

Nine months into operation: Children's Authority probing 4,158 cases

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NINE months into its operations, the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago is investigating some 4,158 cases of children in

need of care and protection, the highest number of cases reported in the country's history, the Authority disclosed in a media statement yesterday.

In a report to be released later this week, the Authority said the

types of abuse reported, as well as demographic information, which is expected to inform immediate policy interventions, will be detailed.

"The Report will reveal that the highest categories of child protection issues are sexual abuse, ne-

glect, physical abuse and children lacking care and guardianship," the Authority stated yesterday. "The Report will also show that in its first nine months of operations, the Authority's Emergency Response Team rescued over 300

children—a chilling reality of how poorly we are doing as a society to protect the most vulnerable."

The Authority lamented that placement for children remains a major challenge, particularly children with special needs.

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