

# Householders Receiving Grants Under 'Rebuild Jamaica'

HOUSEHOLDERS HAVE started to receive grant assistance under the Government's 'Rebuild Jamaica' initiative.

A sum of \$1 billion has been allocated to enable persons impacted by the passage of Hurricane Beryl on July 3, to recover and rebuild.

Under the programme, persons whose houses were destroyed will receive grant funding of up to \$400,000; those whose homes were severely damaged will receive \$150,000; and those who experienced minor damage will receive \$50,000.

Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, said the prudent management of the country has enabled the Administration to respond to and provide relief and recovery assistance.

He noted that the Government has so far allocated over \$5 billion to relief and recovery, in addition to insurance funds.

Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Parnel Charles Jr., in providing details about the assistance being provided under 'Rebuild Jamaica,' said that to

date, the Ministry has completed 14,516 household damage assessments under the initiative.

He informed that of the total assessment, a little more than 7,000 have been validated and all cheques printed at a value of \$646.250 million.

"Of those cheques which have been distributed, to date, based on average across the parishes, more than 80 per cent of our beneficiaries [have] received those cheques," he stated.

He said that the Ministry will be hosting a series of community meetings to address challenges in validating some of the information provided by persons, and urged householders, whose houses were damaged and who were not assessed to also attend these meetings "and we will take your information and ensure that we get your assessment done."

**"The prudent management of the country has enabled the Administration to provide relief and recovery assistance."**



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, presents grant recipient, Kadian Wint, with an envelope during the launch of the Rebuild Jamaica Initiative, held at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security offices, in Kingston.

## Beneficiaries Grateful for Assistance from Government

PERSONS WHO have received 'Rebuild Jamaica' grants are grateful for the assistance provided.

Kemar Evans whose house was significantly damaged during the hurricane, is looking forward to rebuilding and reuniting with his children under one roof.

The St. Mary resident is temporarily separated from his children, who are currently living with relatives.

Mr. Evans told **JIS News** that when he found out that he would be among the more than 100 persons from the parish to receive grant assistance, he was elated.

"I was feeling so excited, and I said at least the Government recognises us and we're getting good help. I am very, very grateful for this. I am so proud of what the Minister is doing right here," Mr. Evans said.



Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Parnel Charles Jr. (right), presents a cheque to 'Rebuild Jamaica' beneficiary, Kemar Evans, during a handover ceremony at the Anglican Church Hall in Port Maria, St. Mary.

Resident of Ramble district in St. Thomas, Nashay Clarke, told **JIS News** that her house was "totally destroyed".

"I live on top of a hill, so I got all of it [and] the house

collapsed with me inside," she related.

She said that although her house was not significantly hurt, suffering "just a few scars and small bruises", the event was traumatic.

Expressing gratitude for the \$400,000 assistance from the Government, she said "I am elated. It's a good start and as for me, I am going to do what has to be done".

Dorran Williams, from Darliston in Westmoreland, also expressed gratitude for the support extended.

Mr. Williams, who lost the roof on his house, said the grant will significantly aid in rebuilding efforts.

For his part, James Barrett of Golden-Valley said, "The category four hurricane affected me very badly because the house blew over and an ackee tree dropped in it and split it up."

He told **JIS News** that his furniture and appliances were destroyed, and he is grateful for the assistance from the Government to help him recover.



Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Parnel Charles Jr. (right), is joined by Member of Parliament for Westmoreland Eastern, Daniel Lawrence (left), in handing over cheques to residents of the parish, Dorran Williams (second left) and Robert Brown, to assist with repairs to their homes.

"I feel happy. It (the cash grant) will carry me very far. Give thanks to them to help

the people survive back again," Mr. Barrett says.

## Government Partners with International Stakeholders

A PARTNERSHIP involving the United Nations (UN) World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has facilitated the provision of financial support to persons whose homes were either destroyed or rendered uninhabitable.

Minister Charles Jr. said this financial relief is being disbursed in phases to ensure accuracy and timeliness.

"The UN World Food Programme has provided \$219 million in cash grants for 3,400 of the worst affected households. These are families with young children (0-6 years old), persons with disabilities and elderly members. Over 11,500 individuals will receive that support," he indicated.

Mr. Charles Jr. said that the payments are being disbursed in two tranches over a period of two months, through Western Union.



Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Parnel Charles Jr. (left), greets Head of the World Food Programme Caribbean Multi-Country Jamaica Office, Dana Sacchetti, during a 'Rebuild Jamaica' handover ceremony in St. Mary.

**"The UN World Food Programme has provided \$219 million in cash grants for 3,400 of the worst affected households."**

The first half of these funds was paid out between September 12 and 13, with the

second tranche slated to be dispatched to the same beneficiaries in October.

Mr. Charles Jr. said that under a second partnership, UNICEF has provided \$42.75 million in support for 7,000 households in the parishes of St. Catherine, Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth.

Of this amount, \$36.5 million has been designated for families on the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) with children ages zero to six years and pregnant/lactating women,

and a further \$6.25 million for persons with disabilities.

"I can confirm that disbursement of funds under the UNICEF partnership commenced on September 16," the Minister said.



Staff from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security interact with residents of Westmoreland during a 'Rebuild Jamaica' cheque presentation exercise at the Source in Savanna-la-Mar.

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