# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Contents**

PART I- ABOUT THE MINISTRY ................................................................. 3
VISION AND MISSION .................................................................................. 3
MESSAGE OF THE MINISTER ................................................................. 4
UNITS OF THE MINISTRY ........................................................................ 7
Planning and Research Unit ................................................................. 7
Gender Unit .......................................................................................... 7
Child Development Unit (CDU) ............................................................. 8
Family Welfare and Protection Unit (FWPU) ........................................ 8
Home Economics Unit ........................................................................ 9
Child Perpetrator Support Unit ............................................................ 9
Social Welfare Division ........................................................................ 9
National Adoption Council ................................................................. 10
Parastatal Bodies under the aegis of the Ministry ................................. 11
(i) National Women Council (NWC) ................................................... 11
(ii) National Children's Council (NCC) .................................................. 12
(iv) Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund (SILWF) ............................. 12
GENDER STATEMENT ............................................................................ 13

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE .............................................................................. 14
Part II ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY ......................................... 17
PART III: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE .................................................. 32
PART IV: WAY FORWARD ....................................................................... 42
Trends and challenges ........................................................................ 42
Strategic Direction ................................................................................ 43
PART I- ABOUT THE MINISTRY

This Ministry is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies for the rights and welfare of women, children, families including the community at large.

It comprises seven main units and one division namely, the Planning and Research Unit, the Gender Unit, the Home Economics Unit, the Child Development Unit, the Alternative Care Unit, the Family Welfare and Protection Unit, the Child Perpetrator Support Unit and the Social Welfare Division. There are 4 parastatal bodies which operate under the aegis of the Ministry and these are the National Women’s Council, the National Women Entrepreneur Council, the National Children’s Council and the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund.

The National Adoption Council established under the National Adoption Council Act 1987 as a Body Corporate operates under the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare since February 2017.

VISION AND MISSION

OUR VISION

To have a society which is free from violence, exploitation and discrimination based on sex, where the fundamental rights of women and children are respected and where human values within the family and the civil society are cherished.

OUR MISSION

To design and implement policies and programmes geared towards promoting gender equality, protecting the rights of children and enhancing their overall development, promoting the well-being of families and fostering community based activities/programmes/services for the general welfare of the citizens.
MESSAGE OF THE MINISTER

It is with much pleasure that I present the 2nd Annual Report of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare for the fiscal year 2017-2018. The Annual Report on the Performance of Government bodies is a statutory requirement in accordance with Section 4B of the Finance and Audit Act. This Report gives an account of the performance and achievements of my Ministry for the preceding financial year. It also aims at providing information to our stakeholders and the public at large.

In 2017, my Ministry with the assistance of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa published the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI) Report for Mauritius: the first index that the country has ever produced to measure gender equality and women empowerment in the country. The report not only shows that Mauritius has made significant strides towards empowering women and achieving gender equality but also underlines that we are compliant to international and regional standards including the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

Another landmark achievement of my Ministry is the proclamation of the National Women's Council Act in March 2018 to further promote women's empowerment and gender equality, especially through the active participation of women in the social, economic and political fields.

A number of measures to increase participation of women in leadership positions have also been taken during the financial year 2017/2018, namely:

- The new Code of Corporate Governance (2016) was launched in February 2017 to encourage companies to have at least one woman at board level.
- Capacity building programmes and awareness campaigns were conducted on the pertinence of having more women at different levels of decision making instances;
- Different coaching and training programmes were designed in Rodrigues to empower women involved in Politics, Civil Service, Entrepreneurship and unemployed women through a Women Leaders Programme since 2017.

My Ministry has also obtained technical assistance from the European Union for, inter-alia:
- Capacity Building on Gender Mainstreaming;
- Capacity Development for Gender Analysis;
- Preparation of a Gender Equality Bill;
• Revision and finalization of the Children's Bill; and
• Preparation of an Adoption Bill.

It is worth highlighting that, in the preceding financial year, the Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative (GRBI) was extended to all Ministries whereby they were allocated Rs 200, 000 to implement gender sensitive measures.

Furthermore, through a network of 57 Social Welfare Centres and 136 Community Centres, my Ministry has reached out to the community at large by conducting awareness campaigns island wide on various issues including gender equality and women's empowerment.

My Ministry has also given a new impetus to the Family Rehabilitation/Back to home Programme by gradually de-institutionalizing Residential Care Institutions. A significant number of children placed in shelters have been reintegrated into their biological families or foster families.

My Ministry looks forward to an effective partnership with its stakeholders to further the cause of women, children, family and the community in general. Our vision is that of a society free from violence and discrimination based on sex, where the fundamental rights of women and children are respected and where human values are cherished.

The Hon. Mrs Fazila Jeewa- Daureeawoo, GCSK
Vice Prime Minister,
Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands and
Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development
and Family Welfare
MESSAGE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

I am indeed very pleased to be associated with this second issue of the Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. Last year, our Ministry released the first annual report on its achievements and way forward. In line with the Ministry’s mandate, we are striving to promote gender equality, ensure child protection, family welfare and community development keeping in view good governance, transparency and accountability principles.

The Annual Report also highlights the general performance of our Ministry and the status of the allocated budget throughout the year under review. This is depicted through statistical information on the different elements related to our achievements.

This Annual Report on the Ministry’s performance is a step further in our endeavour to ensure that our mission, vision and objectives are disseminated through constant and transparent communication with our stakeholders. It also contributes to market our services for the enhancement of the welfare of our families and the community in general.

I would like to reiterate the call I made in the first issue of the Annual Report for an effective partnership with our stakeholders to further improve the situation of women, children, the family and the community. The Ministry cannot effectively fulfil its mandate by working in isolation and without the collaboration and support of the civil society and the private sector – each stakeholder “se doit d’apporter sa pierre à l’édifice” to achieve our vision of a society free from violence and discrimination.

I would also like to convey my sincere appreciation to all members of the staff of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare for their commitment, dedication, teamwork and achievements during the fiscal year 2017-2018.

Mrs J. Jaunbocus
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare
ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

To implement policies, programmes, projects and activities geared towards:

(i) protection of women and children against violence and abuse;
(ii) promotion of the welfare of women, children and families;
(iii) safeguarding the rights of women and children;
(iv) economic empowerment of women through basic skills development and entrepreneurship development;
(v) promoting the welfare of citizens through community-based programmes, activities and services; and
(vi) working for women’s empowerment for the attainment of gender equality

UNITS OF THE MINISTRY

Planning and Research Unit

The Planning and Research Unit is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the Ministry. It devises policies, programmes, projects, action plans and reports on issues relating to women, child development and family welfare. It provides technical back up to all the Units and Parastatal Bodies, operating under the aegis of the Ministry. It also establishes base line data on women, family and children in the fields of health, education and employment amongst others and produces an annual report “Statistics Mauritius–A Gender Approach” for dissemination.

Gender Unit

The Gender Unit is responsible for the promotion of gender equality. This is achieved through:-

(i) coordinating the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies in all Ministries’ policies and programmes; and
(ii) implementing policies/programmes to empower women socially, economically and politically, thereby addressing “de facto” inequality and bridging all outstanding gender gaps.

The Gender Unit has a network of 15 Women Empowerment Centres scattered over the island where, over the years, activities ranging from training courses to Information, Education and Communication campaigns, talks and seminars on various women's issues have been organised for the empowerment of women.
**Child Development Unit (CDU)**

The Child Development Unit (CDU) operates through 6 outstations across the country to provide support services and first hand counselling to all children victims of violence.

A 24-hour service is offered through Hotline 113 where the public can, anonymously or non-anonymously report, cases of children at risk. On receipt of such cases, officers of the Ministry intervene promptly and take actions accordingly.

**Family Welfare and Protection Unit (FWPU)**

The Family Welfare and Protection Unit (FWPU) was set up in July 2003 and is mandated to:

(i) implement appropriate policies and strategies to promote family well-being; and

(ii) develop relevant strategies to address gender-based violence.

The FWPU operates through a network of 6 Family Support Bureaux (FSBx) scattered across the island to ensure proximity of services. These FSBx are located in the following regions:

1. Port Louis;
2. Bambous;
3. Goodlands;
4. Flacq;
5. Souillac; and
6. Phoenix

A four-pronged approach is adopted for service delivery. This comprises:

(i) Intervention;
(ii) Prevention;
(iii) Rehabilitation; and
(iv) Reintegration and empowerment.

A series of programmes are implemented in line with the mandate of the FWPU. These include *inter-alia*:

(i) Pre-marital counselling programme;
(ii) Marriage enrichment programme;
(iii) Inter-generation relationship programme;
(iv) Victim Empowerment and Rehabilitation of Perpetrators Programme;
(v) Economic Empowerment of Victims of Domestic Violence;
(vi) Men As Caring Partners Project;
(vii) Strengthening values for family life programme; and
(viii) Balancing work and family life programme.

Two Hotlines are operational on a 24-hour basis:

- 119 – family problems
- 139 – domestic violence [made free of charge since November 2016]
The FWPU also conducts Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns to *inter alia*:
(i) Raise public awareness on Gender-based violence, including domestic violence; and
(ii) Sensitise the public on services offered by the FWPU.

**Home Economics Unit**

The Home Economics Unit aims at promoting the social and economic empowerment of women and the community at large through community-based capacity building programmes and services. The Unit is also responsible for the management of the Plaine des Papayes Production Centre cum Sales Outlet and the three Home Economics Resource Centres (HERCs) of Phoenix, Quartier Militaire and Plaine Magnien.

**Child Perpetrator Support Unit**

The Child Perpetrator Support Unit has been set up in June 2017 to cater for the psychological and mental health needs of juvenile offenders. The Unit devises appropriate psychological treatment programmes, designed and targeted to assist children in conflict with the law, with a view to enabling them to develop skills to prevent relapse.

**Social Welfare Division**

The Social Welfare Division operates under the aegis of the Ministry since January 2017. It manages a network of 57 Social Welfare Centres scattered across the island. The centres are mostly located in rural areas and serve all age-groups in local communities including children, youth, women, men, senior citizens and persons with disabilities, amongst others.

Activities/services/training programmes at SWCs fall under the following main pillars:

- **Sensitization programmes** on various social and health issues (substance abuse, consumer’s protection rights, suicide prevention, road/home safety, healthy life style etc)
- **Capacity building programmes** (for Officers/staff at centres, Committee members and social workers)
- **Income-generating activities** (Regional and National Sales Exhibition, Foires Artisanales at Social Welfare Centres, Sales of products at Surinam and Wooton Boutiques.
- **Recreational/leisure/sport cultural/creativity** activities for children during school holidays and intergenerational activities.
- **Community services** (hire of tarpaulins, chairs, tubular frames, hall, children’s playground etc).
- **Celebration of National and International Days**
- **Dressmaking Unit**: dressmaking and crafts courses are provided in more than 60 centres across the country for unemployed women, housewives and school leavers. National, regional and monthly “Foire Artisanales” are organised in around 40 centres so as to involve trainees/women/senior citizens in income-generating activities. It is also responsible for the operation of the Regional Embroidery Training Centres and the 2 Sales Boutiques.
National Adoption Council

The National Adoption Council established under the National Adoption Council Act 1987 as a Body Corporate, operates under the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare since February 2017. Its objectives are to:-

(i) inquire into all demands for the adoption of citizens by non-citizens before an application is made to the Judge in Chambers;

(ii) advise the Minister on all matters relating to demands specified for adoption; and

(iii) co-ordinate with overseas official agencies engaged in adoption and welfare of children.
Parastatal Bodies under the aegis of the Ministry

The following parastatal bodies fall under the purview of the Ministry:

(i) National Women’s Council (NWC)

The National Women’s Council (NWC) was set up in 1985 through the National Women’s Council Act 1985. A new National Women’s Council Act 2016 was passed by the National Assembly on 03 May 2016 and was proclaimed on 07 March 2018 to come into operation on 08 March 2018 to provide for a more modern and appropriate legislative framework in order to further promote women’s empowerment and gender equality, especially through the active participation of women in the social, economic and political fields.

The objects of the Council, according to the new Act are to:-

(a) promote women’s empowerment and gender equality;
(b) ensure and promote the active participation of women in the social, economic and political fields in order to further their overall empowerment; and
(c) Provide a platform for women to voice their needs, concerns and aspirations.

(ii) National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWEC)

The National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWEC) is a parastatal body set up in 1999. It is the main organization that provides support and assistance to both potential and existing women entrepreneurs in Mauritius.

The mission of NWEC is to promote entrepreneurship and inculcate the right business culture for women’s empowerment in Mauritius.

Objectives

The main objectives of the Council are to:

(i) Ensure effective communication between the Council and its members;
(ii) Identify actions and projects which will promote entrepreneurial activities of Women;
(iii) Evaluate and assess the needs of Women Entrepreneurs;
(iv) Establish Training Programs, aimed at improving the skills and management aptitudes of Women Entrepreneurs;
(v) Develop working links and affiliation with other bodies, whether in Mauritius or abroad, having same objectives;
(vi) Examine and evaluate the contribution of Women Entrepreneurs to the various sectors of development in light of national needs and priorities.

The NWEC is managed and administered by an Executive Committee. There are currently 19 officers working at the NWEC.
(iii) **National Children’s Council (NCC)**

The National Children’s Council which is a corporate body under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, was founded in 1990. It operates under the *National Children’s Council Act 2003*.

**Objectives of the Council**

The objects of the NCC are, among others, to be the key consultative and coordinating national body on all activities and issues related to children; protect the rights of children; promote their interest and well-being; and ensure their participation in matters of interest to them.

The NCC is managed and administered by the NCC Board. There are 33 permanent staff at NCC, 9 on contract basis. 35 permanent staff are posted in Shelters and 3 on a month to month basis.

(iv) **Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund (SILWF)**

The Fund is a parastatal body operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare since January 2017. The SILWF was set up in 1948 and is governed by the *Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Act (Act No. 47 of 1974)* as subsequently amended.

The SILWF Committee comprises 22 members including a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson appointed by the Minister in line with the SILWF Act. There are 754 officers working on a full time basis at the SILWF and 18 part time workers.

The SILWF organizes community based Programmes in its 136 Community Centres which include social, cultural, recreational, leisure, educational and economic activities.

77 Community Centres are used as Emergency Shelters in case of cyclones, torrential rain, sea swells and other natural disasters.
**Gender Statement**

The Gender Unit, as the National Gender Machinery, is mandated to work for women’s empowerment for achieving gender equality. To that end, its focus has been on working towards the attainment of the set targets of the Sustainable Development Goal 5.

The Gender Unit received an allocation of Rs 6,850 M for implementing women’s empowerment programmes which was used for the following activities:

- Publication of Pamphlets for outreach programmes;
- Payment of fees for resource persons for training courses;
- Payment of fees for consultancy services;
- Organisation of International Women’s Day;
- Holding of awareness raising workshops on Gender targeting the Youth, Police Officers and Prison Officers;
- Implementation of Projects for the empowerment of Young Girls;
- Implementation of new services/programmes in Women Empowerment Centres;
- Holding of “IORA Workshop on Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Indian Ocean”.

The attainment of gender equality entails the adoption of gender mainstreaming strategies. The National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming has, therefore, been used as the mechanism to oversee and coordinate the extent to which line Ministries have been able to integrate gender in their policies and programmes.

Some other key entry points / achievements are as follows:

- Training of Trainers and Capacity Building programmes of Gender Focal Points and other stakeholders.
- The implementation of the Gender Responsive Budgeting Initiative by providing technical assistance to Ministries.
- Holding consultative meetings with Ministries and other partners regarding the drafting of a Gender Equality Bill.
- Conducting innovative programmes/courses for women’s empowerment.
ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

There are 4 Assistant Permanent Secretaries (APS) who are responsible for different units of the Ministry and councils falling under the purview of the Ministry.
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Part II ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY - JULY 2017 TO JUNE 2018

A. PLANNING AND RESEARCH UNIT

1. Statistics in Mauritius - A Gender Approach

The Report, prepared by the Ministry, in consultation with Statistics Mauritius (SM), is based on sex disaggregated data on a yearly basis, collected on the demographic characteristics, health, education, employment sectors, persons with disabilities and children. The last report has been submitted in March 2018.

2. Special Collaborative Programme for Support to Families in Distress

The SCP Programme is being phased out. The sum Rs 10.0M was allocated in 2017/2018 to finance on-going projects which were already committed for projects approved in the years 2015 to 2017. The sum of Rs 8.9M has already been disbursed as at 11 June 2018.

The SCP Programme is being phased out. Rs 5.5M has been allocated in 2018/2019 to finance on-going projects which were already committed for projects approved in the years 2016 to 2017. 8 projects have been competed out of 21.

3. 8th Periodic Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The 8th periodic report of Mauritius was submitted to the CEDAW Committee in June 2018.
Achievements 2017/2018

B. GENDER UNIT

1. Launching of the Goal Programme held on 24 July 2017. The objective was to empower adolescent girls (aged 13 to 18 years old) using sport and life skills so that they can make informed life choices. The programme comprised, *inter-alia*, Be yourself; Be Healthy; Be Empowered and Be Money Savvy. Some 125 participants representing the 15 Women Empowerment Centres attended the launching.

2. Training of Trainers on the Revised SADC Protocol on Gender and Development held on 17 August 2017. The objective was to familiarize participants on the revised Protocol so that the latter can disseminate its contents amongst their respective clientele. Some 20 officers of all Units of the Ministry and its parastatal bodies sensitized on the revised Protocol on Gender and Development.

3. Capacity Building Programmes for members of Social Action Committees (SAC) held in July/August 2017 to build their capacity of members in order to enable them to identify projects that would assist vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. Some 80 members of the SACs participated in the capacity building programmes.

4. Launching of Training of Trainers and Help Desk on the use of Synthetic Drugs on 14 September 2017. The objectives were to:
   - equip participants with relevant and knowledge on the use of synthetic drugs so that the latter can assist women who are distressed due to their children being victims of this scourge;
   - set up a Help Line at the level of Women Empowerment Centres wherein resource persons engaged in dealing with the issue can attend to those in need (half a day on a monthly basis); and
   - empower participants so that the latter can disseminate information regarding the use of synthetic drugs and other related implications.

Some 60 participants comprising officers from the different units and its parastatal bodies were imparted with information and knowledge on the use of synthetic drugs and its related implications.

5. Capacity Building for the Political Empowerment of Women Village Councillors held in October 2017 to provide the participants with necessary skills such as leadership; communication; self-assertiveness; advocacy and campaign planning and to sensitise them on gender development issues. Some 25 female councillors were trained.

6. Motivational lecture on Gender Equality held on 06 November 2017. The objectives were:
   - Create awareness, attention, exposure of the target audience about how gender inequalities impeded on sustainable development;
   - Raise awareness on how gender sensitive approach within institutions, both public and private, can contribute to address gender imbalances;
   - Promote the concept that gender equality is about smart economics; and
   - Highlight the pertinence of Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, that is, to achieve gender equality and to empower all women and girls.

The lecture was delivered by Mrs Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and former UNDP Administrator. Some 200 participants attended the activity.
7. Implementation of 3 E’s Project entitled “Empowerment through Education and Entertainment” for girls/young women during the November/December 2017 and April 2018 school holidays in the following deprived regions: Batimarais; Rose Hill (Trèfles; Stanley and Camp le Vieux); Poudre D’Or village; Cité EDC (Tamarin); Le Bouchon; Allée Coco (Poste de Flacq); Cité EDC (Pointe aux Piments) and Tranquebar.

The objective was to empower the participants on various pertinent issues related to their well-being and livelihoods. Topics covered comprise, inter alia, the following: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; Personal Development; Values; Crime Prevention; Road Safety; Drug and Substance Abuse and Sports/Physical activities such as Initiation to Badminton / Basketball / Volleyball/ Football and Zumba.

Some 170 girls/young women participated in the different activities held during the implementation of the 3E’s project.

8. Implementation of new courses in Women Empowerment Centres namely “Your Safety: Our Concern; Goal Programme; Personal Development Programme; Promoting Wellness and Well-Being; Leadership through the Role Model Concept; and Getting Ready for Work. Some 1,230 women have benefitted from the above projects.


10. Holding of IORA Workshop on “Strengthening Women’s Economic Empowerment in the Indian Ocean” held on 03 and 04 May 2018 in collaboration with the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The objectives of the workshop were to bring together senior officials to:

- identify and share commonalities and capacity building in IORA countries in the field of economic empowerment of women and support the implementation of the IORA Action Plan 2017-2021;
- contribute to gender equity and equality in the IORA region and integrate women’s economic issues in IORA’s priority and focus areas as a cross-cutting issue at the heart of sustainable development;
- explore linkages and possible cooperation with international organisations and technical partners, such as UN Women, International Trade Centre and other key stakeholders in research and initiatives to improve women’s abilities to contribute as entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders; and
- engage with the business community and Chambers of Commerce to develop recommendations on the format and structure of the proposed IORA Women’s Business Forum and promotion of the Women’s Empowerment Principles.

Participants comprised Senior Officials from the Ministries responsible for gender of the 17 IORA Member States namely, Australia, Bangladesh, Comoros, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mozambique, Oman, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Mauritius. It also comprised representatives from the IORA Dialogue Partners who were in attendance.

The two days workshop included interventions from Speakers of IORA Member States, UN Women and the International Trade Centre.

11. A Dialogue on “Promoting Women’s Participation in Politics” was held on 18 June 2018 as a joint venture with the US Embassy. The objectives were mainly geared towards encouraging collective intelligence and participatory democracy, including effective ways to promote greater democratic participation of civil society through greater inclusion of women; and promote fruitful dialogue between elected officials and other political figures
and female constituents, and how to extend that dialogue into areas such as how to leverage increased female constituent feedback on legislative proposals and implementation of policies. The dialogue was facilitated by Mr Lex Paulson, Consultant in International Governance. Some 50 participants attended the activity.

C. HOME ECONOMICS UNIT

In line with the Vision 2030 of the Republic of Mauritius and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Strategic Direction of the Ministry to promote the social and economic empowerment of women, the following have been implemented:-

- **23** different types of MQA recognized Training Programmes and Services have been run in more than **145** centres over the island, targeting **3874** women and men.
- **36** Enterprise Development workshops were run with **792** participants enrolled. Out of these more than **75%** have started small income generating activities. The preferred sector is agro - industry as well as the service sector.
- **52** Mini fairs were organised over the island in order to offer platforms to the above women entrepreneurs to market their products.

With a view to mainstreaming gender in our capacity building programmes, both males and females between the age group 18 - 70 years were targeted. Boys were mainly reached out through Lifeskills Development Programmes run during school holidays in December 2017 and April 2018. Around **1200** children were targeted, out which more than **52%** were boys.

To promote a healthy nation, this Ministry is laying much emphasis on the empowerment of the community on healthy eating and healthy lifestyle. To this end, more than **50 ‘Weight Management Clubs’** have been set up for healthy overweight and /or obese women. This programme is coupled with exercise through Aerobics and Yoga courses.

Household Food Security and Sustainable Development were furthered through the **30** Agricultural Women’s Clubs. **630** women were enrolled and around **80%** of these women have set up a kitchen garden. Moreover, **62** women were sponsored for a course in ‘**poultry keeping and egg production’**, and **263** were trained in ‘**Apiculture’**.

The Ministry appointed a team of Consultant to review and upgrade the Capacity Building Programmes & Services being offered in line with the evolving training needs of the community. Report was submitted in August 2017. A series of recommendations have been made namely launching innovative courses as well as to upgrade existing ones. A Strategic Framework for new programmes and services in line with Sustainable Development Goals has been worked out.
D. CHILD DEVELOPMENT UNIT (CDU)
2017/2018

Trainings:

- Training in Fire Safety Measures: Some 405 personnel of Child Day Care Centres were trained on fire safety measures across the island for better service delivery, in September 2017.
- Training on Child Trafficking: Training organised on 28 and 29 November 2017 at NWDC, Phoenix. 49 persons were trained on Child Trafficking. The training was organised by a consultant from Internal Research and Exchange Board (IREX).
- Formation ‘Pour la prise en charge des mineurs auteurs d’abus sexuels’ organised by KDZM. 8 Personnel including 5 CDU Officers & 3 Psychologist attended workshop which was conducted by Dr. Lemiitre organised by KDZM in November 2017.
- Sharing of Knowledge Sessions: A “sharing of knowledge” sessions "Pour la prise en charge des mineurs auteurs d’abus sexuels” were organised in December 2017 for FWPOs of the CDU

Consultative Workshops:

- 2-days Consultative workshop was held on 15 and 16 March 2018, with all stakeholders concerned, with a view to gathering information, specific inputs, suggestions, views and comments for inclusion in the Children’s Bill and the Adoption Bill, in line with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).
- Training of CDU Personnel: 23 newly recruited Family Welfare and Protection Officers (10 from Family Welfare and Protection Unit & 13 from Child Development Unit) were provided training in April 2018 on the different services provided by the Child Development Unit, and the services provided pertaining to child abuse and protection by different stakeholders, namely,
  - an Officer from the Probation and Aftercare Service,
  - a Medical Social Worker,
  - an Education Social Worker,
  - a Social Security Officer,
  - an Officer from the Police Family Protection Unit,
  - Officers from Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs,
  - a State Counsel from the State Law Office, and
  - Officers from the Citizen Advice Bureau.

International Child Abduction:
- Since the start of the programme in 1993 till date, 147 cases of Child Abduction have been reported and processed at the level of the CDU. As at April 2018, 42 cases are being attended to.

Early Childhood Development
There are 401 Child Day Centres (154 Registered) operating around the island (for the period 2017/2018).
**Validation Workshop on the Draft's Children’s Bill**

- A Validation workshop was held on 28 May 2018, with the EU consultant and various shareholders to endorse the contents provided for in the Bill.

- Awareness on identification of Signs and Symptoms of Child Trafficking: On 13 June 2018, 30 Airport Officials of ATOL were trained in identifying signs and symptoms of child trafficking. Negotiations are ongoing with the said Organization for further replication of the training programme so as to provide support in combating trafficking.

- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) project: from July 2017 to May 2018, 869 persons have been sensitized on child protection issues inclusive of child trafficking in primary and secondary schools, social welfare and community centres by officers of the CDU and Psychologist of the Drop-in- Centre.

**Community Child Protection Programme**

Community Child Protection Programme (CCPP) - allows for proximity service through the District Child Protection Committees (DCPCs) and Community Childwatch Committee (CCWC).

- District Child Protection Committees (DCPCs) has been set up in 9 Districts.

- Community Child Protection Programme (CCPP) has been set up in local regions and out of the 32 CCWCs, 23 are operational.

- Status from July to December 2017
  - 6 DCPCs Meeting held
  - 109 CCWCs Meeting held
  - 26 Activities in terms of IEC Programmes conducted i.r.o child’s rights issues

**Note: The Programme has been transferred to the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund (SILWF).**

**Working Together Committee**

The Ministry has developed a robust networking with all stakeholders to facilitate and sustain prompt and multidisciplinary actions in reported cases of violence.

The High Powered/ “Working Together” Committee ensures close collaboration with key stakeholders for the protection of children especially those victims of violence in a holistic manner.

To ensure handling of cases of child abuse in an effective manner. As at date, 13 key stakeholders have already signed their respective Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NUMBER OF CCWCs</th>
<th>NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD</th>
<th>NUMBER OF CASES REFERRED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017 (up to Oct)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Project at SILWF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Achievements

#### Tardy Declaration of Birth
Provision was made for the payment of 2 Attorneys at law for the preparation of Affidavits related to Tardy Declaration of Birth.

**Note:** July 2017 till May 2018, 39 have been tardily declared - provided with their Birth Certificates

#### Cases of Children victims of violence attended by the CDU
Cases of children victims of violence reported and provided with assistance at the level of CDU Outstations:

**From January 2017 to December 2017:**
- MALE: 2232 / FEMALE: 2854 (Total: 5806)

**From January 2018 to June 2018:**
- MALE: 1251 / FEMALE: 1606 (Total: 2857)

(Source: Statistics Section of the Ministry)

#### FWPOs: Recruitment of FWPOs
15 FWPOs were recruited and provided with necessary trainings in April 2018

#### Child Abduction Cases (Attended to)
From July 2017 to May 2018, 12 new cases of child abduction registered at the level of CDU and 42 cases attended to.

Note: for FY18/19
E. FAMILY WELFARE AND PROTECTION UNIT

Achievements 2017/2018

In Budget 2017/2018, the issue of domestic violence was identified as a social ill to be rooted out of our society and a gamut of measures were announced to strengthen capacity to deal with this serious problem.

In line with the vision of enhancing the quality of life of the citizens of this country and to tackle issues affecting Mauritian families, this Ministry has come up with a series of measures including:

(i) The setting up of an Observatory for Parenthood on 15 May 2018 to:
   - federate public policy, lobby resources and actions on parenthood,
   - conduct research on parenthood, develop partnerships; and
   - collect data and disseminate tools and methods, amongst others.

(ii) A colloquium on parenthood on 16 May 2018 on the theme "Parentalité- les 50 ans à Venir". The colloquium was a platform whereby different stakeholders specialised in the field of parenting, family well-being, education and psychology were called upon to share experiences, to identify weaknesses and to brainstorm on the challenges that the Mauritian society is facing in regard to parenting and family well-being.

(iii) The economic empowerment of victims of domestic violence Programme was launched to help victims establish the financial stability and independence they need to move forward. A Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA) was conducted on 27 February 2018, where 28 survivors of domestic violence attended. 18 survivors are following a course on pastry which is being run by the Home Economics Section. Training for other survivors will be conducted as per their request in the PNA.

(iv) The "Men As Caring Partners Project" is a gender sensitive. Based on community involvements, MACP has a multi-pronged intervention approach to promote knowledge about the prevailing situation of men's involvement in family matters, sensitize them to support family members effectively, strengthen advocacy among community members, policy makers and the media for the creation of the appropriate institutional support to enhance men's participation in the family.

The following intervention approaches are used:

1. Community Outreach and Social Mobilization Campaign;
2. Recreation-based programme;
3. Advocacy Campaign.

The MACP project has been implemented at Trefles and at Batimarais as follows:

- The project was first launched at Trefles in October 2017 and the project was implemented therefrom October 2017 to February 2018.
- 525 persons were present for the launching. 400 persons attended the closing ceremony. 512 men were targeted during activities and workshops conducted through the project. In total, 1437 persons were reached.
- The next region that was identified for the implementation of the MACP project is at Batimarais. Some 375 persons (mostly men) attended the function. Implementation of the Project had started from end of June 2018.
- 4 awareness campaigns on the MACP project were conducted in four regions namely – Coromandel, Riviere du Poste, Camp Laval and Vallée Pitot.
With a view to sensitise the public at large on issues pertaining to gender based violence and the welfare of families, talks, seminars, workshops are conducted on a monthly basis by officers of the 6 Family Support Bureaux (Goodlands, Flacq, Port Louis, Bambous, Phoenix and Souillac).

IEC campaigns are conducted on the following:

1. Pre-marital counselling;
2. Marriage enrichment;
3. Inter-generation relationship;
4. Victim Empowerment and Rehabilitation of Perpetrators;
5. Gender Based Violence;
6. Family Welfare; and
7. Strengthening Values for Family Life

For the year 2017, 44 sensitisation campaigns were conducted and some 1320 people were sensitised on issues pertaining to “Gender Based Violence” and “Family Welfare”.

For the period January 2018 to June 2018, 97 sensitisation campaigns were conducted and some 4,865 people have been reached.
### SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION
#### Achievements 2017/18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N.</th>
<th>Key Action</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sensitize the community on health and social issues</td>
<td>Organise talks, seminar and workshops</td>
<td>42,000 persons sensitized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Offer hobby and skills development courses</td>
<td>Run demand-driven courses</td>
<td>26 different courses run (6 MQA approved) &lt;br&gt; No. of trainees: 3800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Promote micro Entrepreneurial activities</td>
<td>Hold sales exhibitions</td>
<td>No. of women entrepreneurs who benefitted: 350 &lt;br&gt; Visitors: 25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Provide Community Services</td>
<td>Maintain Infrastructural Facilities and improve Community Services</td>
<td>2500 plastic chairs and 100 tarpaulins issued &lt;br&gt; 3200 families benefitted from hire of equipment &lt;br&gt; 1500 youngsters benefit from Community Games, Newspaper, TV show, etc, daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Support to vulnerable groups</td>
<td>Run programmes for vulnerable groups</td>
<td>Toys distributed to 1700 (children) beneficiaries of Social Aid &lt;br&gt; 3000 children participated in creativity activities &lt;br&gt; Lunch/Cultural Programmes – 2500 senior citizens/disabled persons benefitted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET MEASURES

**Reporting Period: July 2017 to June 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Para in Budget Speech including Annex</th>
<th>Budget Measure</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>A study will be carried out on the introduction of gender-based budgeting</td>
<td>This measure is being implemented by MOFED.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>Introduction of a Gender Equality Bill to set a strong and comprehensive legal framework for gender mainstreaming</td>
<td>Policy discussions to be initiated in house for the provisions in the proposed bill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221</td>
<td>The current one-off grant under the Crèche scheme is being increased from Rs 200,000 up to Rs 500,000 to promote investment in crèches</td>
<td>Cabinet was apprised of the guidelines to applicant, application form and communique have been approved by NCC board. Press communique to invite application, workshops with managers of CDCC and radio programmes will be organised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>222</td>
<td>Support to NGOs to set up additional emergency shelters for women and children.</td>
<td>Passerelle has extended its services to victims of domestic violence at Highlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>223</td>
<td>A training programme will be run for social workers on rehabilitation of perpetrators of violence.</td>
<td>The services of a consultant have been enlisted with the support of the UNDP. The Consultant will be in Mauritius from 19 November 2018 to 28 November 2018 for consultative meetings with key stakeholders. The training would thereafter be scheduled in early 2019.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>224</td>
<td>Recruitment of 15 additional Family Welfare and Protection Officers (FWPO)</td>
<td>In Financial Year 2017/2018, seven (7) additional posts of FWPO were created and all have been filled. The 15 additional posts were created in Estimates 2018/2019 and 11 posts have been filled. The remaining 4 candidates have declined and replacement is awaited from the PSC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250</td>
<td>Provision for 4 psychiatric nurses to assist children with behavioural problems.</td>
<td>The post has been advertised on 22 June 2018 (closing date 12 July 2018).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY ACTIONS FY 2017/2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Action</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Target (as per Budget Estimates)</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhance the effectiveness of sensitisation programmes on gender equality</td>
<td>Number of innovative tools developed for gender equality</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Awareness programmes/Capacity Building extended to other stakeholders namely Police and Prison Officers and Youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensing and monitoring of Child Day Care institutions</td>
<td>Number of Child Day Care Centres compliant with Regulations</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


OTHER INTERNALLY DEVELOPED KPI'S FOR THE FY 2017/2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Action</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Target (as per Budget Estimates)</th>
<th>Actual Status as at 2017/2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increasing the number of children provided with support and assistance through:—</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Child Mentoring Programme</td>
<td>Number of children provided with assistance under the Child Mentoring Programme</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Foster Care Programme</td>
<td>Number of children placed in foster care families</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Residential Care Institution (RCIs)</td>
<td>Number of children placed in RCIs/shelters of the Ministry</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of children reintegrated into their biological families or attained their majority</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RISK MANAGEMENT, CITIZEN ORIENTED INITIATIVES & GOOD GOVERNANCE

The system of internal control is designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of operations at the Ministry; safeguard of assets and data of the Ministry.

There is also an Audit Committee appointed to support the accounting officer to monitor corporate governance and control system in the Ministry.

Mobile application
A smart application has been launched in June 2018 named Family Welfare with the collaboration with the Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, to enable public to report cases of Domestic Violence through Mobile. Cases are directed to Domestic Violence Information System (DOVIS) and Officers can attend to it.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Issues Raised by the National Audit Office</th>
<th>Remarks by the Ministry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1.0 | **The Child Protection Register (CPR) and The Domestic Violence Information System (DOVIS).**  
- Despite warranty period for the CPR and DOVIS system has expired since 27 April 2015 and 10 June 2017, the systems were still not fully operational.  
- The Child Protection Register (CPR) was operational since 01 March 2016 at Vacoas CPS. Implementation of the project has been done on a phased-wise basis. | |
| 2.1.1 | **Regulations for the Management of RCIs.**  
- Despite repeated emphasis by the National Audit Office, no legal framework to regulate the management of Shelters/ RCIs, was yet finalized as of November 2018.  
- The Alternative Care Unit has been set up in July 2018 with the objective to ensure rehabilitation of children victims of violence who have been placed in shelters and Residential Care Institutions. Regulations regarding place of safety are under preparation by the Unit and will soon be enforced. | |
| 2.1.2 | **Compliance with Policies of the Ministry.**  
- Policies of the Ministry pertaining to the sheltering of children in distress placed in RCIs, as per its Circular of January 2018, were not being properly complied with by RCIs. Significant shortcomings were noted in the administration of the RCIs.  
- A correspondence has already been issued to all institutions to ensure that all staff have valid Certificate of Character.  
- Needful has been done to ensure all Food Handlers Certificates have been fixed in the Kitchens.  
- A correspondence has been sent to all the institutions for provision of a balanced meal to residents. Enforcement Officers are closely monitoring these issues.  
- A specialized training has been planned for caregivers during this financial year by the ACU  
- A list of Do’s and Don’ts has been affixed in all the RCIs. | |
| 2.1.3 | **Residents Attaining Majority**  
- No evidence of any psychological preparation/ counselling done by the Alternative Care Unit or private shelter prior to departure of residents.  
- Following Cabinet’s approval in May 2018, this Ministry is working on the implementation of the recommendations of the Technical Committee, set up in regard to placement of children in RCIs.  
- All cases requiring psychological intervention prior to reintegration in their families, whether before or at the | |
<p>| <strong>Absence of signed MoU with private shelters.</strong> | A list of “Do’s and Don’ts” has been handed over to the Management of each private shelter | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.2.1 <strong>Government Shelters La Colombe and L’Oasis run by NCC</strong></th>
<th>2.2.1 <strong>Government Shelters La Colombe and L’Oasis run by NCC</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ The staffing at Shelter L’Oasis, which catered for teenage girls/mothers, was significantly out of line with the prescribed ratio of 1:6 caregivers to the number of residents, as required under the MOU with NCC.</td>
<td>➢ 5 caregivers have been suspended following a case of assault on the Residents of shelter La Colombe. The NCC had to shift some caregivers from L’Oasis to La Colombe. Therefore, the ratio of caregiver at l’Oasis could not be respected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Three categories of babies, teenage boys, teenage girls/mothers were being housed in the same building at Shelter La Colombe.</td>
<td>➢ The National Children’s Council is initiating necessary action for the recruitment of additional Child Caregivers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ The Ministry has taken the decision to separate boys and girls in shelter La Colombe for better management and to avoid sexualised behaviour. 15 girls have already been removed. Due to lack of space, remaining girls could not be separated.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shield La Colombe is a relay shelter where minors removed under an Emergency Protection Order are being placed in the first instance and are being committed in other Institutions when there is no possibility of reintegration in their family setting. However, since there is a considerable lack of space in shelter/institutions, many of these minors could not be committed in other places.</td>
<td>➢ Moreover, this Ministry has launched an Expression of Interest to encourage NGOs to come forward for the management of the shelters.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART III: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

3.1 Financial Highlights

As per the budget Estimates, the Ministry has 5 votes under its control namely:

- 25-101: General
- 25-102: Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming
- 25-103: Child Protection, Welfare and Development
- 25-104: Family Welfare and Protection from Gender-Based Violence
- 25-2: Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities
Figure 1 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 20-101-(General) for the year 2017/2018.
Figure 2 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 20-102 (Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming) for the year 2017/2018.
Figure 3 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 20-103 (Child Protection, Welfare and Development) for the year 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.
Figure 4 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 20-104 (Family Welfare and Protection from Gender-Based Violence) for the year 2017/2018.

2016-17 (%)

- CATEGORY NAME, 53%
- CATEGORY NAME, 45%
- CATEGORY NAME, 2%

2017-18 (%)

- CATEGORY NAME, [PERCENTAGE]
- CATEGORY NAME, [PERCENTAGE]
- CATEGORY NAME, [PERCENTAGE]
Figure 5 below show budget appropriation under vote item 20-2 (Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities) for year 2017/2018.
### 3.3 Statements of Revenue and Expenditure

**Statement of Expenditure**

**20- 101 – GENERAL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>2016-17 ACTUAL (Rs M)</th>
<th>2017/2018 ESTIMATES (Rs M)</th>
<th>2017-18 ACTUAL (Rs M)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation of Employees</td>
<td>50.7</td>
<td>53.5</td>
<td>48.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods and Services</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>26.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>78.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>84.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>78.4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016-17 ACTUAL (Rs M)</th>
<th>2017/2018 ESTIMATES (Rs M)</th>
<th>2017-18 ACTUAL (Rs M)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation of Employees</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods and Services</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>99.8</td>
<td>99.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Expense – Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>137.5</td>
<td>147.5</td>
<td>140.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 20-103 - CHILD PROTECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>2016-17 ACTUAL (Rs M)</th>
<th>2017/2018 ESTIMATES (Rs M)</th>
<th>2017-18 ACTUAL (Rs M)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compensation of Employees</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods and Services</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>42.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>31.6</td>
<td>24.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Benefits</td>
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<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>50.2</td>
<td>49.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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### 20-104 - FAMILY Welfare and Protection from

<table>
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<th>HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>2016-17 ACTUAL (Rs M)</th>
<th>2017/2018 ESTIMATES (Rs M)</th>
<th>2017-18 ACTUAL (Rs M)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Compensation of Employees</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods and Services</td>
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<td>25.2</td>
<td>16.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets</td>
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<td>7.0</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50.8</td>
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### 20-2 - SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRE (As from 1 July 2017)

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<th>HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>2016-17 ACTUAL (Rs M)</th>
<th>2017/2018 ESTIMATES (Rs M)</th>
<th>2017-18 ACTUAL (Rs M)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>329.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>344</strong></td>
<td><strong>335.9</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
PART IV: WAY FORWARD

4.1 Trends and challenges

Challenges and how they need to be addressed

There is a lack of fit and major gaps between the societal trends which contribute to increasing the scale, breadth and complexity of the Ministry’s workload on the one hand, and the overarching policy approach which limits its capacity to respond on the other hand, to respect, promote and realise human rights.

Means to address challenges

To address the challenges and constraints, many of which fall outside its span of control and yet have a directly bearing on its own mandate areas, the Ministry's approach phased over the short, medium and long terms is as follows:

- to engage in policy and budget advocacy to review policies in the light of the Sustainable Development Goals agenda,
- develop an updated evidence base for its operations by addressing critical data gaps particularly on care in ageing societies with shrinking families; address gender equitable work-life integration for 21st Century families;
- as part of restoring the social fabric and regenerating local public spaces and communities to regenerate, update and upgrade existing community-based assets such as Social Welfare Centres and Community Centres as decentralised hubs to develop innovative local participatory networks and communities;
- the Ministry needs to reinforce their policy advisory as well as practical implementation and leadership roles; and
- Women Empowerment Centres will be strengthened as incubators of women's leadership to build self-esteem, self-confidence and self-worth, and competencies and capacities to influence and shape decision-making and promote gender equality and sustainable development agendas in expectation of forthcoming increases in their representation.
4.2 Strategic Direction

With a view to improving the quality of service delivery to the public, the strategy of the Ministry in the medium and long terms is to:

- Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms with respect of projects, programmes, and activities for women, children, families and the community organised by the Ministry.
- Move away from a fragmented to a holistic approach to service delivery as one entity for the welfare of women, children, families and the community.
- Set up a Knowledge Management Information System to capture, create, refine, and circulate information used to improve efficiency, effectiveness and service delivery of the organisation in line with the Ministry.
- Provide Capacity building and training of staff of the Ministry to better cope with new and emerging issues impacting on women, children, families and the community.
- Finalise and enforce the Children’s Bill and the Adoption Bill
- Rehabilitation of children and their families, in line with the Back to Home Programme with a view to reducing the number of children in Residential Care Institutions
- Professionalizing Foster Care Programme to enable children of different age groups and with numerous nature of problems to benefit from the programme.
- Scale up the Child Mentoring Programme
- Further consolidate and strengthen the actions of the National Gender Machinery with a view to mainstreaming gender at all levels
- Extend the DOVIS to the Police Department
- Operate an Integrated Support Centre to deal with cases of Gender Based Violence
- Implement a National Protocol on Domestic Violence
- Implement an Action Plan on Intimate Partner Violence
- Revamp and reinforce the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy to sensitise the public at large on gender-based violence including domestic violence.

The Gender Unit will sustain its programmes and projects geared to Gender Equality and Women Empowerment through the organisation of the following events/activities:
 Holding of regular meetings of the National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming as well as provide technical guidance to line Ministries to ensure that gender permeates in their and programmes.

 Implementation of on-going courses in Women Empowerment Centres

 Capacity building Programme for the Political Empowerment of Village Councillors

 Projects for the empowerment of Young Girls

 Awareness raising workshops on Gender targeting the Youth, Police Officers, Prison Officers, Nursing Officers and Teachers.

 Holding of a Conference on Women’s Economic Empowerment for IORA Member States

 Organisation of motivational lecture for high level cadres of the public/ private and parastatal bodies.

 Capacity Building of Gender Focal Points

 Formulation of a new National Gender Policy Framework.

 Formulation of a National Costed Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming.

 Setting Up of four (4) Gender Technical Working Groups namely the private sector, the academia, the media and Civil Society Organisations

 At the level of the Alternative Care Unit,

 Training/Capacity building programme are been intensified for officers, stakeholder, managers and caregivers of institutions.

 The Child Protection Foster Care Regulation 2002, further amended in2005 is being reviewed

 A new Regulation for places of Safety is under preparation

 The monitoring and Emergency multidisciplinary team is being strengthened