A Summary of the Ministry’s Projects, Expenditure, Divisions and Projects.

Financial Scrutiny Unit, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago.
Publication
An electronic copy of this Guide can be found on the Parliament website: www.ttparliament.org

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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs for the period 2018-2024. It provides the 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 Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on:

- the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2024;
- the Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2024;
- the Public Sector Investment Programme 2024; and
- the Auditor General’s Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2022.
Head 65: Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

Ministry Overview

Executive Leadership
Minister: Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne
Permanent Secretary (Accounting Officer): Ms. Reita Toussaint

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs strives to be a “service-driven, results-oriented organisation, which, through effective engagement at home and representation abroad, will act as a central channel by which the national interests and national development of Trinidad and Tobago are achieved.”

The Ministry prioritizes the following missions, namely:

- The Economic Mission which focuses on energy, trade, investment, tourism, science and technology, culture and agriculture;
- The Security Mission which focuses on ensuring national and human security;
- The Consular Mission which emphasises services to nationals at home and to the diaspora;
- The Political Mission which utilizes public and international diplomacy to ensure respect and leadership; and
- The Mission related to international law.

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1 Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs website, About Us. Accessed October 4, 2023: https://foreign.gov.tt/about/ministry/about/
As the external arm of the Government, it directs the country’s foreign relations with other states and international entities mainly through diplomatic initiatives and representation.

The foreign policy of Trinidad and Tobago is pursued through the activities of the Ministry’s Headquarters, its eighteen (18) Missions and its Honorary Consuls. The Ministry aims to expand and intensify the country’s relations through bilateral and multilateral initiatives by seeking environments that are conducive to trade, tourism and investment for Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry provides a myriad of services, which include protocol and consular activities, to its diverse clientele. Clients include the Offices of the President and Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago; Government Ministries and other Government Agencies; Foreign Governments; Diplomatic Missions accredited to and resident in Trinidad and Tobago; Members of the Local Diplomatic Corps; International Organisations; the Private Sector; Civil Society and Nationals and Non-nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, both at home and abroad.

**Permanent Secretary’s Secretariat**

The office of the Permanent Secretary is concerned with the administration, coordination, control and supervision of the implementation of the ministerial policies of the various Ministerial functions. The Permanent Secretary supports the Minister by managing current issues and by ensuring the implementation of major projects and policy formulation. Other responsibilities include managing and motivating Directors through delegation and progress reporting.

Work performed by the Permanent Secretary is done in conjunction with the Divisions/Sections/Units at Headquarters and Missions. For instance, the need to be cost-conscious and to consider new methods of securing value for money is pursued

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together with the Finance and Accounts Unit. The Communications Unit must also work closely with the Permanent Secretary to ensure that information is effectively disseminated within the Ministry and to the public.

In consultation with the Directors and other members of the managerial core, the Permanent Secretary will determine Divisional roles and, if necessary, arrange the organisational structure for optimum performance.
The following excerpts from the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2022 refer to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs:

Chapter 2 – Treasury and Funds Statements

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS - $9,684,443,938.19

2.53 The balances of the Deposits and Funds accounts presented hereunder are liabilities as they represent monies held by the Treasury pending application for payment in accordance with the purposes for which the relevant deposits/funds were created.

2.55 Financial Instruction 212 (1) requires all Accounting Officers or Heads of Departments to reconcile the balance of each Deposit Account with the corresponding balance in the accounts of the Comptroller of Accounts. Financial Instruction 212 (2) requires departments to prepare reconciliation statements with details of the composition of balances. A copy of all such reconciliations is required to be submitted to the Comptroller of Accounts and the Auditor General at the end of the year concerned. The submission of such reconciliations provides documentary support to the balances contained in the ministries’ and departments’ deposit ledgers. However, many ministries and departments do not submit such reconciliations in a timely manner. Presented below are ministries and departments that did not submit the required reconciliations of deposit accounts to the Auditor General.

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Chapter 3 – Accounts of Accounting Officers

ACCOUNTING FOR EXPENDITURE BY MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS

Current Transfers

3.15 With effect from October 1, 2019, a Treasury decision was taken to decentralise the payment of contract gratuities to ministries and departments. Ministries and departments are now required to bring to account contract gratuities under 04 - Current Transfers and Subsides/007 - Households/40 - Gratuities to Contract Officers. Ministries and Departments Appropriation Statements recorded $183,345,509.83 expended to meet the payments of contract gratuities.

Table 3.3 Contract Gratuity Payments as per Appropriation Account 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Head</th>
<th>Ministry/Department</th>
<th>2022 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs</td>
<td>1,437,325.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Statement from 2022 Standing Finance Committee

During the Standing Finance Committee debate of 2022, the following statement was made in relation to the emphasis of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs for fiscal year 2021/2022 and 2022/2023:

“The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs at Headquarters and through its 20 missions abroad is responsible for the country’s foreign relations and interactions within international entities, a mandate we implement mainly through diplomatic initiatives and quality representation. We are also the agency primarily charged with the oversight of CARICOM affairs on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago. These are mandates which we have continued to discharge with diligence even as we have ourselves doing more with less. The period covered by fiscal year 2022 has been challenging for the globe, the region and our nation even as we continued to battle the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic during this fiscal. […] Our relations and engagement with regional and international partners is currently on an extremely strong footing and we seek to continuously ensure that this can be converted to the benefit of all our people and leveraged to the benefit of all our people.

The work of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs over the past fiscal year has underscored the fulfilment of its essential foreign policy mandate in support of the achievement of our national development goals and objectives. For the fiscal 2023 the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs has received a modest allocation, and I commit to this Chamber that we shall continue to exert every effort to ensure proper management of all available resources in service to our fellow citizens and our country.”

Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne
- Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

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**Supplementation of Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2023**

During fiscal year 2023, it was necessary to have a Supplementation of Appropriation of resources to fund urgent and critical Recurrent and Capital Expenditure in areas where insufficient or no allocation was provided. The source of these additional funds was the Consolidated Fund.

The following statement was made by the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs during the Standing Finance Committee debate on the Consideration of Proposals for the Supplementation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2023:

“The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs is completely focused on our critical mandate, and we work hard every day to elevate the standard of our diplomacy and to enhance Trinidad and Tobago’s relations with other countries and external agencies. The Ministry is very mindful of the need to ensure proper management of funds allocated to facilitate the delivery of services and to maintain an active agenda.

In the course of undertaking this mandate, there have been areas in which there is need for additional financial support. In some circumstances, the initial allocation has not been sufficient to cover the required expenditure. It is therefore, expected, that this exercise that we are engaged in, would provide the requisite resources to cover planned and anticipated expenditure to the end of this fiscal.”

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs requested and was granted the following supplementations in the sum of $49,956,823:

**Recurrence Expenditure - $49,956,823**

02/001/21 – Repairs and Maintenance – Buildings - $3,650,000

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Supplementary funding was needed to meet the cost of critical repair and remedial works to the infrastructure of the buildings currently occupied by the Ministry due to severe mold infestation.

02/001/66 – Hosting of Conferences, Seminars and Other Functions - $20,000,000
The sum was needed to meet the cost of the Hosting of the 45th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community and related celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of CARICOM by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago during the period July 03-06, 2023.

02/002/04 – Electricity - $2,681,810
02/002/05 – Telephones - $1,805,200
The sum was required to supplement funding to meet obligations for electricity and telephones at the 20 Overseas Missions to September 30, 2023.

02/002/09 – Rent/Lease – Vehicles and Equipment - $1,158,230
This sum was required to meet obligations for lease arrangements for vehicles and equipment to September 30, 2023.

02/001/21 – Repairs and Maintenance – Buildings - $2,220,750
Funding was required to meet expenditure for the completion of repairs at the High Commission in London and for refurbishment works at the High Commission in Jamaica.

02/001/37 – Janitorial Services - $1,137,260
02/001/43 – Security Services - $1,375,120
The sum was required to supplement funding to meet the cost of janitorial and security services at 20 Overseas Missions to September 30, 2023.

02/002/50 – Housing Accommodation - $2,460,550
This sum was required to meet increased rental cost of accommodation for the staff at the missions in the United States of America, Caracas, Guyana and Beijing.

02/002/58 – Medical Expenses - $1,820,141
Supplementary funding was required to meet the cost of medical plans to cover both home-based and locally recruited staff at the Overseas Missions, as well as to meet the increased cost of coverage under the Medical Plan for the missions in the United States of America and Beijing.

04/001/02 – Association of Caribbean States - $1,538,412
The sum was needed to meet the cost of contributions to the Association of Caribbean States for 2022 and 2023.

04/003/04 – United Nations Peacekeeping Operations - $10,109,350
The sum was needed meet the cost of outstanding contributions to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations to September 30, 2023.
The Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), which represents the capital expenditure component of the National Budget, is the instrument used by Government to effect its vision and policies. It is a budgeting and strategic planning tool made up of projects and programmes, designed to realise the goals set out in the Government’s overarching policy.

The PSIP budget document provides a detailed description of the programmes and projects and includes a review of the implementation of programmes and projects in the previous financial year and highlights the major projects and programmes to be implemented in the upcoming financial year.

The Public Sector Investment Programme is intended to achieve:

- the country’s social and economic development goals; and
- enhanced quality of life for all citizens.

Vision 2030 – Building Globally Competitive Business: Foreign Policy and Trade Relations

Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs (MFCA) plays a pivotal role in directing the nation’s foreign relations with other states and international entities, mainly through diplomatic initiatives and representation. The Ministry aims to expand and strengthen the country’s relations through bilateral and multilateral initiatives, by seeking environments that are conducive to trade, tourism and investment for

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Trinidad and Tobago. A total investment of $4.0 million was provided in fiscal 2023 for the implementation of the MFCA's capital projects.

**Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building**

To ensure a highly capable and proficient workforce, continuous training is imperative for the Ministry's staff at headquarters and overseas missions. With this objective in mind, the MFCA continued the implementation of the *Foreign Service Strengthening Initiative (FSSI)* for its staff. The training programme aims to enhance and fortify the capacity of the Foreign Service and the MFCA as a whole. By narrowing the gaps in institutional capacity, the programme will empower the MFCA’s staff to effectively function in the dynamic landscape of regional, hemispheric and global diplomacy.

The MFCA conducted training in the following modules:

- “Skills Building in HIV Workplace Policy Development” held in November 2022;
- “Sexual Harassment in the Workplace” held in November 2022; and
- “Protocol” held in October 2022.

**Digitisation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) Skills Certificate Application Process**

The digitisation of the application process for clients seeking the CSME Skills Certificate is essential to streamline and enhance the overall user experience, providing a more user-friendly and interactive platform. By embracing digital transformation, Trinidad and Tobago will establish itself as a leader in delivering CSME Digital Services and help fulfill its obligations in implementing the decisions of the Conference of Heads of State of CARICOM. The initiative will set a precedent for best practices in digitalising CSME services and optimise the efficiency and effectiveness of CSME-related processes through
The National Information and Communication Technology Company Limited (iGovTT) has undertaken the development of the CSME online application system and substantial progress has been made across multiple phases of the project. In Phase One, the implementation of E-Appointment and TTGovChat was successfully completed. Phase Two encompassed the installation of the CSME Online application on the existing host server at the MFCA and was also completed. Phase Three was completed and the activities involved the preparation and installation of the required virtual servers, firewall rules and security measures by the ICT Unit. The iGovTT’s development team has been actively collaborating with the CSME staff, to address system issues and incorporate required modifications. Phase Four, involving final testing and the implementation of all three (3) services (E-Appointment, TTGovChat and the CSME Application), is expected to be completed within the first quarter of fiscal 2024.
The Ministry’s Total Allocation as a Percentage of the National Budget for the Period 2018 to 2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$ 240,944,123.00</td>
<td>$ 54,211,726,813.00</td>
<td>0.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$ 222,393,936.00</td>
<td>$ 54,581,467,181.00</td>
<td>0.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$ 282,439,866.00</td>
<td>$ 57,388,076,726.00</td>
<td>0.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$ 239,435,196.00</td>
<td>$ 56,498,472,820.00</td>
<td>0.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$ 264,365,670.00</td>
<td>$ 58,974,346,470.00</td>
<td>0.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>$ 278,652,000.00</td>
<td>$ 67,063,358,456.00</td>
<td>0.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>$ 256,700,000.00</td>
<td>$ 68,384,229,740.00</td>
<td>0.38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total allocation for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs as a percentage of the National Budget showed a decrease of 0.04% between fiscal years 2023 and 2024.

[1] For the Fiscal Years 2018-2022, actual figures were used to calculate the Ministry’s total allocation. However, estimates were used to calculate the total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024.
Where the Ministry Spends its Money

2024 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation of **$261,700,000.00** for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure\(^9\) in the sum of **$252,200,000.00**;
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme\(^10\) in the sum of **$9,500,000.00**:  
  - Consolidated Fund in the sum of **$4,500,000.00**; and  
  - Infrastructure Development Fund\(^11\) in the sum of **$5,000,000.00**.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- **01 Personnel Expenditure** – **$87,191,700.00**;
- **02 Goods and Services** – **$97,914,900.00**;
- **03 Minor Equipment Purchases** – **$1,390,000.00**; and
- **04 Current Transfers and Subsidies** – **$65,703,400.00**

Percentage Allocation of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs is as follows:

- Total allocation as a percentage of National Budget = **0.38%**;
- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is **0.39%**;
- Consolidated Fund as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is **0.14%**; and
- Infrastructure Development Fund as a percentage of the total Infrastructure Development Fund is **0.17%**.

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\(^11\) Head 18 – Ministry of Finance, Sub-Head 04 – Current Transfers and Subsidies, Sub-Item 11- Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) (Infrastructure Development Fund allocation is part of the Ministry of Finance allocation for the financial year. Therefore, the total recurrent expenditure for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs does not include IDF funding.)
Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2018-2024

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
<th>2021 Actual</th>
<th>2022 Actual</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Expenditure</td>
<td>$85,653,202.00</td>
<td>$83,694,296.00</td>
<td>$81,099,815.00</td>
<td>$77,472,681.00</td>
<td>$80,703,341.00</td>
<td>$88,627,000.00</td>
<td>$87,191,700.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods and Services</td>
<td>$99,227,141.00</td>
<td>$95,576,534.00</td>
<td>$92,976,276.00</td>
<td>$89,143,796.00</td>
<td>$106,033,573.00</td>
<td>$117,999,000.00</td>
<td>$97,914,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Equipment Purchases</td>
<td>$283,004.00</td>
<td>$293,395.00</td>
<td>$563,045.00</td>
<td>$506,720.00</td>
<td>$3,904,036.00</td>
<td>$1,117,000.00</td>
<td>$1,390,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Transfer and Subsidies</td>
<td>$52,982,300.00</td>
<td>$42,255,279.00</td>
<td>$107,800,730.00</td>
<td>$72,311,999.00</td>
<td>$70,849,622.00</td>
<td>$70,909,000.00</td>
<td>$65,703,400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ministry of Foreign & CARICOM Affairs
Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2018-2024

Analysis of Recurrent Expenditure\textsuperscript{13}

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 and Current Transfers and Subsidies.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Financial Year 2024 is $252,200,000.00.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Financial Year 2023 (revised) was $278,652,000.00. Comparing this figure with Financial Year 2024, there is a decrease of $26,452,000.00 or 9.5%.

- The largest portion of the recurrent allocation went to \textbf{Sub-Head 02 Goods and Services} in each Financial Year from 2018 to 2024, except for 2020. In 2024, \textbf{Sub-Head 02 Goods and Services} ($97,914,900.00) represents 38.8% of the Ministry’s total estimated Recurrent Expenditure allocation. The second highest proportion of the Ministry’s Recurrent Expenditure allocation will go to Personnel Expenditure ($87,191,700.00) will account for 34.6% of the total Ministry’s total.

- \textbf{Sub-Head 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies} peaked in Financial Year 2020 when it received $107,800,730.00 or 38.2% of that year’s total. In Financial Year 2024, this Sub-Head will receive the third largest portion of the allocation, at $65,703,400.00 or 26.1% of the total.

- \textbf{Sub-Head 03 Minor Equipment Purchases} consistently received the lowest portion of the Ministry’s total recurrent allocation over the period 2018 to 2024. In FY 2024, this Sub-Head will receive $1,390,000.00 or 0.55% of the Ministry’s total recurrent allocation.

2024 Estimate - $252,200,000.00

- **Personnel Expenditure**, $87,191,700.00, 35%
- **Goods and Services**, $97,914,900.00, 39%
- **Minor Equipment Purchases**, $1,390,000.00, 0%
- **Current Transfer and Subsidies**, $65,703,400.00, 26%
Recurrent Expenditure Unique to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs that may not feature in other Ministries or Departments. This includes contributions to numerous international organisations as well as the repatriations of nationals and expenditure regarding Trinidad and Tobago’s Overseas Missions.

Under Sub-Head 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies:

001 Regional Bodies includes the following:
- Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM); Association of Caribbean States;
- Grenada Consular and Trade Office

002 Commonwealth Bodies includes the following:
- Commonwealth Secretariat; and
- Commonwealth Foundation

003 United Nations Organisations includes the following:
- United Nations Regular Budget and Working Capital Fund;
- United Nations Programme of Assistance and Exchange in the field of International Law;
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean – Budgetary Support;
- United Nations Peacekeeping Operations;

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• International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea;
• International Criminal Tribunals;
• International Seabed Authority Exchange in the field of International Law;
• International Criminal Court;
• Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;
• UN Information Centre – Rental of Office Space; and
• United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

009 Other Transfers includes the following:
• CSME Secretariat;
• National Reparations Committee; and
• Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Secretariat

010 Other Transfers Abroad includes the following:
• ACP (Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States) Secretariat Budget;
• Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL);
• Latin American Economic System (SELA);
• Pan American Union – Regular Budget (Secretariat of the OAS – Organisation of American States);
• Group of 77;
• Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC – 1 of the 5 Regional Groups at the United Nations General Assembly);
• Inter-American Council for Integral Development – Special Multi-Lateral Fund (FEMCICI);
- Contribution to Disaster Relief; and
- International Fact Finding Commission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
<th>2021 Actual</th>
<th>2022 Actual</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audit of Overseas Missions</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$192,677.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repatriation of Nationals</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$74,499.00</td>
<td>$44,528.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$16,840.00</td>
<td>$16,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Bodies</td>
<td>$37,066,601.00</td>
<td>$30,138,002.00</td>
<td>$52,781,570.00</td>
<td>$42,449,981.00</td>
<td>$39,796,365.00</td>
<td>$42,584,000.00</td>
<td>$39,800,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Bodies</td>
<td>$1,998,727.00</td>
<td>$1,498,133.00</td>
<td>$278,041.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$4,907,463.00</td>
<td>$1,969,000.00</td>
<td>$2,011,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Nations Organisations</td>
<td>$11,341,658.00</td>
<td>$7,249,842.00</td>
<td>$50,418,237.00</td>
<td>$23,628,753.00</td>
<td>$16,647,146.00</td>
<td>$18,088,000.00</td>
<td>$18,576,400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Transfers</td>
<td>$13,431.00</td>
<td>$23,346.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$28,112.00</td>
<td>$11,457.00</td>
<td>$360,000.00</td>
<td>$430,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Transfers Abroad</td>
<td>$903,804.00</td>
<td>$2,031,510.00</td>
<td>$2,687,459.00</td>
<td>$3,396,305.00</td>
<td>$5,036,992.00</td>
<td>$3,243,000.00</td>
<td>$3,421,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staff and Pay

The allocation of staff expenditure for the Financial Year 2024 is $99,138,100.00, which represents a decrease of approximately 2% from the Financial Year 2023 (revised) figure of $101,120,000.00.

The diagram below provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2022 - 2024.

Development Programme 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 $9,500,000.00 for development programme projects for Financial Year 2024 is presented in two parts as follows:

- Funds disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund = $4,500,000.00 and represent 47.4% of the total allocation for development programmes; and
- Funds disbursed from the Infrastructure Development Fund = $5,000,000.00 and represent 52.6% of the total allocation to the Ministry.

![Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Development Programme Expenditure 2018-2024](image)

Vision 2030 – Building Globally Competitive Business: Foreign Policy and Trade Relations
Trinidad and Tobago’s foreign policy seeks to maintain, develop and enhance relations with strategic countries at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels and to participate actively in the multilateral arena. The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs (MFCA) is responsible for shaping the nation’s foreign policy agenda, through the pursuit of new partnerships within regional and hemispheric organisations.

In this regard, the sum of $9.5 million will be allocated for the implementation of the Ministry's projects as follows:

**Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building**
An allocation of $0.5 million will be provided for the project *Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building* to complete the Ministry’s Strategic Plan and determine the reorganization and restructure of the Ministry.

**Establishment of a Document Management System**
An allocation of $0.3 million will be provided to undertake the *Establishment of a Document Management System* in fiscal 2024. The project will be geared towards the digitisation of the MFCA's current system of physical files and is estimated to be completed in three (3) years. The key output will be the creation of

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digital copies of all files stored in a secured database, which is expected to yield benefits including:

- increased security;
- enhanced accessibility;
- easier, more efficient collaboration; and
- greater organisation.

**Construction and Outfitting of Building D at MFCA**

In fiscal 2024, enhancement works will be undertaken at the MFCA's headquarters in St. Clair to provide a working environment which will support the functions and operations of the Ministry. Funds in the sum of $5.0 million will be allocated for works to provide supplementary office spaces, a reception area, and a vehicular maintenance facility.

**Risk/Structural Assessment of MFCA Property Stock**

The MFCA will implement a new project which will focus on the assessment of its property stock locally and abroad in jurisdictions where it maintains Overseas Missions. In the first instance, a team comprising Ministry officials and relevant experts will visit the overseas missions where maintenance works have been identified as priority. Thereafter all other properties will be visited on a phased basis, with a projection that all of the Ministry’s properties would have been assessed over a period of not less than three (3) years. It is anticipated that this assessment will assist the Ministry in prioritising its upkeep schedule, inherently enhancing the brand of the Ministry and of the country's profile in the receiving states to facilitate a more effective representation and diplomatic presence.
### Noteworthy Development Programme Estimates 2022-2024

The table below lists the projects that have experienced irregular variances in estimates for funding received under the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2022 Actual</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-A-005</td>
<td>Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-F-066</td>
<td>Establishment of an Embassy in Doha, Qatar</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-F-070</td>
<td>Establishment of a High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Status of New Projects from Financial Year 2022\(^{19}\)

For the Financial Year 2022, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and, as such, require further inquiry on progress towards completion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2022 Actual</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-A-021</td>
<td>Digitisation of the CSME Skills Certificate Application Process</td>
<td>$140,910</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-005-06-F-003</td>
<td>Renovation / Upgrade works of three units at Flagstaff</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-005-06-F-005</td>
<td>Refurbishment of Chancery High Commission in Kingston, Jamaica</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-005-06-F-007</td>
<td>Renovation to High Commissioner’s Residence in South Africa</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-005-06-F-008</td>
<td>Refurbishment / Upgrade of the Embassy in Caracas</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-005-06-F-009</td>
<td>Refurbishment / Upgrade of the High Commission in London</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2023²⁰

For the Financial Year 2023, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and, as such, require further inquiry on progress towards completion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2023 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-F-070 Establishment of a High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDF-005-06-F-011 Construction and Outfitting of Building D at the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$5,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Projects for the Financial Year 2024

The following are identified as new projects that will receive funding in Financial Year 2024:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2024 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-A-023</td>
<td>Establishment of a Document Management System</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-A-025</td>
<td>Risk / Structural Assessment of Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Property Stock</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-F-072</td>
<td>Establishment of an Embassy in Barbados</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-F-074</td>
<td>Establishment of an Embassy in Ghana</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Useful Information

- Department of State, USA: https://www.state.gov/
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, JAMAICA: https://mfaft.gov.jm/
- France Diplomacy, FRANCE: https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/
- Department of International Relations and Cooperation, SOUTH AFRICA: http://www.dirco.gov.za/
- Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, MEXICO: https://www.gob.mx/sre/en