



2022

SECOND SESSION OF THE 12TH PARLIAMENT

FINANCIAL SCRUTINY UNIT

Office of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

**Head 65: Ministry of Foreign and
CARICOM Affairs**

ALLOCATION: \$256,745,824.00

A summary of the Ministry's Expenditure, Divisions and Projects.

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 2016-2022. 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 2022;
- the Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2022;
- the Public Sector Investment Programme 2022; and
- the Auditor General's Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2020.

Head 65: Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

Ministry Overview¹

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.

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;

¹ Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs website, *About Us*, accessed September 6, 2021: <https://foreign.gov.tt/about/ministry/about/>

International Organisations; the Private Sector; Civil Society and Nationals and Non-nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, both at home and abroad.

Minister: Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne²

Permanent Secretary (Accounting Officer): Ms. Reita Toussaint

Deputy Permanent Secretaries: Mr. Bruce Lai, Mr. Kirk Francois

² Trinidad and Tobago Gazette No. 158 of 2020 dated September 9, 2020, accessed September 6, 2021: <http://news.gov.tt/sites/default/files/E-Gazette/Gazette%202020/Gazettes/Gazette%20No.%20158%20of%202020.pdf>

Key Statement from 2020 Standing Finance Committee

During the Standing Finance Committee debate of 2020³, the following statement was made in relation to the emphasis of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs for fiscal year 2020/2021:

“The Ministry of the Foreign and CARICOM Affairs is keenly aware of the need for stringent management of the financial resources in its allocation for 2020/2021. Such awareness is heightened in the context of the economic constraints, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a negative impact on the operations of the Ministry – especially some of our overseas missions, the staff of which have tried to maintain an appropriate level of activity and service provision in some environments of very high infection rates. [...]

While the Ministry has always worked toward careful management of financial resources, the current situation, combined with the reduced allocation for fiscal 2020/2021, warrants a sharpened focus and more precise alignment of activities with the country’s economic and social development priorities to ensure that our work impacts the lives of the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. [...]

Although there are adjustments to be made, the Ministry will seize the opportunity to make more efficient and cost-effective use of technology to continue its activities and to improve services to our customers [...] It is anticipated that although the operating environment is challenging on several fronts, the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs will deliver its mandate successfully and deliver excellence on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.”

Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne

- Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

³ Standing Finance Committee Hansard of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, accessed August 24, 2021:
<http://www.ttparliament.org/legislations/hh20201022sfc.pdf>

Auditor General's Report Findings for the Financial Year 2020

Ref: Auditor General's Report pgs. 34, 95, 102, 107, 118 & 130⁴

65 – MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS

EXTRACTS OF TREASURY STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2020

Head of Expenditure	Original Estimates FY 2020	Supplementary Estimates and Transfers	Total Approved Estimates FY 2020	Actual Expenditure FY 2020	Variance – Less Than Estimates
65 – Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs	\$ 273,047,930.00	\$ 35,374,200.00	\$ 308,422,130.00	\$ 282,439,865.85	\$ 25,982,264.15

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO COVID-19 RELATED EXPENDITURE AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

3.65 For the period ended 30th September, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the expenditure of Ministries and Departments. Allocations under items of expenditure such as 'Office Stationery and Supplies' and 'Material and Supplies' were utilised for the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPEs) and other COVID-19 related items of expenditure such as hand sanitisers and additional cleaning services. In response to the economic fallout arising out of certain governmental restrictions, during the period March, 2020 to September 2020, Cabinet made a number of decisions to provide economic relief aimed at supporting individuals and businesses. [...]

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, accessed October 6, 2021: <http://138.128.179.50/sites/default/files/Auditor-General-Report-2020.pdf>

3.66 By Circular No. 6 dated 25th November, 2020, the Auditor General requested information from Ministries and Departments relating to COVID-19 expenditure for the year ended 30th September, 2020. Thirty-five (35) Ministries and Departments responded to the Circular, five (5) Ministries and Departments did not respond. Of the responses received, nineteen (19) Ministries and Departments reported expenditure that differed from amounts assessed during audit examinations.

3.67 The reported expenditure totalled \$809,646,587.92 and the audited figures totalled \$1,178,606,973.09 resulting in a difference of \$368,960,385.17. Appendix 1, refers.

APPENDIX 1 - COVID-19 EXPENDITURE 2020

Ministry	Ministry \$	Audited \$	Remarks
65 - Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs	-	-	No response to AG Circular 6

ACCOUNTS OF ACCOUNTING OFFICERS

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS

SUBMISSION OF APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS

3.1 Under section 4 (3) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01 (the Act), the Treasury is required to "... so superintend the expenditure of public monies as to ensure that proper arrangements for accounting to the House for such expenditure are made." The Minister of Finance appoints Accounting Officers who are charged with the duty of accounting for the use of public monies.

3.2 In accordance with section 24 (1) (b) of the Act, Accounting Officers are required to submit Appropriation Accounts to the Auditor General within four (4) months of the financial year-end of 30th September.

3.3 Forty (40) Appropriation Accounts were submitted to the Auditor Generals' Department within four (4) months of the financial year-end of 30th September, 2020 in accordance with the Act. Appropriation Accounts were received after the statutory deadline [...] as shown below:

Ministry / Department	Date Received
Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs	1 st February, 2021

EXPENDITURE CONTROL

Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

3.35 Total expenditure of \$282,439,865.85 plus commitments of \$84,225.54 exceeded the total amount released of \$220,815,137.00 by \$61,708,954.39.

ACCOUNTS OF RECEIVERS OF REVENUE

STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

4.3 Section 24 (1) (c) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01 as amended by Act No. 23 of 1998 requires receivers of revenue to prepare and transmit to the Auditor General their Statements of Receipts and Disbursements in such form as the Treasury may direct. By Comptroller of Accounts Circular No. 9 dated August 13, 2020, receivers of revenue were required to transmit to the Auditor General, Statements of Receipts and Disbursements in respect of monies collected under the Items of Revenue for which they are responsible on or before Friday January 29, 2021.

The following Receivers of Revenue did not comply with the Comptroller of Accounts Circular No.9, as required.

- AT6 – Registrar General
- FA1 – Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
- TM1 – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism.

FAI-Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

4.4 The last Statement of Receipts and Disbursements submitted to the Auditor General's Department was in respect of the financial year ended 30th September, 2018.

Public Sector Investment Programme 2021 Achievements⁵

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
- enhance the quality of life of all citizens.

VISION 2030 – BUILDING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE BUSINESS

Foreign Affairs

Foreign Policy and trade relations are key elements in Trinidad and Tobago's national development agenda. The country's foreign policy aims to expand and intensify the country's foreign relations through bilateral and multilateral initiatives aimed at creating optimal environments that are conducive to the achievement of development goals. To this end, the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs (MFCA) plays an essential role in the pursuit of trade promotion, investment policy, international cooperation, health, financial and commercial negotiations.

⁵ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Public Sector Investment Programme 2022, pgs. 52-53, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-2022.pdf>

In fiscal 2021, the Ministry sought to sustain its foreign relations with other states and international entities via diplomatic engagements, as well as strengthening its operations. The following projects continued in fiscal 2021 with a revised allocation sum of \$0.6 million:

- Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building; and
- Relocation and Outfitting of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Configuration, and Outfitting of new Offices

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

The project's overall objective is to better position the MFCA's staff for overseas duty and the equally important supporting role of the Ministry's Headquarters in crafting and implementing the country's foreign policy and in directing the operations of the Overseas Missions. Accordingly, three (3) initiatives were designed to expand and strengthen the capacity of the Ministry and the Foreign Service: Foreign Service Strengthening Initiative (FSSI), Reorganisation of the MFCA and Development of Standardised Human Resource (HR) Policy Guidelines for Overseas Missions.

Three (3) training modules commenced virtually and these activities are forty (40) percent complete:

- Phase one (1): HR Policy Guidelines for Overseas Missions- retention of resource personnel (researcher);
- Phase two (2): FSSI- Grief Counselling Training Workshop and "Advances in Consular Affairs in the Modern Diplomatic Mission: A Caribbean Perspective"; and
- Phase three (3): Reorganisation of MFCA- additional internal stakeholder engagement

Relocation and Outfitting of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

To facilitate improved responsiveness and promote synergies in the execution of its mandate, a more optimal physical organisation was needed. It is envisaged that the relocation to St. Clair Circle will strengthen the external image and branding of the MFCA by improving the safety and comfort for high-level officials visiting the Ministry as well as staff. The project will also facilitate improved responsiveness

in foreign policy research, formulation, planning, and implementation that will derive from enhanced economies of scale, given a more ideal physical organisation and integration of activities.

The project is thirty-five (35) percent completed and the following activities are ongoing: post relocation adjustments and variations; procurement of integral office equipment; procurement of potable water filtration system; and the approval and commencement of staff common room.

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

Year ^{6[1]}	Total Allocation ^[2]	National Budget ^[3]	Percentage of National Budget
2016	\$ 266,147,076.00	\$ 56,573,913,053.00	0.47%
2017	\$ 259,333,594.00	\$ 54,883,153,410.00	0.48%
2018	\$ 240,944,123.00	\$ 54,211,726,813.00	0.44%
2019	\$ 222,393,936.00	\$ 54,581,467,181.00	0.41%
2020	\$ 282,439,866.00	\$ 57,388,076,726.00	0.49%
2021	\$ 206,057,330.00	\$ 57,292,169,264.00	0.36%
2022	\$ 249,245,824.00	\$ 57,917,018,000.00	0.43%

- Total allocation for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs as a percentage of the National Budget showed a **0.07%** increase between the period 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.

^[1] For the Fiscal Years 2016-2020, actual figures were used to calculate the Ministry's total allocation. However, estimates were used to calculate the total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022.

^[2] Total Allocation for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs = Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund.

^[3] The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Total Consolidated Fund.

Where the Ministry spends its money

2022 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation of **\$256,745,824.00** for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure⁷ in the sum of **\$248,845,824.00**;
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme⁸ in the sum of **\$7,900,000.00**:
 - Consolidated Fund in the sum of **\$400,000.00**; and
 - Infrastructure Development Fund⁹ in the sum of **\$7,500,000.00**.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure – **\$89,872,968.00**;
- 02 Goods and Services – **\$77,637,176.00**;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases – **\$3,823,900.00**; and
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies – **\$77,511,780.00**

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

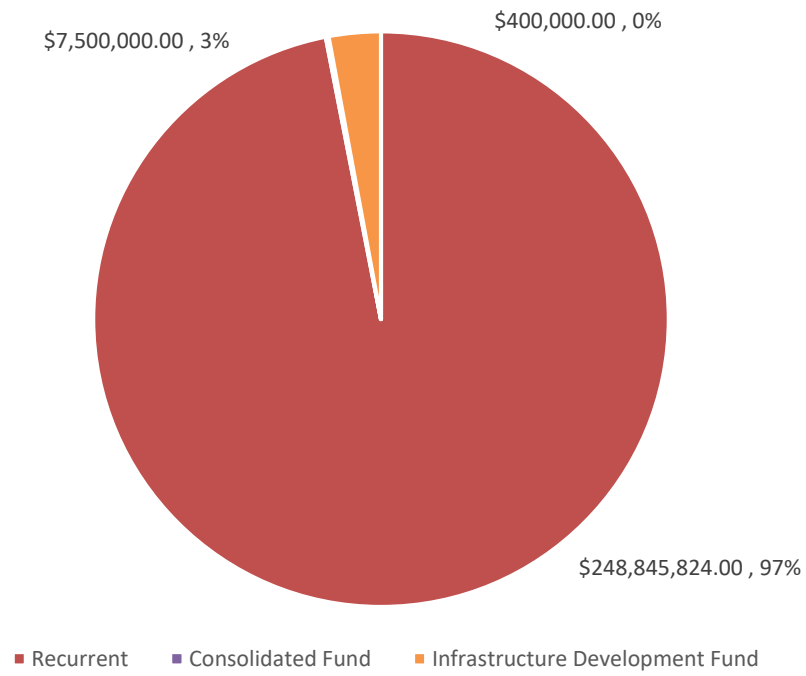
- Total allocation as a percentage of National Budget = **0.44%**;
- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is **0.45%**;
- Consolidated Fund as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is **0.02%**; and
- Infrastructure Development Fund as a percentage of the total Infrastructure Development Fund is **0.44%**.

⁷ Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2022, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Details-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2022.pdf>

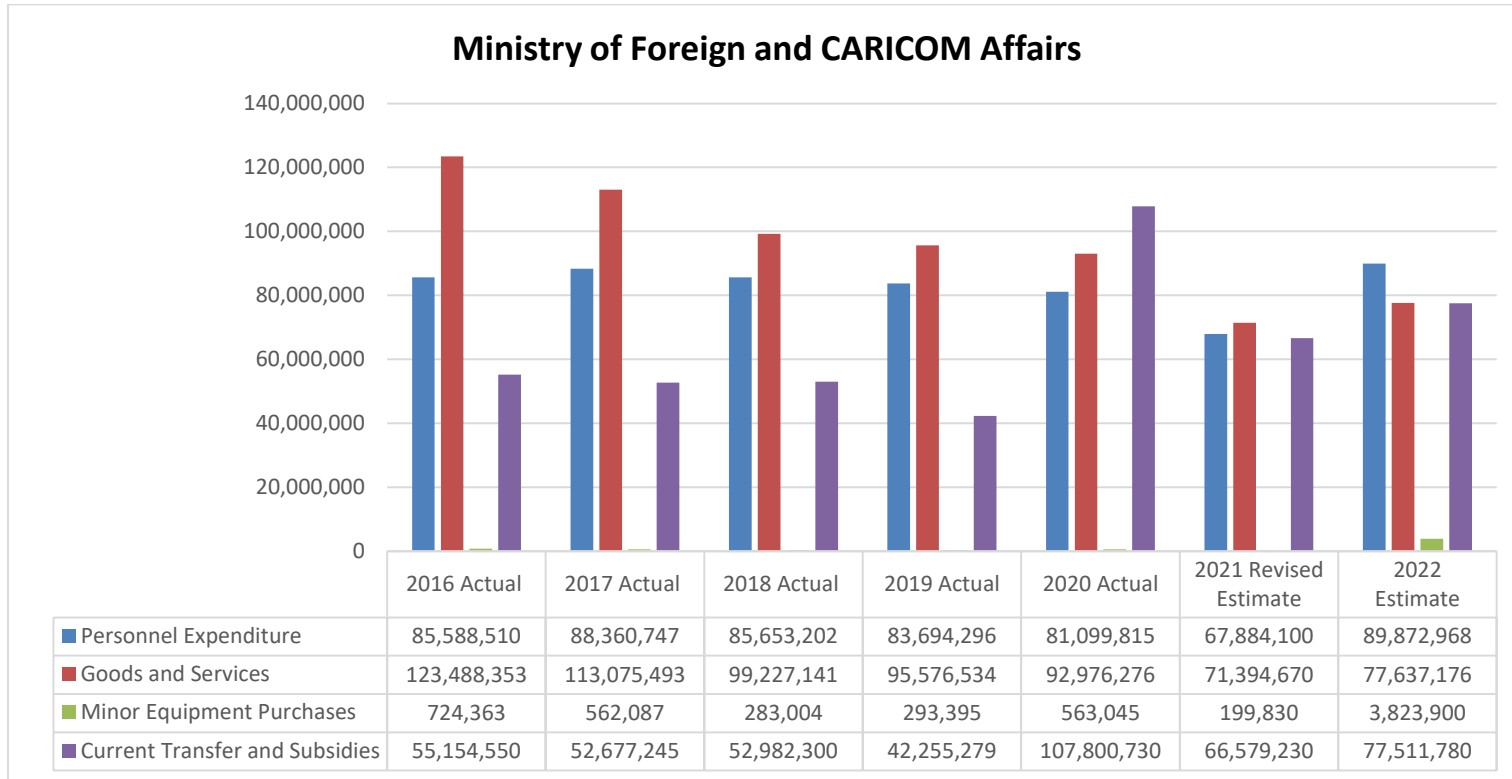
⁸ Draft Estimates of Development Programme for the Financial Year 2022, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

⁹ 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.*

Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM
Summary of Total 2022 Allocation
\$256,745,824.00



Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2016-2022¹⁰



¹⁰ Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2022, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Details-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2022.pdf>

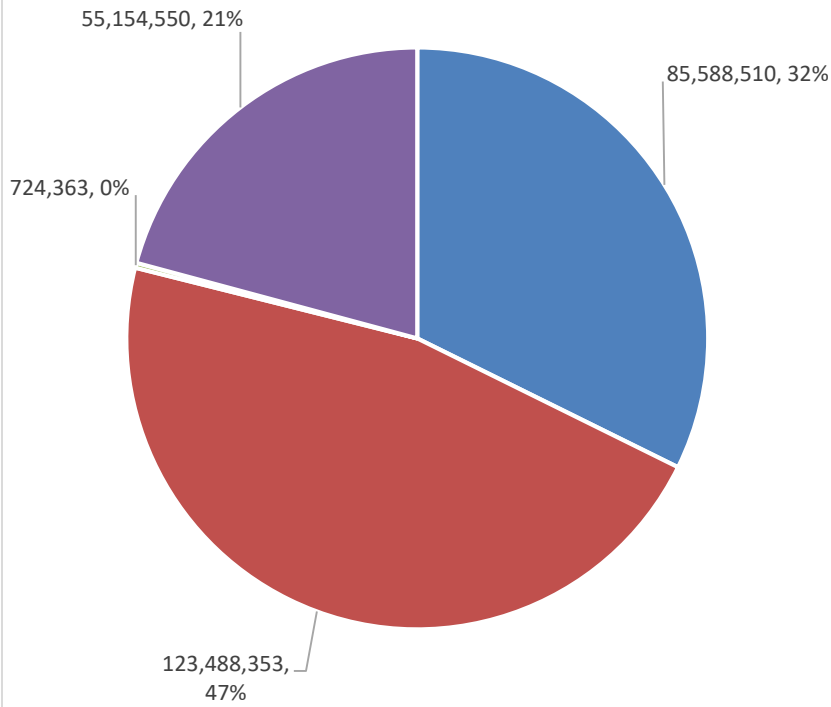
Analysis of Recurrent Expenditure¹¹

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 2021/2022 is **\$248,845,824.00**.
- Recurrent Expenditure for Financial Year 2020/2021 (revised) was **\$206,057,330.00**. Comparing Financial Year 2021/2022 with Financial Year 2020/2021, there is an increase of **\$42,788,494.00** or **20.8%**.
- The largest portion of the recurrent allocation went to **Sub-Head 02 Goods and Services** from Financial Year 2016 to Financial Year 2019 and in Financial Year 2021. However, in 2022 the largest portion of the Ministry's estimated Recurrent Expenditure allocation will go to **Sub-Head 01 Personnel Expenditure** at **\$89,872,968.00**, which represents **36.1%** of the total. In Financial Year 2022, Goods and Services will account for **\$77,637,176.00 (31.2%)** of the Ministry's total Recurrent Expenditure to fund its day to day operations.
- **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 2022 it will receive the third largest portion of the allocation, just behind Goods and Services at **\$77,511,780.00** or **31.1%** of the total.
- **Sub-Head 03 Minor Equipment Purchases** received the lowest portion of the total recurrent allocation for the Ministry over the period 2016 to 2022 and was at its lowest level in FY 2021 at **\$199,830.00** or **0.1%** of the Ministry's total recurrent allocation.

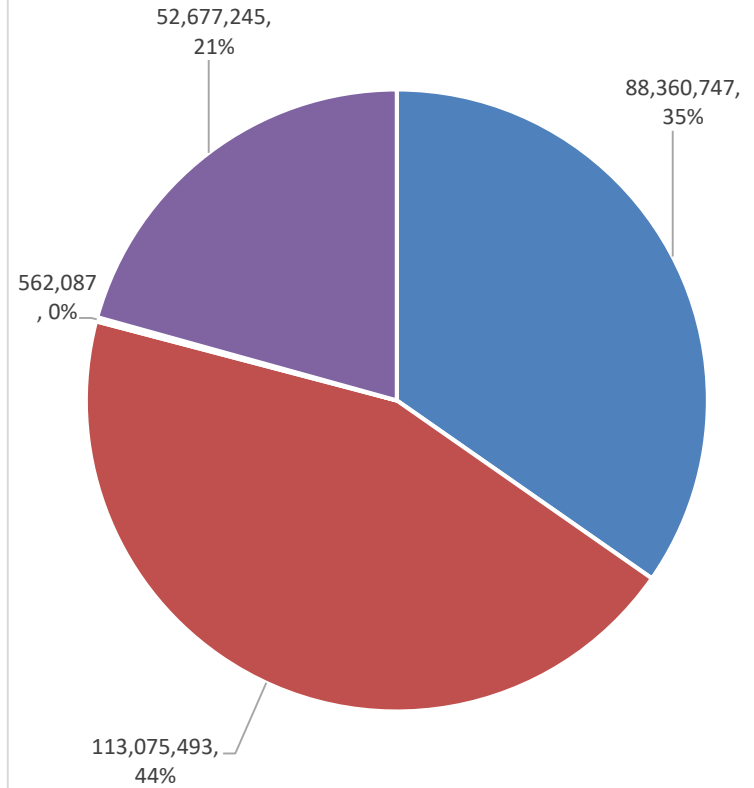
¹¹ Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2022, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Details-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2022.pdf>

2016 Actual - \$264,955,776.00



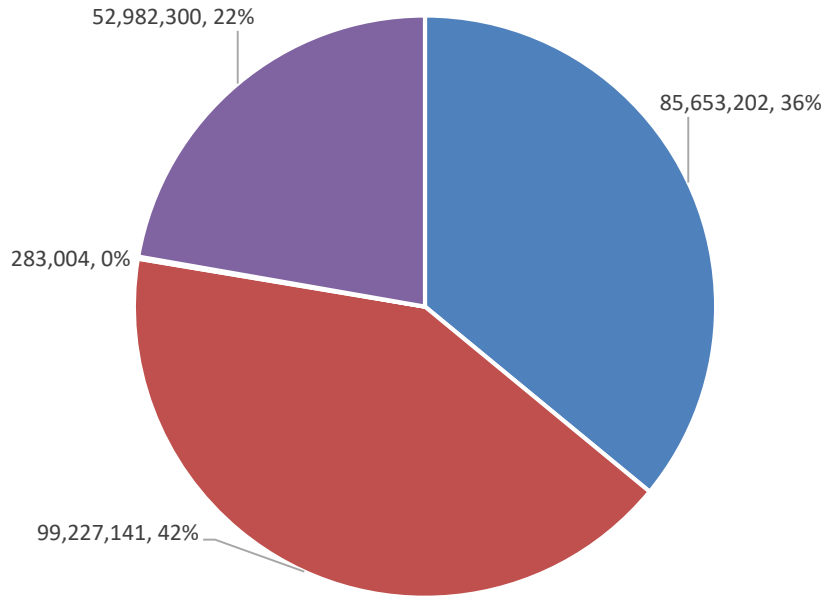
■ Personnel Expenditure ■ Goods and Services
■ Minor Equipment Purchases ■ Current Transfer and Subsidies

2017 Actual - \$254,675,572.00



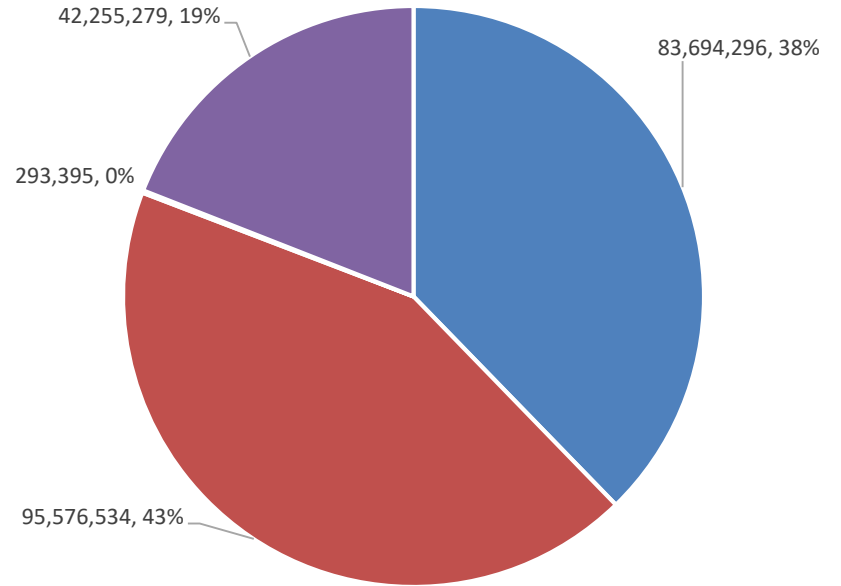
■ Personnel Expenditure ■ Goods and Services
■ Minor Equipment Purchases ■ Current Transfer and Subsidies

2018 Actual - \$238,145,647.00



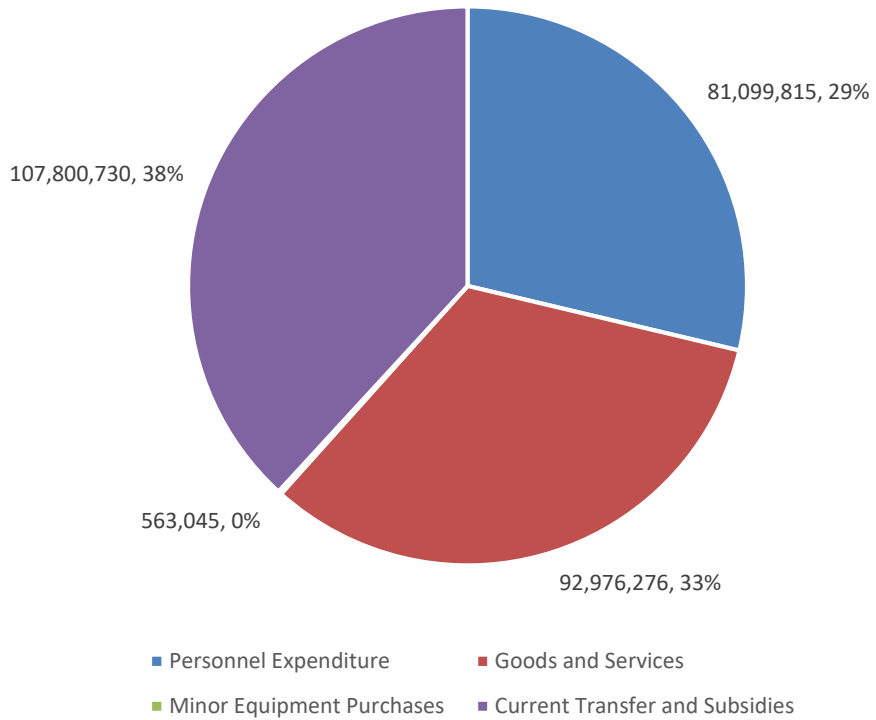
- Personnel Expenditure
- Goods and Services
- Minor Equipment Purchases
- Current Transfer and Subsidies

2019 Actual - \$221,819,504.00

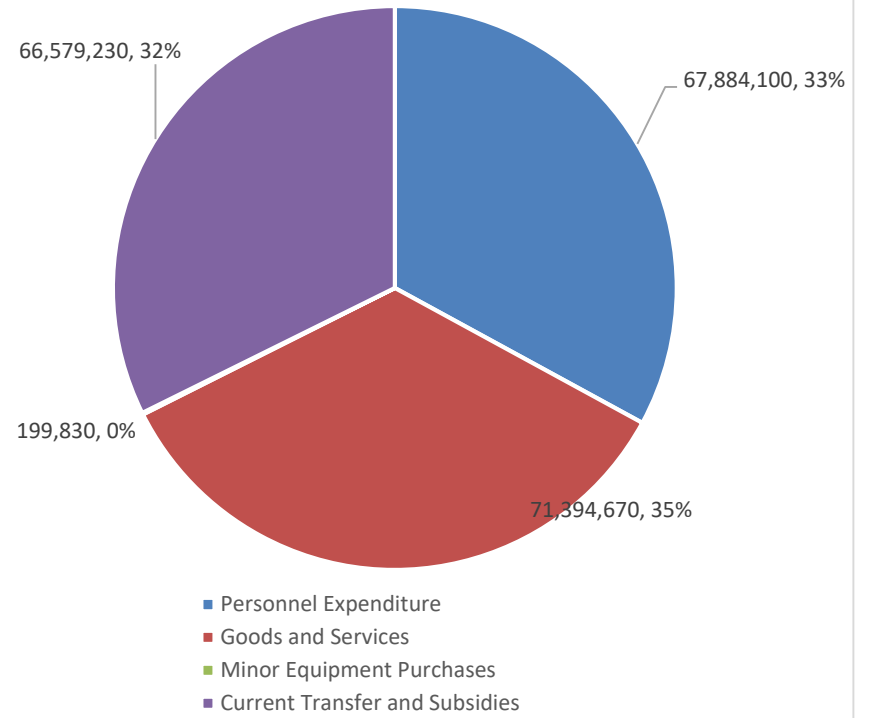


- Personnel Expenditure
- Goods and Services
- Minor Equipment Purchases
- Current Transfer and Subsidies

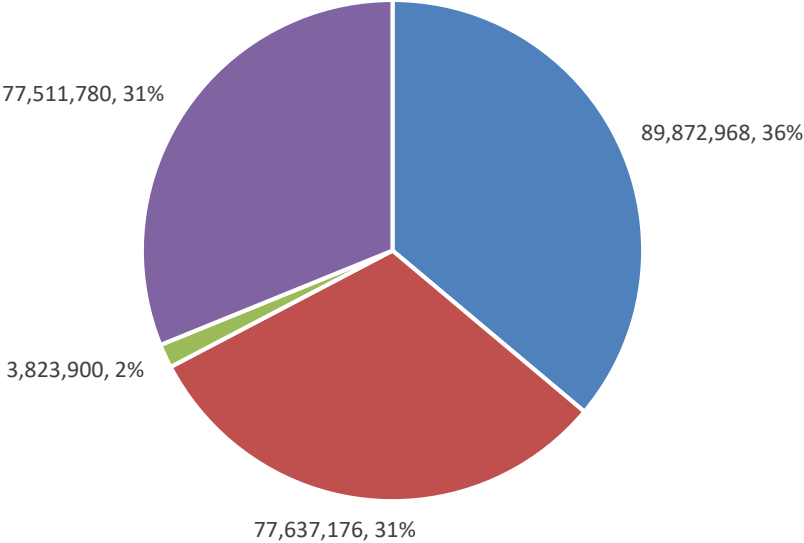
2020 Actual - \$282,439,866.00



2021 Revised Estimates - \$206,057,830.00



2022 Estimates - \$248,845,824.00



- Personnel Expenditure
- Goods and Services
- Minor Equipment Purchases
- Current Transfer and Subsidies

Recurrent Expenditure Unique to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs¹²

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;

¹² Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2022, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Details-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2022.pdf>

- 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

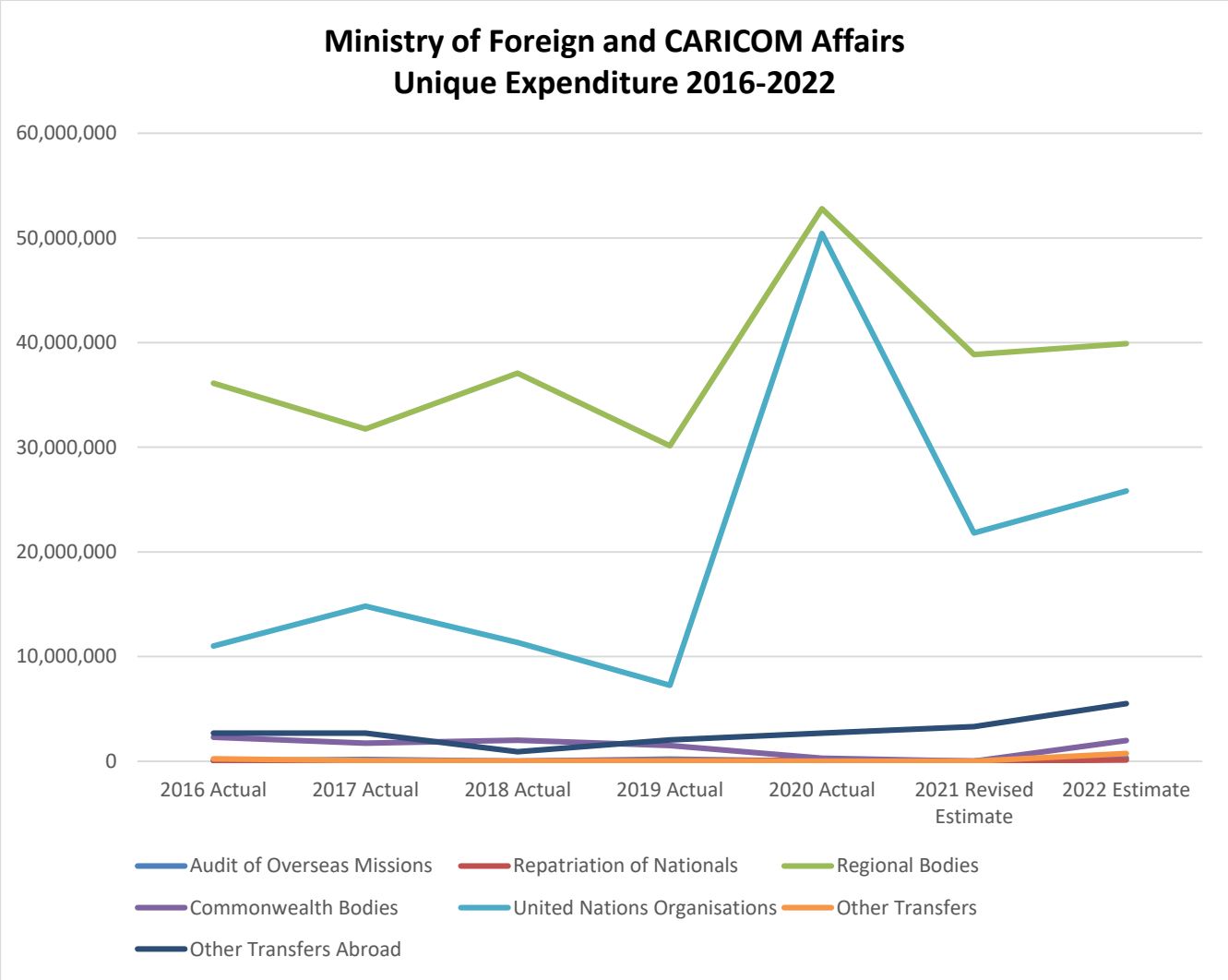
010 Other Transfers Abroad includes the following:

- ACP¹³ 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 OAS¹⁴)
- Group of 77
- Group of Latin American and Caribbean States
- Inter-American Council for Integral Development – Special Multi-Lateral Fund (FEMCICI);

¹³ African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

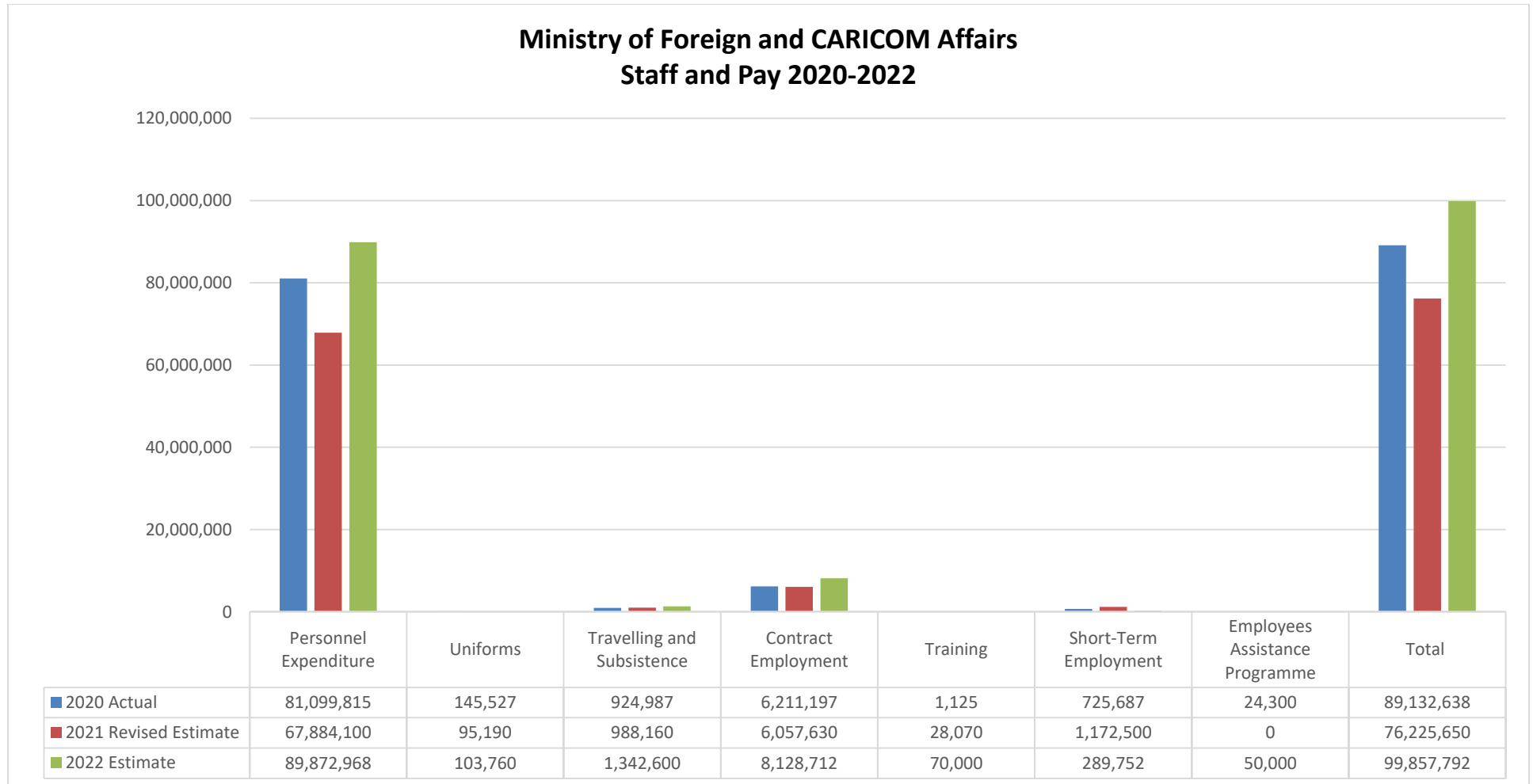
¹⁴ Organisation of American States

- Contribution to Disaster Relief; and
- International Fact Finding Commission.



Staff and Pay¹⁵

The allocation of staff expenditure for the year 2021/2022 was \$99,857,792.00, which represents an increase of approximately 31% from the last fiscal year 2020/2021. The diagram below provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2020-2022.



¹⁵ Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2022, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Details-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-2022.pdf>

Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2016 - 2022¹⁶

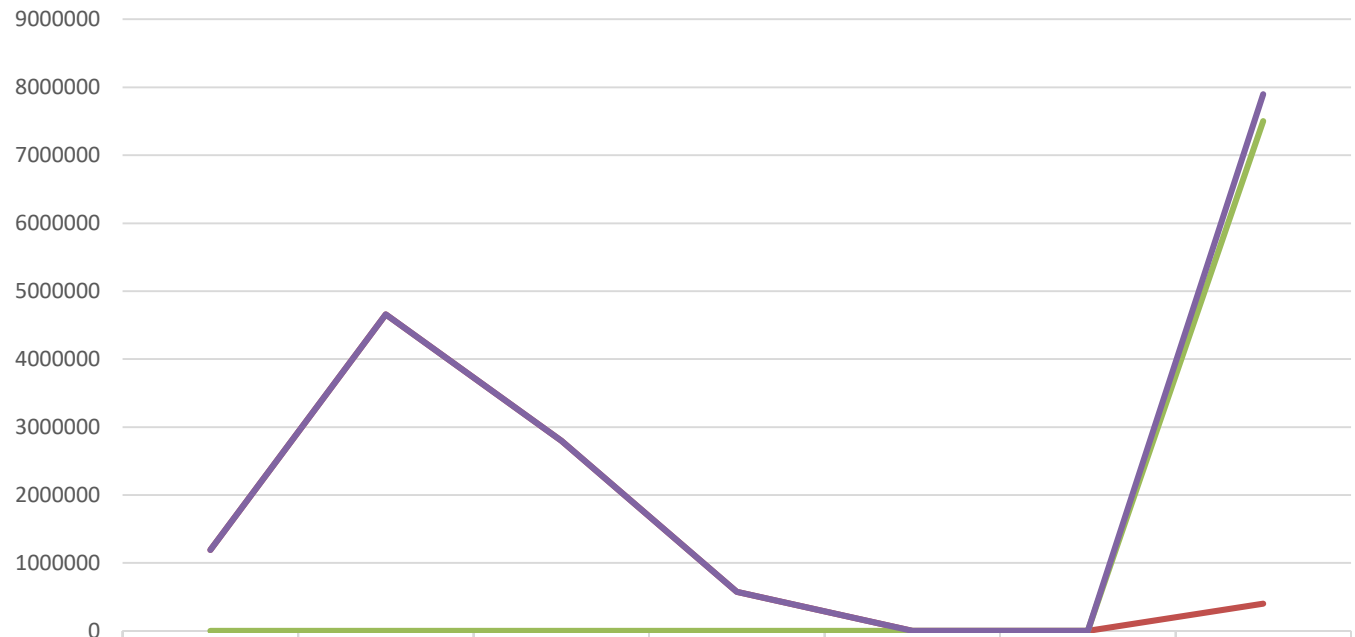
Development Programme is capital expenditure aimed at improving and enhancing development in different areas of Trinidad and Tobago which includes; human resources, economic and social development.

The allocation of **\$7,900,000.00** for development programmes and projects for fiscal year 2021/2022 is presented in two parts as follows:

- Funds disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund = **\$400,000.00** and represent **5.1%** of the total allocation for development programmes; and
- Funds disbursed from the Infrastructure Development Fund = **\$7,500,000.00** and represent **94.9%** of the total allocation to the Ministry.

¹⁶ Draft Estimates of Development Programme for the Financial Year 2022, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Development Programme Expenditure 2016-2022



	Actual 2016	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Revised Estimate 2021	Estimate 2022
005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Consolidated Fund	1,191,300	4,658,022	2,798,476	574,432	0	0	400,000
005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Infrastructure Development Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,500,000
Total	1,191,300	4,658,022	2,798,476	574,432	0	0	7,900,000

Public Sector Investment Programme 2022 - Projections¹⁷

Ref: pgs. 196-198, 276

VISION 2030 – BUILDING GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE BUSINESS

Trinidad and Tobago's foreign policy seeks to strategically maintain, develop and enhance relations at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. The foreign policy agenda promotes the need to forge new partnerships within regional and hemispheric organisations to address emerging and existing socio-economic, environmental and geo-political issues. The country's foreign policy continues to be aligned to the national development agenda, Vision 2030, namely, promoting sustainable development, peace and citizen security. As Trinidad and Tobago seeks to become more active on the global market place, having a strong foreign policy to support this thrust is paramount, as recommended by Roadmap to Recovery Committee. Accordingly, the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs (MFCA) will continue to engage in effective representation at home and abroad and act as a channel through which the national interests and development goals are achieved.

The MFCA prioritises 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 utilises public and international diplomacy to ensure respect and leadership; and the Mission related to international law. It also directs the country's foreign relations with other states and international entities mainly through diplomatic initiatives and representation.

¹⁷ Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Public Sector Investment Programme 2022, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Public-Sector-Investment-Programme-2022.pdf>

In fiscal 2022, the Ministry will continue 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. Funds in the amount of \$7.9 million will be allocated to maintain the effectiveness of the MFCA in the execution of its mandate and for the continued implementation of the following projects:

- Relocation of the Ministry - phase six [6] works will entail the security management system and phase seven [7] works will entail ICT equipment upgrade;
- Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building - phase three [3] of the Foreign Service Strengthening Initiative (FSSI) which includes training in Procurement and Ethical Behaviour, Negotiation and Policy-making, Workplace Health and Safety (OSHA), Human Resource Management and Personnel Administration, Crisis Management, Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution;
- Digitisation of the CSME Skills Certificate Application Process (New) - this project aims to strengthen the integrity of the application process through the use of an online application system which will be hosted on the Ministry's website. It seeks to create a more user friendly and interactive experience for the applicants while creating a more robust record-keeping and security architecture. Furthermore, it will create a paperless and contact-free application procedure. The project will also include the use of an online appointment system and online chat system to provide a higher level of service to applicants. These systems are being developed in conjunction with the National ICT Company of Trinidad and Tobago (iGovTT). It is envisaged that this project will be the start of the digitisation of all services of the Ministry thereafter including Consular services both at Headquarters and at the Trinidad and Tobago Overseas Missions;
- Renovation/ Upgrade works of Three [3] Units at Flagstaff - works to modernise the units will include the replacement of flooring and wall tiles, kitchen and cupboards upgrade, bath room upgrade, electrical and plumbing upgrade, timber floor board replacement, emulsion application to internal wall painting, air conditioning servicing, skylight repairs and works to the balcony. These upgrading works will provide adequate and safe accommodation; improve and enhance the buildings' overall aesthetic/appearance and general structural integrity; maintain current market value; and provide a clean, safe, and modern residential accommodation for returning Foreign Services Officers.

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs will implement the two following projects which will deepen and create linkages to support export diversification and to re-enforce CARICOM relationships. Furthermore, these projects will enhance the country's profile and diplomatic presence. They will also increase the value of the Ministry's building stock thereby enhancing the overall value of Government's property portfolio.

- Refurbishment of the Chancery High Commission in Kingston, Jamaica - urgent repair works will be undertaken to the current roofing structure of the Facility. This refurbishment is critical to provide a clean, safe and OSHA compliant building for workers and end users of the facility, and to enhance the value of the Ministry's overseas assets;
- Renovation to High Commissioner's Residence High Commission in South Africa - This renovation will include scheduled internal and external works to ensure adherence to relevant building codes in the jurisdiction; improve and enhance the building's overall aesthetic/ appearance and general structural integrity and maintain its value; and provide a clean, safe, and comfortable residence for the High Commissioner; and
- To upgrade and refurbish structural repairs of the High Commission in Caracas; and of the High Commission in London thereby ensuring adherence to relevant building codes in the jurisdiction. This will ensure that the High Commission is preserved at a habitable standard, enhance the building's overall aesthetic appearance and general structural integrity and maintain its value.

VISION 2030 – DELIVERING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Public Buildings

- Ongoing works at the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs' Head Office which include the security management system, ICT equipment upgrade, repairs to three (3) units at Flagstaff and renovations to High Commissions at Jamaica and South Africa.

Noteworthy Development Programme Estimates 2020-2022

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

Sub-head /Item /Sub-item /Group /Project Desc.	2020 Actual	2021 Revised Estimate	2022 Estimate
IDF- 005-06-F-001 Relocation of Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Configuration and Outfitting of New Offices	-	-	\$1,800,000.00

¹⁸ Draft Estimates of Development Programme for the Financial Year 2022, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

New Projects for the Financial Year 2022¹⁹ 20

The following are identified as “New Projects” that will receive funding in the 2021/2022 financial year:

Sub-head /Item /Sub- item /Group /Project Desc.	Project	2022 Estimate
CF-005-06-A-021	Digitisation of the CSME Skills Certificate Application Process	\$200,000.00
IDF- 005-06-F-003	Renovation / Upgrade works of three units at Flagstaff	\$200,000.00
IDF- 005-06-F-005	Refurbishment of Chancery High Commission in Kingston, Jamaica	\$150,000.00
IDF- 005-06-F-007	Renovation to High Commissioner’s Residence in South Africa	\$350,000.00
IDF- 005-06-F-008	Refurbishment / Upgrade of the Embassy in Caracas	\$2,000,000.00
IDF- 005-06-F-009	Refurbishment / Upgrade of the High Commission in London	\$3,000,000.00

¹⁹ Draft Estimates of Development Programme for the Financial Year 2022, accessed October 6, 2021: <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-2022.pdf>

²⁰ No new projects received funding in FY 2020/2021.

Committee Reports Related to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs

First Report on an Enquiry to Examine the Foreign Policy of Trinidad and Tobago.

Issue	Recommendation	Areas Requiring Funding or Follow-Up
Property Management	1. Implement a schedule for the regular maintenance of the Ministry's properties both at Headquarters and abroad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An estimate of the cost of regular maintenance of the Ministry's local and foreign properties. • An explanation of the how the Ministry will ensure value for money and provider compliance regarding the procurement of maintenance services, particularly abroad.
	2. Ensure that a property rationalization system is in place at the Ministry to assist decision making, regarding the acquisition, lease and sale of properties belonging to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago overseas.	Status update on the completion and implementation of this policy.
The Diaspora	1. Complete and implement its policy on the Diaspora and report same to Parliament.	Indicate the sum required to complete the policy.
Human Resources and Financial Constraints	1. Recruit another cohort of International Relations Officers immediately to address the shortage in staff.	Number of International Relations Officers recruited and cost of these recruitments.
	2. Ensure that staff posted at Missions, including administrative staff, are fully trained to perform the required duties.	Status update on types of training identified and the cost of conducting training initiatives.
	3. Ensure sufficient staffing at Missions to accommodate the volume of work required to provide services to the diaspora.	Indicate whether staffing at Missions will be strengthened through additional postings of officers from headquarters or through local hires in the countries where the Missions are located.

Recent Legislative Developments

Act No.	Short Title	Details	Status
3 of 2021	<u>The CARIFORUM States (the Caribbean Community and the Dominican Republic) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Economic Partnership Act, 2021</u> 	<u>Progression</u>	Date of Assent: 29-Mar-2021

General Useful Information

- Department of State, USA: <https://www.state.gov/>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CHINA: http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/
- Foreign and Commonwealth and Development Office, UNITED KINGDOM:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, GUYANA: <https://www.minfor.gov.gy/>
- Global Affairs Canada, CANADA: <http://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/index.aspx?lang=eng>
- Department of International Relations and Cooperation, SOUTH AFRICA: <http://www.dirco.gov.za/>
- Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, MEXICO: <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en>