independence Square and Duncan Street, Port of Spain. Additionally, a service provider for the operationalisation and management of the facility will be sought in fiscal 2022. At the transitional facilities, socially displaced persons will receive opportunities to learn important life skills to enable a seamless reintegration into society.

Development Centre for Persons with Disabilities (National Enrichment Centre)

The National Enrichment Centre (NEC) is a provider of rehabilitative services to persons with disabilities including access to integrated services diagnosis and treatment for various types of disabilities. It offers opportunities for vocational training and employment and facilitates independent life skills programmes and socially interactive activities for persons with disabilities. In fiscal 2022, an allocation of \$1.5 million will be provided for the payment of management fees to the service provider for the NEC and for the procurement of therapeutic equipment to outfit the Centre.

¹⁷ Public Sector Investment Programme 2022, pages 201-203. <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-2022.pdf>

Implementation of a Social Mitigation Plan

The National Social Mitigation Plan (NSMP) targets groups that are affected or likely to be affected, vulnerable or deemed to be at-risk as a result of the economic downturn. The NSMP is intended to address the risk factors and identify economic, psycho-social and other groups in society including pensioners, persons with disabilities, single parent families, retrenched workers, fence line communities, children, persons living with HIV/ AIDS and chronic illnesses.

In fiscal 2022, phase one (1) of the NSMP will continue with an allocation of \$1.5 million to undertake the following activities:

- establishment of a Call Centre;
- establishment of a Social Support and Empowerment Unit and five (5) Local Boards;
- payment of consultancy fees for the Assessment of Civil Society Sector;
- rollout of internal values, attitudes and behaviours campaign;
- establishment of two (2) Community Health and Wellness Centres;
- roll out of a nationwide campaign on strategies to ensure personal food security; and
- implement a nationwide public education campaign on financial security.

Homes for the Elderly

In fiscal 2022, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) will continue to focus upgrade works on the Mayaro Home for the Aged and the Siparia Senior Citizens Home. These facilities were identified as in dire need of renovation after an evaluation was done in 2016 where major compliance issues were identified in accordance with the Homes for Older Persons Legislation. As such, the MSDFS will utilise funds in the sum of \$0.5 million to undertake works at the Mayaro Home for the Aged which will include: upgrades to the living quarters and plumbing system, roof repairs and replacement of doors as well as for the general refurbishment works at the Siparia Senior Citizens Home, inclusive of upgrades to the living quarters, plumbing and roof repairs.

Noteworthy Development Programme Estimates in 2017-2022

The table below lists the projects that have been noted due to uncharacteristic variances in estimates for funding: ¹⁸

Development Programme 2021	Project	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Revised Estimate	2022 Estimate
004-14-C-044	Establishment of Social Displacement Centres	\$587,374	\$90,562	-	\$778,109	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000
004-14-C-096	Development Centre for Persons with Challenges	\$109,832	\$224,423	\$190,294	\$52,000	\$113,750	\$1,500,000
004-14-C-112	The Street Dwellers Rehabilitation and Re-Integration Project	\$1,661,908	\$854,226	\$184,371	\$511,875	-	-
005-06-A-032	Establishment of an Integrated Social Enterprise Management System/ E Pass	-	-	-	\$2,162,255	\$3,500,000	\$4,300,000

¹⁸ Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2022, <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2017 and 2018

For the financial year 2017 and 2018, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, and as such require further inquiry on the progress of completion¹⁹:

Development Programme 2021	PROJECTS	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Revised Estimate	2022 Estimate
004-14-C-129	Implementation of a Social Mitigation Plan	\$137,250	\$35,520	-	\$138,750	\$1,600,000	\$1,500,000
004-14-C-130	Refurbishment of Hernandez Place	-	-	-	\$465,543	\$150,000	-
005-06-F-003	Outfitting of Buildings for MSDFS Divisions	-	\$1,343,588	-	-	-	\$3,000,000

¹⁹ Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2022, <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2020

The new projects that received funding in the 2020 financial year²⁰:

Item No.	Development Programme 2020 Projects	2020 Actual	2021 Revised Estimate	2022 Estimate
004-14-C-132	Refurbishment of Older Persons Home	\$5,100	\$200,000	\$500,000

Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2021

The new projects that received funding in the 2021 financial year²¹:

Item No.	Development Programme 2021 Projects	2021 Revised Estimate	2022 Estimate
005-06-A-034	Min. of Soc. Dev. and Family Serv.- PBX Upgrade	\$580,000	-

²⁰ Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2022, <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

²¹ Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2022, <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

New Projects for the Financial Year 2022

The new projects that received funding in the 2022 financial year²²:

Item No.	Development Programme 2022 Projects	2022 Estimate
005-06-A-036	Digitization and Migration - Social Service Management Information System	\$1,500,000
005-06-A-038	MSDFS Enterprise Business Continuity Solution	\$1,500,000

²² Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2022, <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

Committee Inquires Related to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Public Administration and Appropriations Committee

<i>Inquiry</i>	<i>Report Status</i>	<i>Ministerial Response</i>	<i>Key Recommendations²³</i>
<i>Twenty-Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an examination into the delivery of projects and programmes by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services</i>	Presented in HOR: 26.06.2020 Senate: 23.06.2020	Not yet laid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry should seek to fill the key positions in the Project Implementation Unit to ensure the efficient oversight of its projects. A status update on this should be submitted to Parliament by September 1, 2020. • The MSDFS should provide a status update on its request for substantive public service positions to the Director of Personnel Administration and the Ministry of Public Administration. • The MSDFS should make a request to the Service Commissions Department for additional staff who are capable to complete the job.

JSC on Social Services and Public Administration

²³ Key Recommendations relate to recommendations that may have a financial impact on the Ministry

<i>Inquiry</i>	<i>Report Status</i>	<i>Ministerial Response</i>	<i>Key Recommendations²⁴</i>
<i>Seventh Report on an Inquiry into the Management of the Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP)</i>	<u>Presented</u> in HOR: 22.03.2019 Senate: 19.03.2019	<u>Laid in</u> HOR: 07.06.2019 Senate: 28.05.2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MSDFS should undertake a social impact assessment of the TCCTP on poverty reduction by the end of fiscal year 2019. • That a framework is established and implemented by the Ministry to capture the details of persons who graduated from the development component of the programme. • That the MSDFS commence a series of community outreach/awareness initiatives specific to the TCCTP. These initiatives should mirror the approach and objectives of the 'Direct Impact' initiative while taking into consideration the financial constraints currently faced by the Public Service. • That the Ministry assess the need to fill the nineteen (19) contract positions for Social Welfare Field Officers and begin the process of filling these vacancies on a needs basis; • A cost-benefit analysis of the introduction of a National Biometric Registry/identification system should be undertaken by May 2019. • That MSDFS conduct a Cost/Benefit analysis of the TCCTP;

²⁴ Key Recommendations relate to recommendations that may have a financial impact on the Ministry

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry should consider implementing an appropriate IT system that would facilitate monitoring and evaluation through the capture and analysis of data; and • That the Ministry's development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for its operations as well as for the programmes and initiatives under its purview be completed and fully implemented at the end of the fiscal year 2019;
<i>Eleventh Report on a Follow-up inquiry into the effectiveness of the State's interventions directed at socially displaced persons</i>	<p><u>Presented</u> in: H.O.R: 08.11.2019 Senate: 25.10.2019</p>	<p><u>Laid</u> in HOR: 07.02.2020 Senate: 28.01.2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the MoSDFS recruit additional personnel to adequately resource the SDU with a view to improving the Unit's capacity to execute its mandate; • That the MoSDFS develop an employment support programme in collaboration with NGOs and the business Community to assist socially displaced persons who have been rehabilitated in sourcing employment opportunities;
<i>Fifteenth Report on a follow-up inquiry into an examination of existing Arrangements and possible options for regulating Geriatric care facilities/old age homes in Trinidad and Tobago</i>	<p><u>Presented</u> in: H.O.R: 01.07.2020 Senate: 02.07.2020</p>	Not yet laid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That as a matter of urgency, the MSDFS seek to collaborate with the Public Service Commission toward the enhancement of the capacity of the Ministry's Monitoring and Evaluation Division. In the short-term, the Ministry may seek to engage the Personnel Department and support this Division with contracted employees.

JSC Human Rights Equality and Diversity

<i>Inquiry</i>	<i>Report Status</i>	<i>Ministerial Response</i>	<i>Key Recommendations²⁵</i>
<i>First Report on the Support Programs and Services for children whose parent or guardian was the perpetrator or victim of a violent offence</i>	<u>Presented</u> in HOR: 09.09.2016 Senate: 07.07.2016	<u>Laid</u> in HOR: 18.11.2016 Senate: 15.11.2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That training is provided to CATT, MSDFS and VWSU staff to detect, diagnose and treat the fourteen (14) psychological conditions of children whose parent or guardian was the victim or perpetrator of a violent offence • The establishment of a behavioural intervention centre, initially as a pilot project, in collaboration amongst the MSDFS, MOE and CATT • That additional resources be allocated and new strategies be devised to reduce the number of vacancies within the SSSD and NFSD within fiscal 2017.
<i>Second Report on the Challenges Faced by Persons with Disabilities with Specific Focus on Access to Services and Employment</i>	<u>Presented</u> in HOR: 09.09.2016 Senate: 07.07. 2016	<u>Laid</u> in HOR: 09.11.2016 Senate: 15.11.2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that MSDFS in collaboration with the MOLED conduct research on PWDs and employment. • that the Ministry should prioritise the recruitment of staff for the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit and the Disabilities Affairs Unit.

²⁵ Key Recommendations relate to recommendations that may have a financial impact on the Ministry

<p><i>Eighth Report on the Examination of the Perceived Inequality Faced by Single Fathers in Trinidad and Tobago With Specific Focus on Custody Matters, Policies and Access to Programmes and Services</i></p>	<p><u>Presented</u> in HOR: 26.09.2018</p> <p>Senate: 21.09.2018</p>	<p><u>Laid</u> in HOR: 07.12.2018</p> <p>Senate: 11.12.2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that the Social and Welfare Division, MSDFS complete the transition to the Social Sector Management Information System (SSMIS) database for electronic case management by December 2018. • that the MSDFS conduct staff training sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ on the Public Assistance Act, Chap. 32:03 in order to reiterate the MSDFS' policy on the qualifying criteria for the distribution of the programmes and services; and ○ to mitigate the cultural stereotypes which may impact access to programmes and services. • that the OPM, MSDFS, and the VWSU develop programmes or revise existing programmes and services to address the unique needs of single parents. • that the MSDFS allow for fathers who are injured and unable to work to have access to welfare assistance to allow for them to keep up with their maintenance payments until they are able to continue work.
<p><i>Seventeenth Report On An Inquiry Into Persons Living In Poverty And Extreme Poverty In Trinidad And Tobago With</i></p>	<p><u>Presented</u> in HOR: 01.07.2020</p>	<p>Laid in HOR: 09.11.2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recommends that the MSDFS collaborate with the requisite NGOs to sensitize vulnerable groups on the current MSDFS programmes and services (as identified in Table 4) and seek proposals of NGOs on making programmes

<p><i>Specific Focus On Vulnerable Groups</i></p>	<p>Senate: 29.06.2020</p>	<p>Senate: 17.11.2018</p>	<p>and services of the MSDFS more accessible to vulnerable persons living in poverty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recommends that the MSDFS expands its outreach activities and utilise a targeted approach to ensure that the persons who are living in poverty and extreme are aware of the available programmes and services. • Given the negative customer service experienced when applying for programmes and services at the MSDFS identified by many of the NGOs as a challenge, the Committee recommends that the MSDFS conduct continuous training with all members of staff on customer service.
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Recent Legislative Development

Acts of Parliament

Act No.	Short Title	Related Bill	Date of Assent
7 of 2019	The Non-Profit Organisations Act, 2019 An Act to provide for the registration of non-profit organisations, the establishment and maintenance of a register of non-profit organisations, the obligations of non-profit organisations and for related matters.	Progression	23-Apr-2019
18 of 2020	The Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020 An Act to amend the Domestic Violence Act, Chap. 45:56 to provide for emergency protection orders and for related matters	Progression	07-Jul-2020

Subsidiary Legislation

Third Session (2017/2018) of the Eleventh Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago			
No.	Title	Date Laid	
		HOR	Senate
9	The Senior Citizens' Pension (Amendment of Schedule) Order, 2018	11.01.2019	18.12.2018

General Useful Information

- Ministry of Social Development, NEW ZEALAND: <http://www.msd.govt.nz/>
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/social-development-poverty-reduction>
- Ministry of Social and Family Development, SINGAPORE: <https://www.msf.gov.sg/Pages/default.aspx>
- Department of Social Services, AUSTRALIA: <https://www.dss.gov.au/>
- Department of Social Development, SOUTH AFRICA: <https://www.dsd.gov.za/>