



Republic of Mauritius



***MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY
AND
FAMILY WELFARE***

**ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE
FY 2018/2019**



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PART I- ABOUT THE MINISTRY

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

It comprises eight main units 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, Child Perpetrator Support Unit and the Social Welfare Division. There are 4 parastatal bodies which operate under the aegis of the Ministry namely 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 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.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This is the third Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.

The Finance and Audit Act requires that each Ministry/Government Department submits a report on its performance in respect of the previous financial year by 31st October of each year.

The aim of the performance reporting is to strengthen governance, accountability and transparency. It is of value both for internal use by the organization and externally for stakeholders, media and the public in general. Performance reporting will help the Ministry to set out clearly its priorities and objectives and monitor progress, output and outcomes. The report also provides information to the public on the activities of the Ministry.

Scope

The Report covers period 1st July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

It is structured as per the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development and provides information on both the financial and non-financial performance of the Ministry.

It highlights the vision and mission of the Ministry, its responsibilities, staffing, major achievements during the year, financial performance and the proposed way forward.

We hope that the Report will be useful to the readers, our stakeholders and customers, and the public in general.

MESSAGE OF THE SENIOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE



As the Senior Chief Executive, it is my privilege and pleasure to present the "Annual Report on Performance" of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, as per the requirements of the Finance and Audit Act as amended in 2015.

This report gives an overview of the objectives and functions of the different sections of the Ministry as well as of the agencies operating under it, each of which is playing an important role. The performance of the Ministry is presented through its various achievements during the financial year 2018/19 and the status of implementation of measures, programmes, projects and key actions identified for that period.

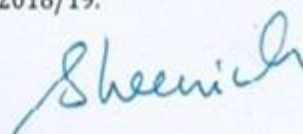
An Annual Report is also expected to demonstrate a state of financial transparency and accountability. To that effect, a financial statement is also included in this Report.

Throughout the year 2018/19, several achievements have been accomplished by our Ministry, some of them are as follows:

- the launching of the Integrated Support Centre on 08 March 2019 by the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hotline (139/119 – for domestic violence) and (113- for child abuse);
- the celebration of the World Home Economics Day in April 2019;
- the organisation of High Level training programmes to Gender Focal Points of line Ministries, Permanent Secretaries and Senior Officials on Gender Mainstreaming in May 2019;
- the holding of the Indian Ocean Rim Association Ministerial Conference in August 2019;
- the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action report has been submitted to UN Women in New York and UNECA in Addis Ababa in September 2019; and
- several awareness campaigns have been carried out in schools and in social welfares regarding child abuse and child protection services and 17 radio talks were organised.

This financial year has been a positive and eventful year for us, with progress made on several fronts. But, we still have to confront several challenges. Nevertheless, I am confident that this Ministry will succeed in meeting these in the light of our set Strategic Direction, with the support of a committed and hardworking staff.

I seize this opportunity to express my appreciation to all the staff and management for their collaboration, support, hard work and performance in the year 2018/19.



Mrs N. Bheenick
Senior Chief Executive

Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

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

- protection of women and children against violence and abuse; promotion of the welfare of women, children and families; safeguarding the rights of women and children;
- economic empowerment of women through basic skills development and entrepreneurship development;
- promoting the welfare of citizens through community-based programmes, activities and services; and
- women's economic, social and political empowerment for the attainment of gender equality

Key Legislations under the responsibility of the Ministry

1.	Child Protection Act (1994, 2005 and 2008)
2.	Institution for Welfare and Protection of Children Regulations 2000
3.	Child Protection Act (Foster Care) Regulations 2002
4.	The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Act 2000
5.	Protection from Domestic Violence Act (1997,2004, 2007, 2011 and 2016)
6.	Social Welfare Centres Act 1961
7.	National Women's Council Act (1985,2016)
8.	National Women Entrepreneur Council Act 1999
9.	National Children's Council Act 2003
10.	Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Act 1974

Units of the Ministry



1) Planning and Research Unit

The Planning and Research Unit (PRU) was set up in 1989 to act as a coordination and support unit, which provides technical back up to all the units and parastatal bodies operating under the aegis of the Ministry.

It is also responsible for the preparation of policies, programmes, projects, action plans and reports on issues relating to women, child development, family welfare and community development. It 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 in Mauritius- A Gender Approach" for dissemination. The PRU also acts as a liaison with government institutions and non-state actors on pertinent issues relating to this Ministry.



2) Gender Unit

The Gender Unit is mandated to work towards the socio-economic and political empowerment of women. To that end, the Gender Unit has adopted a two-pronged approach for the attainment of gender equality namely:

- (1) { • policy level by coordinating, overseeing and assisting Ministries to mainstream gender within their policies and programmes;
- (2) { • programming through the implementation of women empowerment programmes.

The Gender Unit operates through a network of 14 Women Empowerment Centres scattered over the island to implement women's empowerment programmes through innovative activities geared towards the social, economic and political empowerment of women.

Since last year, the Gender Unit has witnessed a paradigm shift in service delivery whereby programmes and activities are being extended to other target groups including women and girls in deprived regions, reaching out to students in secondary schools as well as implementation of activities for elderly women.



3. Child Development Unit (CDU)

The Child Development Unit (CDU) is the National Machinery at the level of the MGEFW, which has the mandate to ensure that the survival, protection, development and participation rights of the child are upheld in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, whereby the best interest of the child is of primary concern in all policies, programmes and actions pertaining to children's welfare.

Child Protection Service:

The Child Development Unit operates through a network of 6 Outstations at Goodlands, Port-Louis, Bambous, Souillac, Flacq and Vacoas. The Child Protection Service provides dedicated multi-disciplinary support in a one stop shop, child friendly system through the services of a team of professional staff who attend to the immediate and multi-disciplinary needs of children, victims of abuse, neglect and ill-treatment.

The objectives of the CPS are to:

- provide immediate support to victims of violence;
- reduce harm and prevent further injury or suffering to children victims of violence and abuse;
- provide accessible and reliable services to victims of child abuse;
- provide proper and appropriate environment for victims of abuse;
- safeguard confidentiality of victim; and
- avoid multiple interviews of victims which normally lead to formal secondary victimization



4) Alternative Care Unit (ACU)

The Ministry has restructured the Child Development Unit (CDU) since 16 July 2018, which is now divided into two units i.e. the CDU and the Alternative Care Unit (ACU). The CDU is taking charge of child protection and development aspects whilst the Alternative Care Unit is responsible for the rehabilitation aspect of children placed in Residential Care Institutions (RCIs)/ Shelters, Foster Care and also those referred to the Child Mentoring Programme.

Objective of the Unit

The Unit's major focus is to design and implement policies and programmes geared towards rehabilitating children in places of safety and providing them with a substitute family, through the foster care Programme and assisting those with mild behavioral problems through Child Mentoring Programme.



5) Family Welfare and Protection Unit (FWPU)

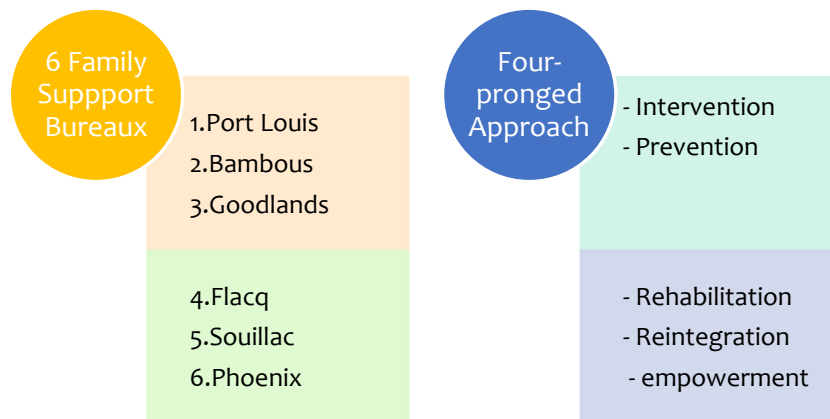
The Family Welfare and Protection Unit (FWPU) was set up in July 2003 and is mandated to:

- implement appropriate policies and strategies to promote family well-being and
- 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. 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.

These FSBx are located in the following regions and have adopted a four-pronged approach as follows:



6) Home Economics Unit

The Home Economics Unit aims at promoting the socio-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.

7) Psychological Services/ Child Perpetrator Support Unit

Psychological services offered by this Ministry were restructured in 2016, with the aim of ensuring that members of the public benefit from a high quality psychological service so as to improve the mental health and psychological well-being of clients. There was also a need to ensure the maintenance of professional clinical standards within the service.

In the same year, a Child Perpetrator's Support Unit was created to cater for the mental health needs and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. This unit has, as one of its objectives to come up with appropriate rehabilitative programmes, designed and targeted to assist offenders to develop skills to reduce reoffending. Psychological interventions provided at the level of this Ministry and the Judiciary are done within a psycho-legal structure. The services offered are monitored by the Seniormost Psychologist of this Ministry.

8) 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.

Parastatal Bodies under the aegis of the Ministry

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



(i) **National Women's Council**

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 in 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.

Board of the NWC

The NWC is managed and administered by the NWC Board comprising:

- i. A Chairperson and the Manager;
- ii. A representative from its parent Ministry;
- iii. A representative from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development;
- iv. A representative from each of the four (4) Regional Committees in Mauritius;
- v. A representative from the Rodrigues Regional Committee; and
- vi. Four (4) Independent Members.



(ii)

National Women Entrepreneur Council

The National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWECC) is a parastatal body set up in 1999. It is the main organization that provides support and assistance for the economic empowerment of both potential and existing women entrepreneurs in Mauritius. The mission of the NWECC is to promote entrepreneurship and inculcate the right business culture for women's empowerment in Mauritius.

The main objectives of the Council are to:

- ensure effective communication between the Council and its members;
- identify actions and projects which will promote entrepreneurial activities of Women;
- evaluate and assess the needs of Women Entrepreneurs;
- establish Training Programmes, aimed at improving the skills and management aptitudes of Women Entrepreneurs;
- develop working links and affiliation with other bodies, whether in Mauritius or abroad, having same objectives; and
- examine and evaluate the contribution of Women Entrepreneurs to the various sectors of development in light of national needs and priorities.

(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 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.

(iv) Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund (SILWF)

The Fund is a parastatal body operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality 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.

The SILWF organizes community based Programmes in its 137 Community Centres which include social, cultural, recreational, leisure, educational and economic activities. 82 Community Centres are used as Emergency Shelters in case of cyclones, torrential rain, sea swells and other natural disasters.

Since 2018, the Fund is conducting the Community Child Protection Programme in view to implement the following:

- the conduct of intensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign i.r.o child's rights and responsibilities thereby uniting individuals from all walks of life/civil society to participate in and work for positive social change;
- the detection of and disclosure of child violence cases as a surveillance mechanism within the locality through the involvement of local non-state actors i.e pool of volunteers, social workers, NGO's, community leaders and other key stakeholders which will be referred to the CDU for intervention; and
- The development of child-related projects within the locality i.e responding to society's most pressing needs by developing innovative, community based solutions/projects to help those in need to reach their full potential.
- This programme is conducted in 50 regions throughout the island.



(v)

National Adoption Council

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

The objects of the Council 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.

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.

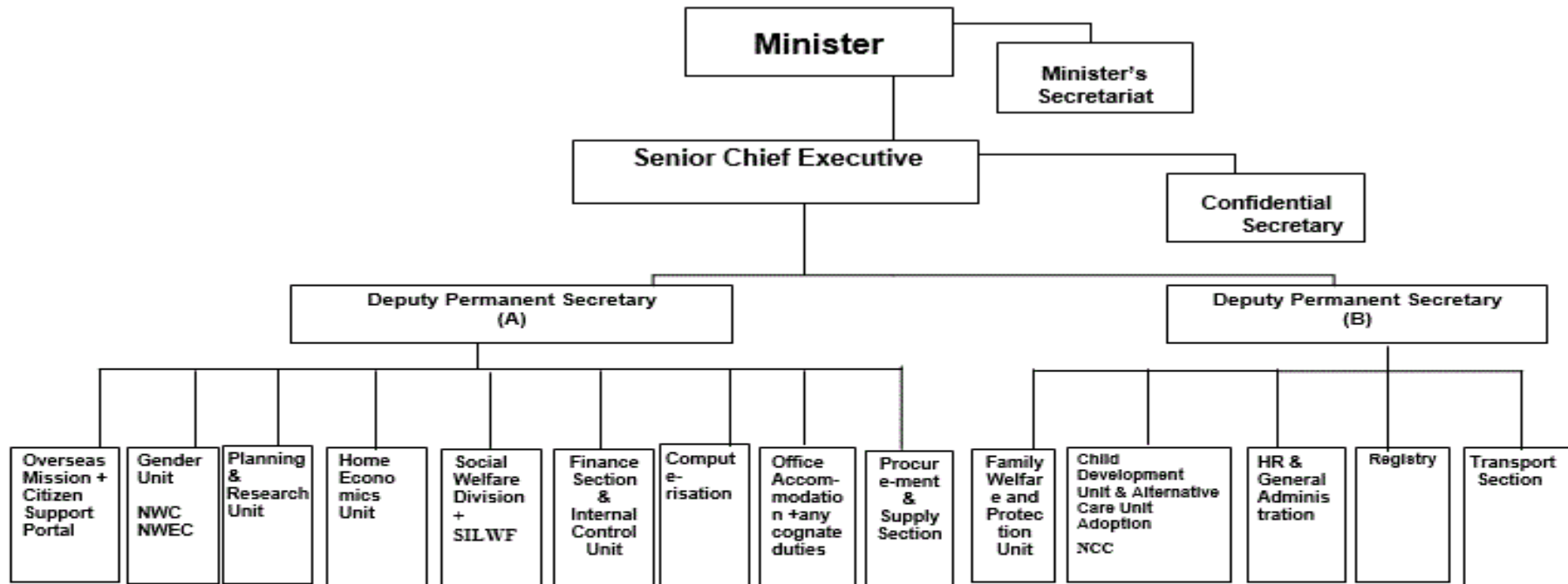
At the International level, the commitments are based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR 1948); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, 1979) and its optional Protocol; the Beijing Platform for Action (1995); and the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the regional level, the commitments are based on the African Charter on Human and People's Rights; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo protocol 2003); the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality (2004), and the Africa Agenda 2063.

The Government is committed to gender mainstreaming and has included Gender mainstreaming as one of the top ten priority areas of focus in its three-year strategic plan 2018/2019, 2020/21. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, being the lead agency of the National Gender Machinery, acts as the policy making and monitoring body for the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies in policies and programmes of all sectors.

ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY WELFARE



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.

NCC: National Children's Council

NWC: National Women's Council

NWEC: National Women Entrepreneur Council

SILWF: Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund

Staff in post - Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

As at 30 June 2019

SN	Post/Grade	Total
1	Senior Chief Executive *	1
2	Deputy Permanent Secretary	2
3	Assistant Permanent Secretary	2
4	Manager, Financial Operations	1
5	Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	1
6	Financial Officer/Senior Financial Officer	1
7	Assistant Manager, Procurement & Supply	1
8	Principal Procurement & Supply Officer	1
9	Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer	2
10	Principal Manager Internal Control	1
11	Office Management Executive	6
12	Office Management Assistant	13
13	Management Support Officer	43
14	Head, Planning & Research Unit	1
15	Head, Child Development Unit	1
16	Head, Gender Unit	1
17	Head, Family Welfare and Protection Unit	1
18	Coordinator	16
19	Senior Family Welfare and Protection Officer	6
20	Child Welfare Officer	1
21	Psychologist/Senior Psychologist	20
22	Head, Home Economics Unit	1
23	Senior Home Economics Officer	2
24	Home Economics Officer	8
25	Family Counselling Officer	6
26	Family Welfare and Protection Officer	108

27	Enforcement Officer	14
28	Confidential Secretary	5
29	Word Processing Operator	6
30	Child Care Worker	7
31	Instructor	5
32	Driver	15
33	Store Attendant	2
34	General Worker	9
35	Head Office Auxiliary	2
36	Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary	12
37	Security Guard	1
38	Gardener/Nursery Attendant	2
39	Receptionist/Telephone Operator	1
40	Programme Coordinator (employed on month to month basis)	1
41	Adviser (on contract)	5
42	Social Welfare Commissioner	1
43	Deputy Social Welfare Commissioner	1
44	Principal Social Welfare Officer	5
45	Senior Social Welfare Officer	13
46	Social Welfare Officer	19
47	Manager, Human Resources	1
48	Assistant Manager, Human Resources	1
49	Human Resource Executive	2
50	Systems Analyst	1
51	Assistant Systems Analyst	1
52	YEP Trainee (Computer Support Officer)	1
53	Statistician	1
54	Senior Statistical Officer	1

55	Statistical Officer	1
56	Research Officer	1
57	Handy Worker	12
Total		396

***NOTE: Mrs N. Bheenick, the then Permanent Secretary, was appointed as Senior Chief Executive on 2 March 2020.**

PART II ACHIEVEMENTS

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY- JULY 2018 TO JUNE 2019

A. PLANNING AND RESEARCH UNIT

1. The National Beijing Review Report, prepared by this Ministry, in consultation with various stakeholders has been submitted to UN Women in New York and UNECA in Addis Ababa in September 2019. The report presents an analysis of the accomplishments of the 12 areas of concern agreed in Beijing, in terms of women health, development and the process of empowerment, undertaken in Mauritius between 2014 -2019.
2. Mauritius submitted its Eighth Periodic Report on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women under article 18 of the Convention pursuant to the simplified reporting procedure in 19 June 2018 and was examined on 30 October 2018. The Concluding observations and recommendations were released on 12 November 2018.

B. GENDER UNIT

1. Holding of Indian Ocean Rim Association Ministerial Conference on “**Women’s Economic Empowerment: A Prerequisite for Sustainable Development**” was held on **28 and 29 August 2018**. The Conference was attended by representatives of **19 Member States**. The outcomes of the conference were the:
 - launching of the IORA Working Group on Women’s Economic Empowerment;
 - adoption of the declaration on Women’s Economic Empowerment;
 - agreement that Mauritius and Australia would co-chair the new Working Group for a period of two years; and
 - the development of the Work Plan for the Working Group.

It is worth highlighting that Mauritius was applauded by IORA Member States for spearheading the setting up of the Working Group for Women’s Economic Empowerment; and for its leadership and capacity to chair the Working Group and the Ministerial Meeting. The Action Plan which was endorsed at the Ministerial Meeting, will, henceforth, enable IORA Member States to implement identified actions leading to Women’s Economic Empowerment.

2. This Ministry benefitted from the financial support of the European Union and UNDP and wide consultative meetings were held with representatives of the public and private sectors, the Media, Academia and Civil Society’s Organisations for the following:

- the drafting instructions to the Gender Equality Bill which, primarily seeks to attain substantive equality;
 - the devising of a New National Gender Policy for 2019-2029, which underlines the sustained commitment by the Republic of Mauritius to engender an all-inclusive legal, policy and administrative environment that promotes gender equality and equity as the basis for promoting sustainable development;
 - the formulation of a National Costed Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming for the Public Sector which includes gender-responsive actions to be implemented in the short, medium and long term by all Ministries.
 - The establishment of the four Gender Technical Working Groups comprising of representatives of the Private Sector, Academia, media and civil society organisations; as well as the drafting of guidelines related to their “*modus operandi*”.
3. Celebration of International Women’s Day on **08 March 2019** at **Swami Vivekananda Convention Science Centre** around the theme “**Egalite Zom/Fam Koumans Par Mwa**” with some **7, 500 guests** attended the event.
 4. In line with the Budgetary Measures 2018/2019 to train 250 officials on Gender Issues, the Gender Unit organised High Level training programmes on Gender Mainstreaming during the month of **May 2019**. Some **90 participants** comprising Gender Focal Points of line Ministries; Permanent Secretaries and Senior Officials in the grade of Deputy Permanent Secretaries; Assistant Permanent Secretaries and Human Resource from all Ministries were sensitized. The training programmes were facilitated by Mrs Winnifred OSIMBO-LICHUMA, International Consultant and Gender Expert from Kenya.
 5. Panel Discussion on the “Influence of Digital Technologies on Family Relations” held on **23 May 2019** at the Municipal Hall, Municipality of Quatre-Bornes was organized. The objectives were to:
 - create awareness on how digital technology affects family negatively;
 - sensitise the participants on the use of internet as a tool for progress; and
 - sensitise them on the dangers of social media and how to avoid online hazards.

Some **378 participants** (328 women and 50 students from Loreto Quatre-Bornes) attended the activity.

6. Symposium on ‘Families and Climate Action’ held on 28 May 2019 at the Town Hall of Port Louis. The objectives were to:
 - promote family values and understand processes and challenges;
 - educate participants on the impact of climate change on family members; and
 - build resilient impacts of climate change.

Some **120 women** participated in the activity.

7. Implementation of the **3 E’s project entitled “Empowerment through Education and Entertainment”** targeting girls and young women (aged between 13 – 29 years) during **July/August 2018; November 2018 and April 2019** school holidays in the following deprived regions: Residence Bethleem- Rose Belle; Cité Richelieu; Bonne Veine-Quartier

Militaire; Longère Tole/Longère Blanc – Baie du Tombeau; Vallée Pitot; Grand Gaube; Grand Bois; Camp Levieux; and Cité Ville Noire (Mahebourg).

The objective was to empower the participants on various pertinent issues related to their well-being and livelihoods. Topics/activities covered comprised, *inter alia*: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights ; Personal Development; Values; Crime Prevention; Road Safety; Drug and Substance Abuse; Teen Depression and Leisure activities.

Some **200 girls and young women** have participated in the various activities.

8. Implementation of the Goal Programme which is a joint venture with the Standard Chartered Bank, aimed at empowering girls aged 13 to 18 years old, who are school drop outs or still attending school through different modules namely: Be Yourself; Be Healthy; Be Empowered and Be Money Savvy. This programme has reached out to some **300 beneficiaries**.

C. HOME ECONOMICS UNIT

- To promote the social and economic empowerment of women and a healthy lifestyle, the following have been implemented:-
 - **20** types of MQA recognised capacity building programmes were dispensed to **3770** persons in **145** centres spread over the island;
 - **36** Enterprise Development Workshops were organised targeting **916** vulnerable women and men;
 - **50** Mini-Fairs were held at various venues over the island so as to promote generation activities (entrepreneurship development) & the alleviation of poverty; and
 - **48 Lifeskills Development Programmes** were organised targeting **1237** young boys & girls during school holidays, out of which 47% were boys.

- A National Certificate Award Ceremony was held at the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Hall Tower 1, Ebène, on 06th December 2018. **400** trainees from all over the island attended the activity. The other trainees received their certificates at regional certificate Award Ceremonies held at Quartier Militaire, Pl Magnien, Phoenix & Pl des Papayes Home Economics Resource Centres.

- The World Home Economics Day was celebrated through a Symposium on the theme ‘Creativity & Innovation in Home Economics for Sustainable Development’ at the Octave Wiehe Auditorium, Réduit on 03rd April 2019. 1000 members of the public including academia & members of the public were targeted.

- New Courses on Care of the Elderly, Care of Children and Sustainable Development and Food Security were introduced.

- All the 23 courses were run on demand at the regional Home Economics Resource Centres, the Women Empowerment Centres, Social Welfare Centres, Community Centres, and Village Halls etc. over the island.

D. CHILD DEVELOPMENT UNIT (CDU)

SN	UNIT	Achievements
1	International Child Abduction	Since the start of the programme in 1993 till date, 159 cases of Child Abduction have been registered at the level of the CDU. 12 cases of International Child Abduction Cases dealt with from July 2018 to June 2019. Total number of new cases recorded is 21 .
2.	Early Childhood Development	137 Child Day Centres registered with this Ministry for the period 2018/2019 40 awareness campaigns have been carried out for the period 2018 – targeting audience: women in Social Welfare Centres, Community Centres and Women Empowerment Centres.
3.	Tardy Declaration of Birth	July 2018 to June 2019, 59 children have been tardily declared and provided with Act of Birth.
4.	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Combatting Child Trafficking Unit	From 2018 to 2019, 883 persons have been sensitized on CSEC and 21 sensitization campaigns have been organised.
5.	Community Child Protection Programme	For the period 2018-2019: 47 Community Child Protection Programme (CCPPS) are operational - 3 are inactive 374 CCPPs Meeting held 198 cases have been referred In year 2018, 2464 children have been participated In year 2019, 3460 children have been reached throughout the activities
6	Trainings	<u>Child Protection Register:</u> 19 New Recruits were trained <u>Refresher Course on Child Protection Register:</u> 28 Officers have been trained

		<p><u>Training of Trainers’ on the Gender Empowerment Programme (Be Gender Empowered)</u></p> <p>44 Officers of the CDU, ACU and the NCC have attended the training.</p>
7	Awareness Campaigns	<p><u>Services of the CDU and Child Abuse and Child Protection Services</u></p> <p>331 persons (Including adults and youths) have attended the training sessions in Schools and Social Welfare Centres.</p> <p><u>Radio Talks</u></p> <p>17 Radio Talks have been organized</p> <p><u>Pamphlet</u></p> <p>Two pamphlets have been worked-out to professionally and effectively project and outline the services and programmes of the CDU.</p>

E. ALTERNATIVE CARE UNIT

<p>Rehabilitation Section</p>	<p>Prise en Charge of Children Victims of violence in Shelters/RCI's</p>	<p>507 Children, victims of violence, were placed in seventeen (17) institutions, (three (3) Government-owned Shelters and fourteen (14) NGO-owned RCIs.</p> <p>The Multi-disciplinary team of professionals has been reinforced, and it includes Social Workers, Clinical Psychologists and a Psychiatric Nurse, who handle each child's case with the utmost care in a holistic manner.</p>
	<p>Capitation Grant</p>	<p>Since August 2018, there has been increase in Capitation Grant payable to NGOs working with children victims of violence from <u>Rs 378.27 to Rs 400/- per child per day.</u> These children who are under Court Orders are duly placed in those Institutions and the capitation grant is meant to incur their basic essential necessities.</p>
	<p>Technical Committee</p>	<p>The recommendations of the Technical Committee, set up in July 2017 to explore the possibility of coming up with a fast track Plan related to rehabilitation and reintegration of residents placed in RCIs are being implemented.</p>
	<p>Inspectorate system</p>	<p>An Inspectorate system was set up to monitor the smooth running of RCIs and Shelters and more staff have been recruited especially in the category of Enforcement Officers.</p>
	<p>Service de Proximite' to ensure parental visits</p>	<p>Since October 2018, Community Centres, Social Welfare Centres and Women</p>

		Empowerment Centres are being used as service de proximite for the conduct of parental visits to establish bonding of residents with biological families for reinsertion purpose.
	Emergency kit	Since October 2018, an emergency kit, comprising of basic essentials, is being provided by the Rehabilitation Section to children victims of violence at the level of RCIs, and those who are admitted to hospitals for medical screening, prior to them being placed in a Residential Care Institution. .
Back-to-Home section		From July 2018 to June 2019, 88 Children have been re-inserted into a family setting. 106 Parental Visits have been conducted for the purposes of re-integration.
Foster Care Section	Placement of Children	Since the inception of the programme till June 2019, 10 Children have been placed in 9 Foster Care Families.
	Registration of Foster Care Parents	Some 60 applications have been received at the level of Foster Care Section and based on the criteria set in the Regulation and assessments conducted, 19 Prospective Foster Parents were successfully registered under the programme.
	Foster care Training	A 2-day training programme for newly registered foster parents was organized on 10 and 11 May 2019. It is to be noted that this training programme is in line with Section 6(b) of the Child Protection Act Regulations (Foster Care) 2005. Officers from the Foster Care Section and Psychologists of the Ministry acted as Resource Person. The

		<p>training was conducted for 53 applicants for prospective foster care parents. Some 26 parents benefitted from the programme.</p> <p>Training was carried out on Saturday 24 March 2018 for 30 existing foster parents and more training is planned to be conducted during the course of this year.</p>
	Foster care campaign	<p>From January 2019- June 2019, 160 persons have been reached through the sensitisation campaigns that have been conducted on the Foster Care Programme.</p> <p>10,000 Pamphlets on Foster Care Programme have been produced and used for its Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns.</p>
	Parental Visits	<p>Being given that arrangements for parental visits with foster care children and biological families are encouraged for later re-integration within their biological family, two (2) venues at the seat of CSK Building and NWDC at Phoenix have been identified and same are being conducted. 16 parental visits have been conducted for the purpose of maintaining the bond between the biological family and the minor placed in a foster family.</p>
Child Mentoring	Training and Capacity building Programme	<p>Since August 2018, 9 Officers of the ACU and Psychologists have been registered as Trainers at the level of MQA to subsequently provide regular training to the Child Mentoring Programme.</p> <p>3 Training/Capacity-Building Programmes were conducted for 70 Child Mentors on issues related to new challenges.</p>

		Since training is an ongoing feature, same has been intensified and all Staffs are regularly provided with in-house training and exposure to training abroad.
	Exchange Programme	A delegation was in Rodrigues Island in May 2019 to share best practices and experience on the Programme.
	Child Mentees	94 Child Mentees have benefitted from the Child Mentoring Programme and there are 67 Child Mentors. Since April 2018, the rate of stipend paid to Child Mentors has been increased from Rs 2,000/- to Rs 2,250/- to cover their travelling expenses. 10,000 pamphlets have been produced and disseminated to key stakeholders

F. Psychological Services/ Child Perpetrator Support Unit

Achievements

1. Rehabilitation programme for juvenile sexual offenders committed in CYC has been initiated. Monthly sessions are held at the CYC.
2. Cases are regularly referred by the ODPP.
3. Awareness about the functions of the Child Perpetrators' Support Unit to Police personnel through Police training sessions.
4. 16 Training sessions of police have been carried on topics such as handling domestic violence victims, interviewing techniques with adults/child victims, profiling of child perpetrators and how to handle them and effects of Domestic Violence on family
5. 13 Mass counseling sessions have been carried out on marital/family conflict and domestic violence in Women Centres and Social Welfare Centres.

G. FAMILY WELFARE AND PROTECTION UNIT

1. Commemoration of the International Day Against Violence Against Women (November 2018)

To mark the event, the Hon. Prime Minister launched a booklet on Pre-Marital Counselling and a booklet on Marriage Enrichment Programme. The purpose of the booklets is to disseminate information on the said programmes for community members to enroll themselves for same. Both booklets have been translated in English, French and Creole for ease of understanding at the level of the public at large.

2. Development of a Perpetrator's Rehabilitation Programme (November 2018)

The Ministry offers protection, care and support services to victims of domestic violence. However, the cycle of violence will continue to perpetuate, if perpetrators are not held accountable for their acts and if they are not offered an opportunity to change. In this respect, in November 2018, this Ministry, with the assistance of the UNDP, has retained the services of a Consultant for the development of the Perpetrator's Rehabilitation Programme.

A Consultative Workshop was organized on 22 November 2018 in the context of IDEVAW at Gold Crest Hotel, 60 participants were reached and a 2-day Consultative Workshop was organized in Rodrigues from 26-27 November 2018, 30 participants were reached. The Consultant submitted his End of Mission Report in December 2018 and a Training Manual for facilitators. The said manual was used for training of 20 facilitators in Mauritius and 15 in Rodrigues in March 2019.

3. Setting up of the Integrated Support Centre (March 2019)

The Integrated Support Centre was launched by the Hon. Prime Minister on 08 March 2019. Hotline 139 (for domestic violence) is now being attended simultaneously through 4 parallel phone lines. With high-end technology, the Integrated Support Centre is connected to the 6 Family Support Bureaux through 12 phone lines and to the Domestic Violence Information System which is the repository for all data pertaining to cases to domestic violence. Calls received can easily be connected to the nearest Service Provider for immediate intervention and assistance. With the Integrated Support Centre, services to victims of domestic violence are provided in a holistic manner. Networking with stakeholders further streamlines procedures while attending to cases of domestic violence.

On 08 March 2019, the Hon. Prime Minister also announced that victims of domestic violence may also call at CAB Offices for assistance. In this respect, a training of 25 CAB Officers was conducted in May 2019. Henceforth, besides the 6 Family Support Bureaux, 11 Police Family Protection Units and Police Stations, 34 CAB Offices will also attend to cases of domestic violence.

4. Celebration of International Day of Families (May 2019)

Theme for the International Day of Families 2019

This year, the United Nation has retained the theme: “**Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG13**”. For the celebration at national level the theme – “**Ene_ fami_ini # ene_pei_ini**” has been retained.

5. Celebration of the International Day of Families 2019

Activity 1: “Réflexion sur le role des parents au 21ème siècle”

Date: 15 May 2019

Venue: CPIL, Cyber Tower 1

Objective: The 21st century is marked by complexity and rapid change and parenting needs to respond accordingly. One thing that can never change is that parents are their child’s first and most important teachers. Children need their parents to be the wise teachers given the 21st century skills they need to develop. Parents need to realize that for their children to meet their visions of success as adults in the 21st century, they are going to need some skills, which are not limited to the technology skills needed at work. Through this forum parents were empowered so that they are equipped to respond to their changing roles.

Resource Person : Mrs Paula Lew Fai, Psychosociologist

Activity 2: Launching of a campaign against drug through the cinema mobile “Paran pas bese les bras – devan la drog” by Komiko

Date: 18 and 25 May, 1 and 8 June 2019

Venue: La Tour Koenig Sheridan Complex, Winners: Bambous, Plaines Magnien and Camp Leveux

Parents suspecting their children might be trapped in drug addiction, should first of all identify unusual signs in terms of change in the way they relate to them or other people in the family, loss of interest in hobbies, sports or other activities, using less or more money than usual, increase time away from home, depressive, moody, hostile, lying, tired and lethargic amongst others.

In view of creating wider awareness on this social scourge, it was proposed that the Ministry seeks the technical assistance of **KOMIKO** for the mounting of a community based awareness programme on how parents might address drug addiction of their children. The outreach programme was conducted via a mobile theatre whereby the artists made a live performance.

Activity 3: Leisure activities in places of attractions at rebated prices

The Mauritian families had the opportunity to spend their leisure time together in places of attractions and leisure-related places during the weekends 18 & 19 and 25 and 26 May 2019 at rebated prices.

List of places of attraction proposing rebated prices are as follows:

- Blue Safari
- Passion Oceane
- L’Aventure du Sucre
- Terre Ocean
- Ferney Reconnect with Nature
- Domaine Lagrave
- Curious Corner of Chamarel
- La Vanille Crocodile Park
- Le Val Nature Park

Activity 4: Recreational Family Day

Date: 15 June 2019

Venue: Quorum, Plaisance Rose Hill

Objective: The concept behind the Recreational Day is to allow families to participate collectively in a series of activities that would contribute towards strengthening family ties. Various games and cultural items were proposed to families on that day where they participated, as a team.

6. Collaboration with the Police (July 2019)

Domestic violence is a life shattering family-setting crime which has a negative impact on the whole nation and tackling it is a key priority for this Government. Two key actors actively engaged in addressing domestic violence are the Police Department and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.

Following approval of the Commissioner of Police and in anticipation of an enhanced service delivery through a holistic approach, discussions were held regarding the collaboration with the Police Family Protection Unit and the Family Welfare and Protection Unit and a core team comprising of high-cadre officers from the Mauritius Police Force and from this Ministry was

set up in July 2019 to kickstart the project which will be implemented after the signing of an MOU by these two parties.

The aim is to have the Family Support Bureaux of this Ministry and Police Family Protection Units under the same roof at 11 strategic locations across the island. This initiative will ensure prompt intervention in cases of domestic violence by Police Officers and on the other hand, Family Welfare and Protection Officers will be responsible for providing all psychosocial support to victims of domestic violence and will also be engaged in the rehabilitation of perpetrators of domestic violence.

7. Information, Education and Communication Campaigns (ongoing)

The Family Welfare and Protection Unit conducts IEC campaigns to sensitise the public at large on issues pertaining to the welfare of families and to raise awareness of community members on Gender-based violence. 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).

For the period **July 2018 to April 2019**, **156** campaigns were organised and **6,890** people have been reached, thereby largely exceeding the annual target of **1,500** people.

H. SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION

S.N	Key Action	Strategies	Achievements
1.	Sensitize the community on health and social issues	Organise talks, seminar and workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 47,330 persons sensitized
2.	Offer hobby and skills development courses	Run demand-driven courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 different courses run (6 MQA approved) • No. of trainees: 3660
3.	Promote micro Entrepreneurial activities	Hold sales exhibitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of women entrepreneurs who benefitted: 400 • Visitors: 25,000
4.	Provide Community Services	Maintain Infrastructural Facilities and improve Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1500 plastic chairs, 114 tables and 57 tarpaulins issued • 4050 families benefitted from hire of equipment • 2000 youngsters benefit from Community Games, Newspaper, TV show, etc, daily
5.	Support to vulnerable groups	Run programmes for vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toys distributed to 1800 (children) beneficiaries of Social Aid • 4200 children participated in creativity activities • Lunch/Cultural Programmes – 3000 senior citizens/disabled persons benefitted

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET MEASURES

Reporting Period: July 2018 to June 2019

Budget Measure	Status
Introduction of a Gender Equality Bill to set a strong and comprehensive legal framework for gender mainstreaming	Draft instructions to the Gender Equality Bill are ready. Awaiting Cabinet decision for further action.
Training of some 250 government officials across all ministries and departments to deal with gender issues	High Level training programmes on Gender Mainstreaming held during the month of May 2019 . Some 90 participants (Gender Focal Points of line Ministries; Permanent Secretaries and Senior Officials in the grade of Deputy Permanent Secretaries; Assistant Permanent Secretaries and Human Resource from all Ministries) were sensitized. The training programmes was facilitated by Mrs Winnifred OSIMBO-LICHUMA, International Consultant and Gender Expert from Kenya.
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	13 Child Day Care Centres have benefited from the One-Off cash grant. An amount of approximately Rs 4.8 M has been disbursed for same.
Support to NGOs to set up additional emergency shelters for women and children.	At present, Chrysallide and Passerelle are accommodating women victims of domestic violence and their children against payment of capitation grant of Rs 400 to women victims of domestic violence and Rs 341 to their children. A proposal from Safe Haven is currently under consideration.
A training programme will be run for social workers on rehabilitation of perpetrators of violence.	In November 2018, the services of a Consultant was enlisted for the development of the "Perpetrator's Rehabilitation Programme". A Consultative Workshop was organized on 22 November 2018 in the context of IDEVAW at Gold Crest Hotel 2-day Consultative Workshop was organized in Rodrigues from 26-27 November 2018. Consultant has submitted End of Mission Report in December 2018. A training of facilitators for the Perpetrator's Rehabilitation Programme was held with key stakeholders in March 2019.

Recruitment of 15 additional Family Welfare and Protection Officers(FWPO)	The 15 additional posts created in Estimates 2018/2019 have all been filled.
Provision for 4 psychiatric nurses to assist children with behavioural problems.	Two candidates have been found suitable by the Selection Committee for appointment as Psychiatric Nurse. However, only one candidate accepted the offer and assumed duty in January 2019.

STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY ACTIONS FY 2018/2019

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target (as per Budget Estimates)	Status
Enhance the effectiveness of sensitisation programmes on gender equality	Number of innovative tools developed for gender equality	15	Proposal for production of seven (7) animated episodes addressing gender stereotypes is being worked out. Proposal for draft pamphlets on “Terminologies of Gender” and on CEDAW: A Roadmap for Implementation” are being worked out.
Licensing and monitoring of Child Day Care institutions	Number of Child Day Care Centres compliant with Regulations	175	137
Economic empowerment of women	Number of fair organised for trainees/potential entrepreneurs	50	85

OTHER INTERNALLY DEVELOPED KPI'S FOR THE FY 2018/2019

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target (as per Budget Estimates)	Actual Status as at 2018/2019
Back-to-Home Programme	Number of children who have been reintegrated into their biological families or next to kins		120
Foster Care Programme	Number of children who have been placed into Foster Families		23
Rehabilitation Programme	Number of children placed in RCI's/Shelters of the Ministry		100%
Child Mentoring Programme	Number of children who have been placed		58
Sensitisation campaign on <i>inter alia</i> GBV, PDVA and Services of the FSBx.	Number of people sensitised	1500	From July 2018 to December 2018, 92 campaigns were organised where 4538 people have been sensitised From January 2019 to July 2019, 107 campaigns have been conducted and 4203 persons were reached.
Children's Clubs	Number of children benefiting from clubs' activities	21,840	4836 children benefitting from clubs' activities
Empowerment of children through arts/crafts through creativity activities at Mahebourg Creativity Centre	Number of children benefitted from creativity activities	7500	2340 children benefitted from creativity activities
Educating the Community	IEC Programmes	54,000	52 717
Empowering Women	Running Skills-development courses	2000 trainees	2300 trainees

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.

Composition of the Audit Committee:

Chairperson	DPS Mrs D. Bootun
Members	Ag APS Mrs Sobdar
	Coordinator Mr N. Taukoordass (FWPU)
Secretary	Mrs D. Kripa (OMA)

Meetings were held on 13 & 24 September 2019 and 15 October 2019.

The duly signed Performance Contract has already been forwarded to the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms. An Action Plan of the Audit Committee for financial year 2019/2020 has already been submitted to the Office of the Public Sector Governance. An amended version will be submitted in due course.

Integrated Support Centre

The Integrated Support Centre was launched by the Hon. Prime Minister on 08 March 2019. Hotline 139 (for domestic violence) and Hotline 113 (Child Abuse) are now being attended simultaneously through 4 parallel phone lines. With high-end technology, the Integrated Support Centre is connected to the 6 Family Support Bureaux through 12 phone lines and to the Domestic Violence Information System which is a repository for all data pertaining to cases to domestic violence. In addition, the main operator is located at Phoenix and it is also connected to the 6 CDU Outstations. Calls received can easily be connected to the nearest Service Provider for immediate intervention and assistance.

Citizen Support Portal

A Citizen Support Portal (CSP) was launched in April 2017. The CSP is an online platform set up at the Prime Minister's Office to provide a better service to address complaints and queries of citizens, including those from victims of domestic violence. The CSP is part of a wider system to develop ways of bringing citizens' experience of service delivery into planning and

management of Government services. Several cases have been referred to this Ministry and have been resolved. Access to services have been provided by the CDU and ACU.

SILWF - Community Development Association

The Community Development Association is a voluntary entity responsible in the decision-making in the organisation of the activities at the Community Centre.

It is comprised of about eighteen (18) members who are fully involved in the social and voluntary work in the region. They may be also members of the Socio-Cultural organisation of the village or the locality.

The Community Development Association usually meets once monthly to discuss about the activities that the Community Centre may organise to meet the need and aspiration of the people in the village or the locality. Activities may be summarised ECSEER Programme as follows: E: Educational, C: Cultural, S: Social, E : Economic and R : Recreational.

1. Educational

Educational activities are organised to empower and sensitize the community on various social, issues such as Drugs abuse, Road Safety, Environment Awareness, Healthy Life Style etc.

Some of the activities may be summarized as follows:-Literary, Lectures, Forums, Seminars, Literacy, Home Economics, Sewing, Dressmaking, Arts and Crafts, Scholarships, Technical Training, Ethics, Civics, Health, Audio-Visual and Net PC Programme

2. Cultural

These activities relate to enhance cultural diversity in the community and also promote Cultural and Societal Values among the inhabitants. It also creates a platform for promoting local talents and creativity.

The activities may include the following:

- (a) Instrumental Music
- (b) Songs
- (c) Dances
- (d) Theatre
- (e) Traditions
- (f) Mutual Understanding

3. Social

Social activities focus on the promotion of Social Cohesion, Unity and Peace, Mutual Understanding, among the community and the activities include the following:

- (a) Welfare of Society
- (b) Child Development and Protection
- (c) Advancement of Women
- (d) Care of Senior Citizens
- (e) Grants
- (f) Amenities (tarpaulins, chairs etc.)
- (g) Self-Help Project
- (h) Struggle against social plagues
- (i) Patriotic
- (j) Inter-Communal Harmony
- (k) Protection of the Environment
- (l) Emergency Shelter for victims of cyclone & other natural disasters

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN- DIRECTOR OF AUDIT COMMENTS

Report 2018/2019

SN	Issues Raised by the National Audit Office	Remarks by the Ministry
1.0	<p><u>The Child Protection Register (CPR) and The Domestic Violence Information System (DOVIS).</u></p> <p>DOVIS In November 2018, the two systems were not yet operational at two FSB, namely Flacq and Souillac.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CPR is operational at the 6 Child Protection Services of the Ministry. Action still required: Inputs of outstanding cases (11700) ➤ The CPR is operational at CPS Souillac and Flacq since February and August 2019 respectively. ➤ Refurbishment works to be completed by end of December 2019. ➤ Dovis is operational at 5 Family Support Bureaux. Due to refurbishment works, the FSB of Flacq has been temporarily relocated to Riche Mare SWC. LAN is not available thereat. ➤ DOVIS is not operational.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As of 12 October 2018, 2197 cases were still not registered in the CPR system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Six YEP have been assigned the responsibility to input outstanding cases under the supervision of DPS (Mrs Bootun)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For Domestic Violence, 7644 cases were reported at the four FSB during the period June 2016 to August 2018. ➤ As of September 2018, some 5,500 cases were registered on the DOVIS System, representing 72% of cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arrangements have been made to clear the backlogs
1.1 1.1.1	<p><u>Shelters/Residential Care Institutions (RCIs)</u></p> <p>Management of Shelters</p> <p><u>Issues common to Government and Private Shelters</u></p> <p><u>Regulations for Management of Rehabilitation Care Institutions</u></p> <p>There was a need for a legal framework to regulate the Management of Shelters/RCIs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bidding exercise for the Management of Government Owned Shelters has been completed. Financial clearance obtained and contracts will be awarded shortly. ➤ Cabinet approval has been obtained regarding the promulgation of the Child Protection (Place of Safety for the

	<p>As at November 2018, the regulations were not finalized.</p>	<p>Welfare and Protection of Children) Regulations 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Regulations have already been published in the Government Gazette. ➤ Action Required: Sensitisation and enforcement of the Legislation.
<p>1.1.2</p>	<p><u>Compliance with Policies of the Ministry.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Policies of the Ministry pertaining to the sheltering of children in distress placed in RCIs were not being properly complied with the RCIs. <p><i>The following shortcomings were noted in the administration of the RCIs:</i> <i>Records relating to character of staff of RCIs</i> <i>Completeness of the Admission/ Discharge Books</i> <i>Preparation of food</i> <i>Completeness of file of Residents in terms of Court Orders, Birth and Health Certificates, including their schooling, dietary requirements and medical/ psychological follow ups</i> <i>General safety of the shelters</i></p> <p>The absence of signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Private shelters run by NGOs precluded the enforcement of these policies on the NGOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compliance with the Child Protection (Place of Safety for the Welfare and Protection of Children) Regulations 2019 will be ensured. ➤ Action required: Site visits will be effected by Enforcement Officers.
<p>1.1.3</p>	<p><u>Issues for Specific Shelters: Government Shelter La Colombe and L'Oasis run by NCC</u></p> <p>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. In October 2018, there were only three caregivers during the day and at night. One of the caregiver attended to the baby, while the other two catered for a population of 27 Residents.</p> <p>Three categories of children, namely babies, teenage boys, teenage girls/mothers were being housed in the same building at Shelter La Colombe. This is not considered to be appropriate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contract Out – Management of Shelter ➤ Award of Contract – Time Frame End of December

	<p>As of November 2018, the new MOU for Shelter La Colombe was yet to be finalised, while no MOU was drawn between the NCC and the Ministry for Shelter L'Oasis.</p>	
	<p><u>Government Shelter La Cigogne run by Children Foundation</u></p> <p>The MOU with the Children Foundation provided for balanced nutritious meals, adequate in quality, varied and appealing to children to be offered to the residents, taking into consideration their religious beliefs. As per the Menu Sheet of the Shelter only vegetarian meals were served to the children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compliance with the Child Protection (Place of Safety for the Welfare and Protection of Children) Regulations 2019 will be ensured. ➤ The services of a Home Economics Officer were sought and a site visit was effected at the Institution by the latter and an officer of the Alternative Care Unit. The meals provided thereat are balanced meals. The director of the Institution was requested to also provide non-vegetarian meals to the babies and toddlers placed thereat. ➤ Site visits to be effected by Enforcement Officers till 01 January 2020.
	<p>NGO Shelter for Women and Children in Distress</p> <p>CDU transferred seven children from ex Shelter La Marguerite on 12 July 2018 without proper documentation. As of October 2018, the documents had still not been submitted.</p> <p>One child could not attend the PSAC Modular examination due to lack of Transfer Certificate from her previous school.</p> <p>One six-year old toddler was not yet declared at the Civil Status Office as of November 2018.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Files/documents are being updated. ➤ The minor has been admitted to L'Oasis de Paix which is a special needs school. The minor will therefore not sit for the PSAC exams this year owing to her academic performance. ➤ The minor has been discharged to the care of her biological father on 20 February 2019. Presently, the minor is in France with her mother.
	<p>NGO SOS Children Village</p> <p>Specialised medical/ follow up plans, taking into account the psychological disposition of individual Residents, were not devised.</p> <p>Several cases of minors abusing minors, drugs abuse and sexuality have been reported at SOS Children Village.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Medical and psychological assistance are being provided to both victims and alleged offenders at SOS Village.

	<p>Two children at the Village reached majority in 2018 without being declared. 'Tardy Declaration' of the children was not made. One of the children was in the Shelter since five years old.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Tardy Declaration of Birth Section of the Ministry is doing the follow up to trace parents of minors who have not been declared. If same does not materialize, arrangements will be made to declare the minors as per 'parens patriae' concept. ➤ Follow up to trace parents are maintained (3 months to 2 years – depending on a case to case basis)
	<p>Association pour les Handicappes de Malherbes</p> <p>The number of caregivers was not adequate. As per the Ministry's Circular issued in January 2018, the RCI should have 11 caregivers attending to the varying special needs of the 29 residents at all times. Only five caregivers were working during the day and at night.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compliance with the Child Protection (Place of Safety for the Welfare and Protection of Children) Regulations 2019 will be ensured. ➤ Presently the caregiver ratio is being respected. ➤ The scheduled Enforcement Officer carry out monitoring visits to ensure that the caregiver ratio is respected. ➤ However, owing to specialised care, there is high turnover rate and their retention is very difficult by the NGO. ➤ Site visits by Enforcements Officers are maintained to ensure that the number of caregivers are being respected.

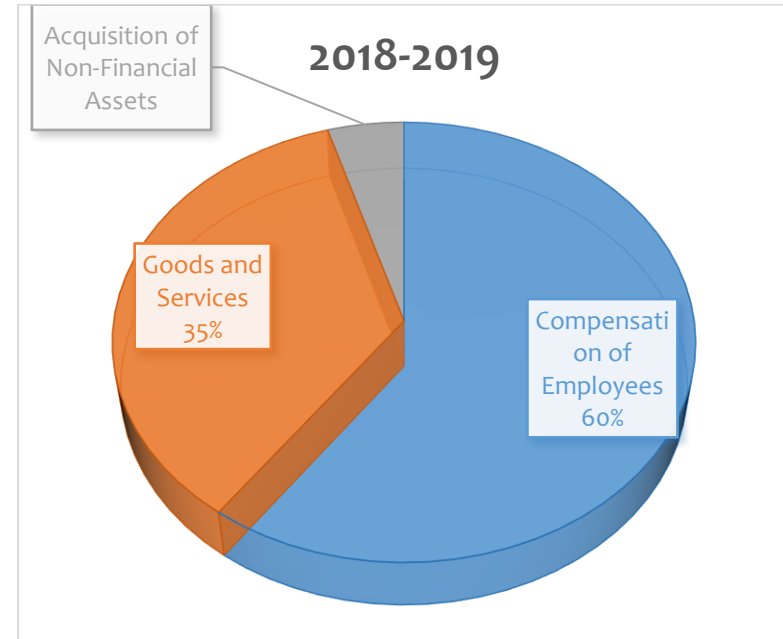
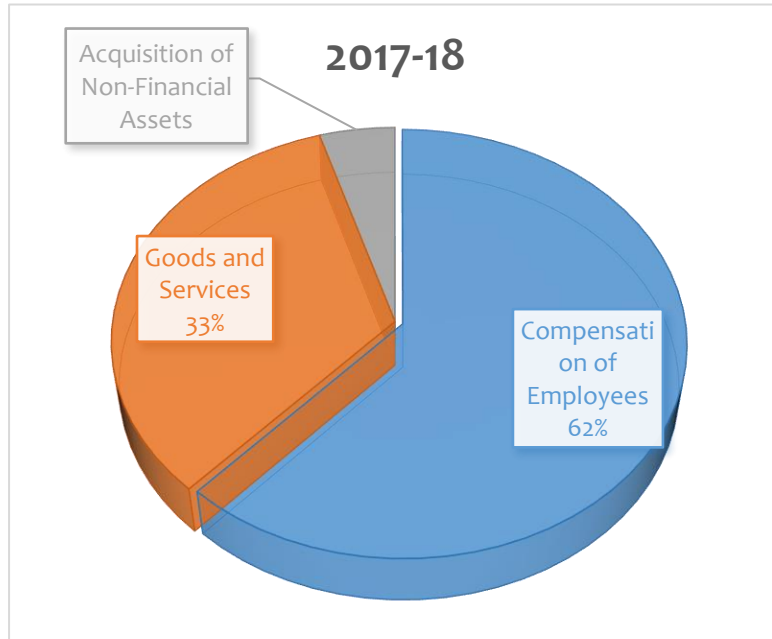
PART III: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

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 25-101-(General) for the year 2018/ 2019



- Figure 2 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 25-102 (Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming) for the year 2018/2019

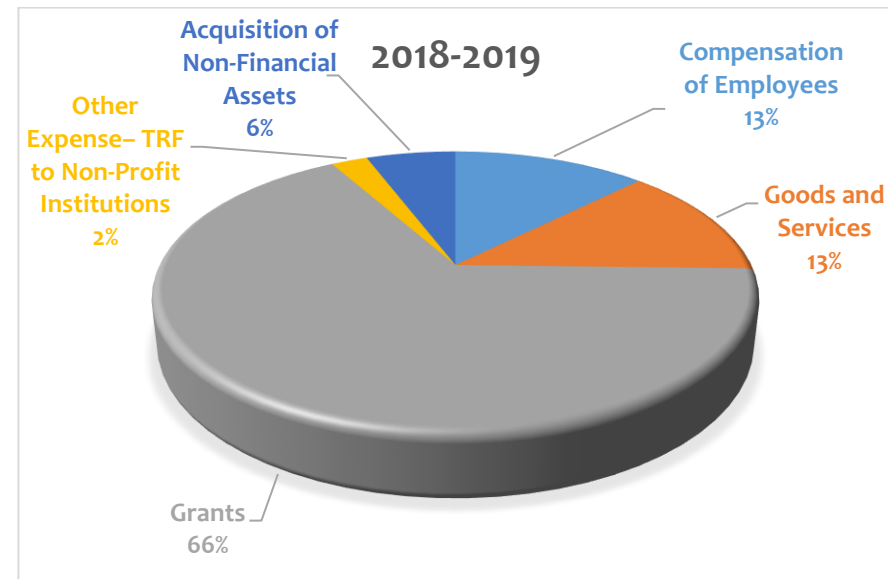
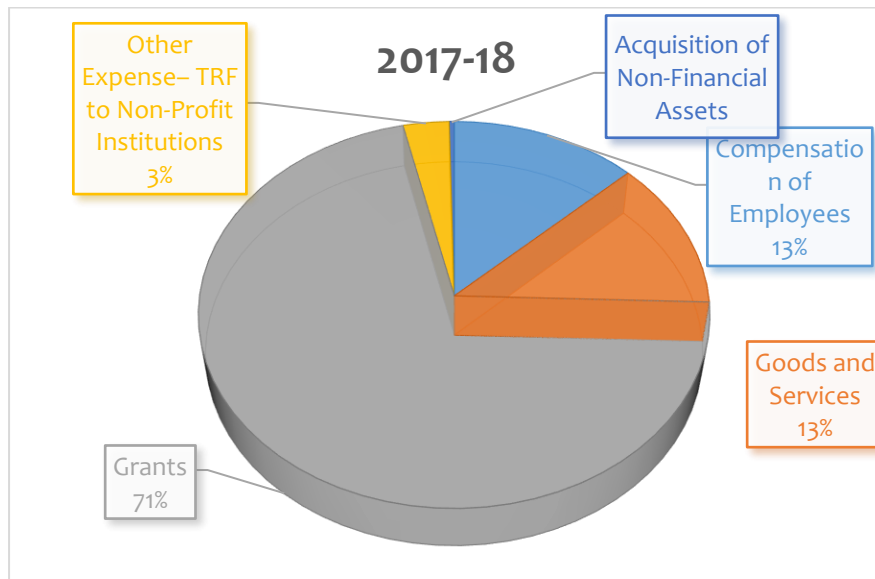


Figure 3 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 25-103 (Child Protection, Welfare and Development) for the year 2017/2018 and 2018/2019

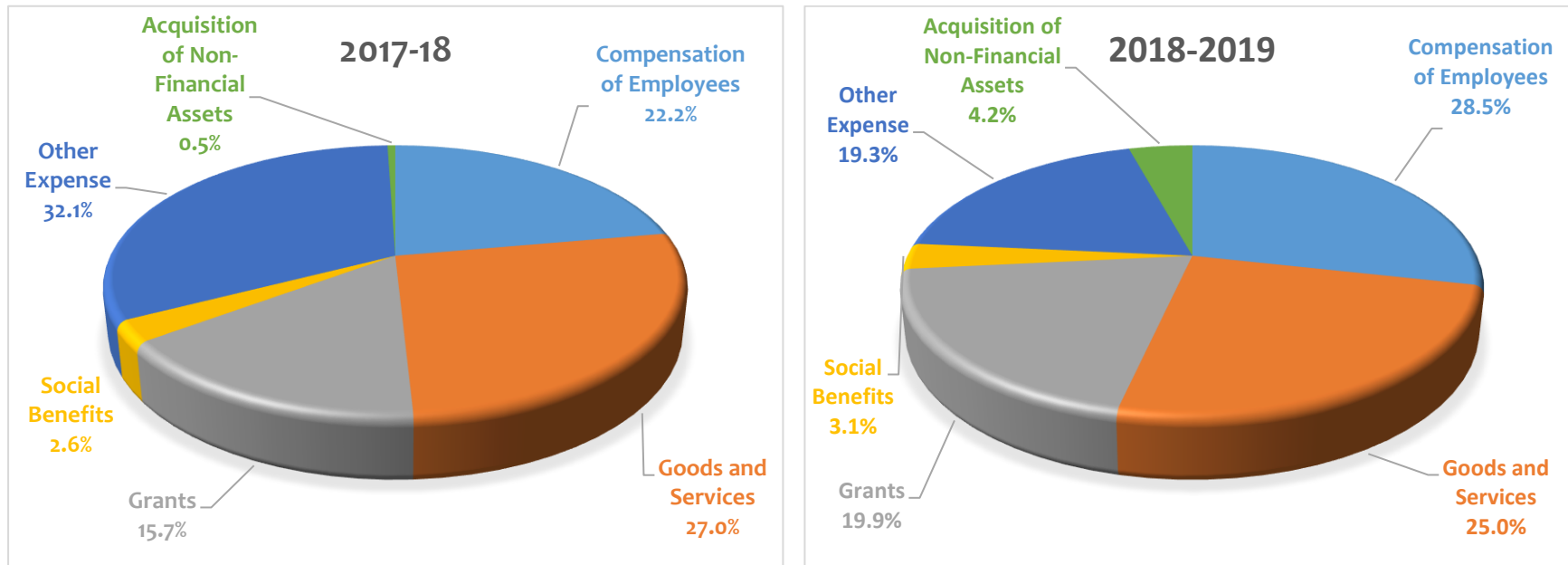


Figure 4 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 25-104 (Family Welfare and Protection from Gender-Based Violence) for the year 2018/2019

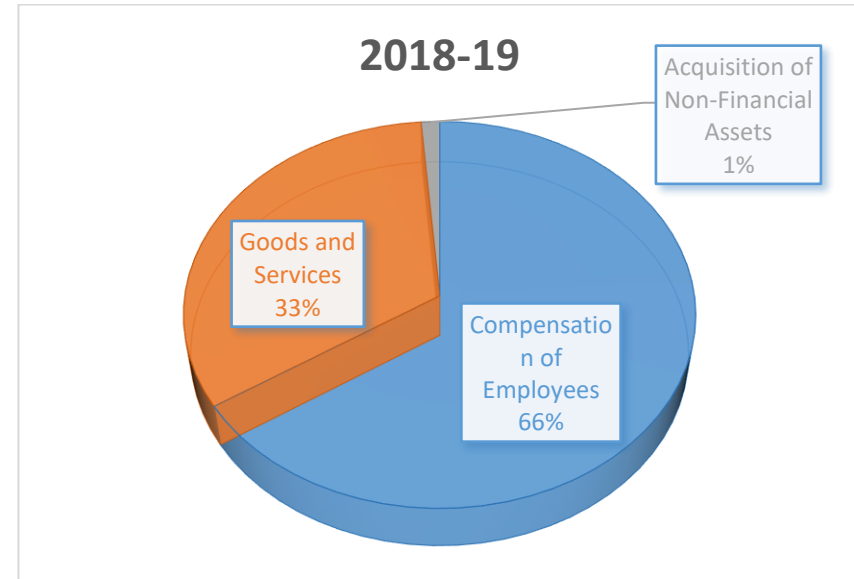
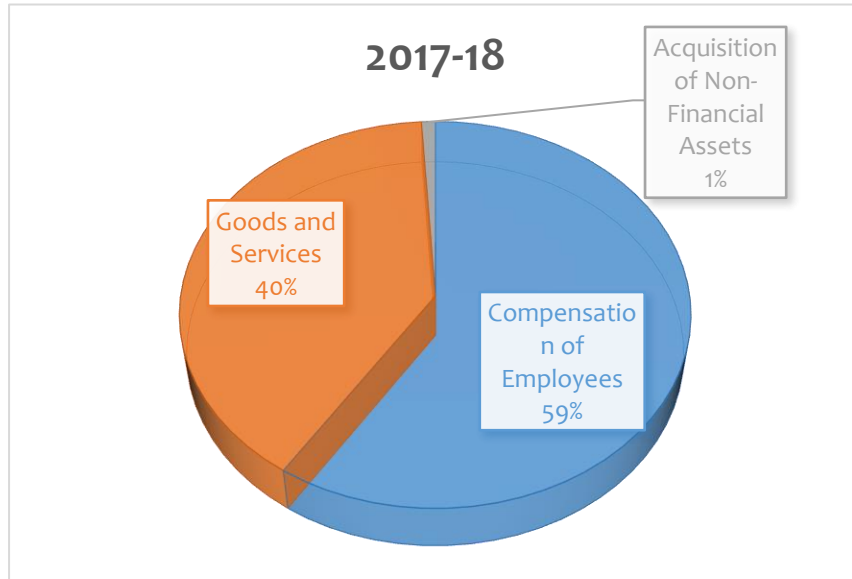
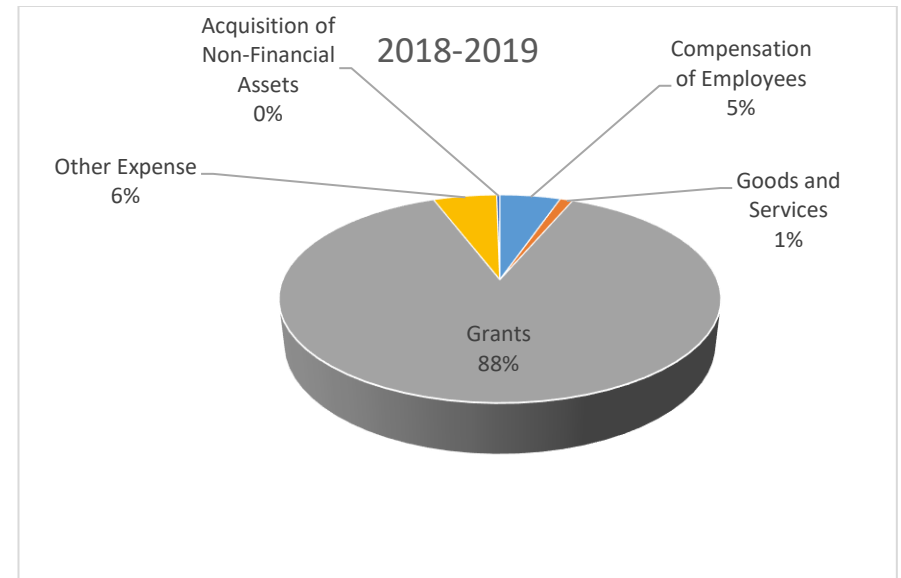
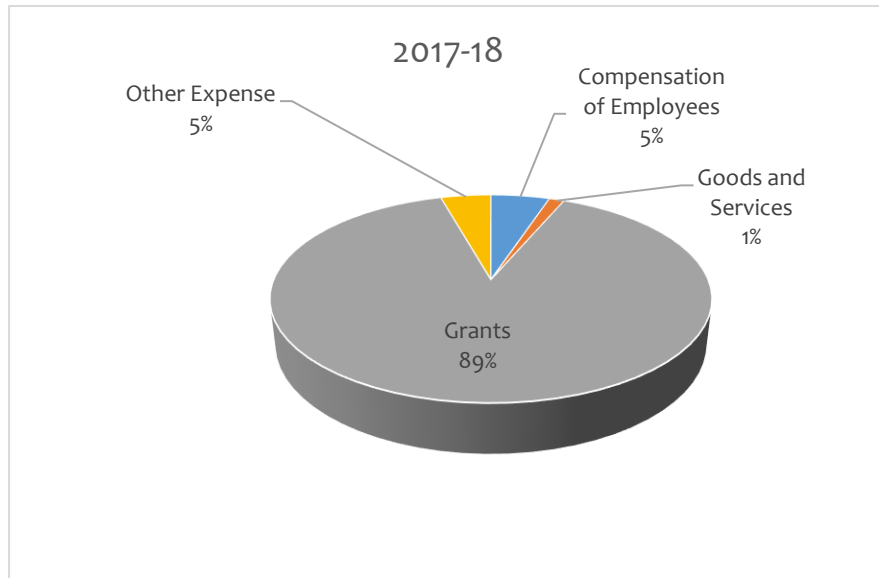


Figure 5 below show budget appropriation under vote item 25-2 (Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities) for year 2018/2019



3.2 Statements of Revenue and Expenditure

Statement of Expenditure

25- 101 - GENERAL

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2017-18	2018-2019	2018-2019
	ACTUAL (Rs M)	ESTIMATES (Rs M)	ACTUAL (Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	48.5	53.5	47.7
Goods and Services	26.2	31.3	28.1
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	3.7	5.0	3.7
Total	78.4	89.8	79.5

25- 102 - WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2017-18	2018-2019	2018-2019
	ACTUAL (Rs M)	ESTIMATES (Rs M)	ACTUAL (Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	18.3	21.0	18.6
Goods and Services	17.6	23.8	19.2
Grants	99.8	103.0	99.0
Other Expense – Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions	4.5	3.9	3.5
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	0.5	20.5	8.6
Total	140.7	172.2	148.9

25-103 - CHILD PROTECTION, WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2017-18 ACTUAL (Rs M)	2018-2019 ESTIMATES (Rs M)	2018- 2019 ACTUAL (Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	34.4	44.2	38.9
Goods and Services	41.8	46.1	34.2
Grants	24.3	35.9	27.2
Social Benefits	4.0	7.0	4.2
Other Expense	49.7	26.8	26.3
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	0.8	13.3	5.8
Total	155.0	173.3	136.6

**25-104 - FAMILY WELFARE AND
PROTECTION FROM GENDER-
BASED VIOLENCE**

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2017-18 ACTUAL (Rs M)	2018/2019 ESTIMATES (Rs M)	2018-19 ACTUAL (Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	24.4	27.4	25.4
Goods and Services	16.4	27.2	12.7
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	0.4	0.5	0.5
Total	41.2	55.1	38.6

**25-2 - SOCIAL WELFARE AND
COMMUNITY BASED-ACTIVITIES**

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HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2017-18	2018-2019	2018-2019
	ACTUAL	ESTIMATES	ACTUAL
	(Rs M)	(Rs M)	(Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	17.2	22.7	19.2
Goods and Services	4.4	5.7	4.0
Grants	299.6	318.0	318.0
Other Expense	14.7	29.0	20.1
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	-	1.0	1.0
Total	335.9	376.4	362.3

PART IV: WAY FORWARD

4.1 Trends and challenges

In light with its commitment at “Championing Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals”, the Gender Unit is envisaging the implementation of legislative policies and programmes to attain the set targets of the SDG 5. To the end, the Gender Unit looks forward to build synergies amongst the Public Sector and Non-state actors (private sector; academia, media and civil society’s organisations) aimed at:

- (i) engendering the interventions of all partners involved;
- (ii) mobilising adequate resources to implement measures for the attainment of gender equality; and
- (iii) implementing programmes/projects/activities responsive to the needs and aspirations of different target audience.

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
- Consolidating the 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
- 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 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 being intensified for officers, stakeholder, managers and caregivers of institutions.
- ❖ The Child Protection Foster Care Regulation 2002, further amended in 2005 is being reviewed.
- ❖ The monitoring and Emergency multidisciplinary team is being strengthened.

Gallery Photos – Achievements 2018/ 2019



