



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



# MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY WELFARE



## ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

### FY 2020/2021

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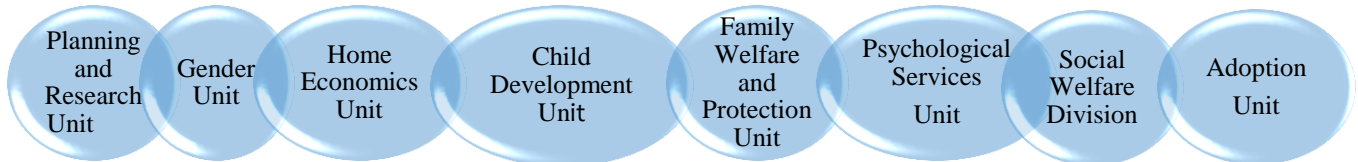
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## PART I- ABOUT THE MINISTRY

This Ministry is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies for the promotion of gender equality as well as promote the rights and welfare of women, children and families including the community. It comprises eight main technical units namely:



There are also 5 parastatal bodies which operate under the aegis of the Ministry namely:



### 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.

### 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

I am pleased as Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare to present the Annual Report on Performance for the financial year 2020/2021.

Notwithstanding the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, in general, in such an unprecedented and challenging context, my Ministry has never deviated from its primary concerns of gender equality, family welfare, child protection and community welfare.

My Ministry has been resilient in coping with this unprecedented situation that COVID-19 has engendered, as services for children victims of neglect and abuse, and survivors of gender-based violence were effectively sustained on a 24/7 basis.

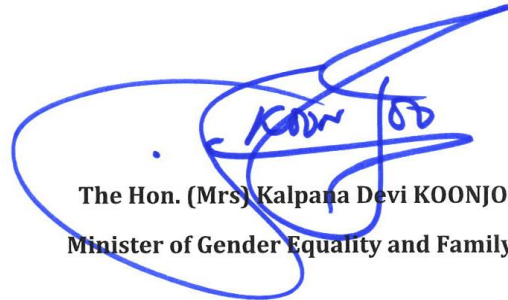
I acknowledge the resourcefulness of Officers of my Ministry and the collaboration that was extended by other essential services including the police force and the judiciary with respect to cases requiring support, assistance and justice.

It is noteworthy that a High Level Committee on the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence has been established, at the highest level of governance under the chairpersonship of the Honourable Prime Minister to address existing gaps at the legislative, institutional and operational levels.

As Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare I am confident that this initiative will create the appropriate set of conditions for a change in the mind-set of the population where men, women, children and families will live and prosper in a peaceful environment.

It is with utter satisfaction that my Ministry has successfully ensured that in the best interest of our children, the long awaited Children's Act, and two other associated Acts, namely the Children's Court Act and the Child Sex Offender Register Act were passed at the National Assembly in December 2020. These Acts aim to provide for a more comprehensive and modern legislative framework with a view to addressing the shortcomings of the existing Child Protection Act and to give better effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

Without any doubt, my Ministry has been able to progress meaningfully with the notable support of our local and international partners, who have played a key role in our achievements. I seize this opportunity to once again express my thanks to all our collaborators.



**The Hon. (Mrs) Kalpana Devi KOONJOO-SHAH**  
**Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare**

**MESSAGE OF THE  
Ag. SENIOR CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE**

The Finance and Audit Act requires that each Ministry/Government Department submits a report on its performance in respect of the previous financial year to improve accountability and transparency. This Annual Report on Performance also highlights the main achievements of the Ministry for the financial year 2020-2021.

It has been only a handful of months since I was assigned the duties of Senior Chief Executive at this Ministry and already I am taken aback by the scope of interventions and the impact this Ministry has on the community. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare serves the interest of men, women, children, the community at large of all ages and sex. Our daily interventions are not bound by the traditional nine to four working stereotype but is a 24/7 endeavour to provide protection and support services to men, women and children, victims of violence, abuse and neglect.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our staff for their unflinching support and teamwork. My thanks also go to our collaborators from other service sectors and Non - Governmental Organisations for their relentless effort in the common quest for a country less afflicted by the scourge of violence, be it against children, women or men.

Undoubtedly, the enactment of the Children's Act, Children's Court Act and the Child Sex Offender Register Act in December 2020 in Parliament has been a major landmark of this Ministry during the financial year 2020-2021. While we are currently working towards the promulgation of these Acts, I am convinced that a significant number of lacunas have been addressed through the provision of a holistic approach to provide guidance and ultimately justice to children, victims of abuse and violence.

While the country remains subjugated to the adverse effects of the COVID 19 pandemic, the achievements of this past financial year reflect this Ministry's commitment to continue in its endeavours to provide quality and timely services to the Mauritian society.



**K. Conhye**

**Ag. 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:

- Social, economic and political empowerment of women for the attainment of gender equality;
- 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; and
- promoting the welfare of citizens through community-based programmes, activities and services;

### **Key Legislations and Regulations under the responsibility of the Ministry**

1.	Social Welfare Centres Act 1961
2.	Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Act 1974
3.	National Adoption Council Act 1988
4.	Child Protection Act (1994, 2005 and 2008)
5.	Protection from Domestic Violence Act (1997, 2004, 2007, 2011 and 2016)
6.	National Women Entrepreneur Council Act 1999
7.	The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Act 2000
8.	Institution for Welfare and Protection of Children Regulations 2000
9.	Child Protection Act (Foster Care) Regulations 2002
10.	National Children's Council Act 2003
11.	National Women's Council Act 2016
12.	Child Protection (Place of Safety for the Welfare and Protection of Children) Regulation 2019

## 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, to provide 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 Planning and Research Unit also acts as a liaison with government institutions and non-state actors on pertinent issues relating to this Ministry.

As from 17 August 2020, the Licensing of Place of Safety and Enforcement Section for Residential Care Institutions and Registration of Child Day Care Centres respectively are now under the purview of the Planning and Research Unit.

The Licensing and Enforcement Section ensures that

- (i) the norms and standards of the Residential Care Institutions, whereby children victims of violence are placed, are met to provide a continuum of care.
- (ii) Child Day Care Centres are fully compliant with the prescribed norms and standards as laid down in the Institutions for the Welfare and Protection of Children Regulations 2000 of the Child Protection Act.



### 2) Gender Unit

The Gender Unit is mandated to work towards the social, economic and political empowerment of women for the attainment of gender equality. To that end, the Gender Unit has adopted a two-pronged approach 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 8 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.

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 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. The best interests of the child shall be of primary concern in all policies, programmes and actions pertaining to the child's welfare.

The State has the obligation to ensure parental role wherever parents fail to do so and this role is ensured by the CDU. Any child may be a potential victim of violence, and the CDU has to intervene promptly and is expected to provide comprehensive service delivery with a view to provide immediate assistance and follow up to the child.

#### **Objectives of the Child Development Unit:**

The Child Development Unit has the following objectives:

1. provide for Protection Services to victims of violence, abuse and neglect on a 24 hr 7 days basis;
2. provide for hotline service with respect to reporting of a case and counseling as appropriate;
3. provide victims with follow-up sessions to ensure recovery from trauma and thereafter their re-insertion in society;
4. provide alternative care to abused children, ranging from temporary removal to a shelter for children in distress, to foster caring and eventually, as a last resort, committal to a charitable institution;
5. provide victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation with curative, rehabilitative and re-integrative services;
6. provide tardy declaration of birth services to both children and adults who have not been declared within the prescribed time delay;
7. provide periodic review of placement of children in shelters and charitable institutions;

8. act as Central Authority in International Child Abduction cases;
9. provide trained mentors to children seen to be in distress because of mild behavioural problems through a well spelt child Mentoring Programme; and
10. provide community safety and community actions in Child Protection and Child Welfare in general through Community Child Protection Programme and outreach Programmes.

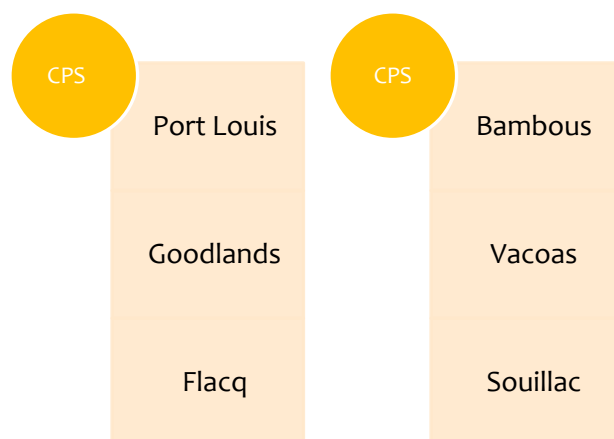
### **Child Protection Services:**

To ensure accessibility and proximity service delivery in respect of child protection, the CDU operates through a network of 06 Outstations (Goodlands, Port-Louis, Bambous, Souillac, Flacq and Vacoas) and provides immediate assistance, protection and follow up, as appropriate to children victims of violence, and abuse, especially sexual abuse.

The Child Protection Services provides for dedicated multi-disciplinary support in a one stop shop child friendly system through a team of professionals attending to the immediate and multi-disciplinary needs of children victims of abuse.

The services provided at the level of the Child Protection Services are as follows:

- a) Psychological counselling;
- b) Referral for Legal Advice;
- c) Family therapy;
- d) Referral to other institutions;
- e) Removal of children from place of danger and placement in shelter/institutions;
- f) Reintegration/Rehabilitation of the child in the family set-up;



### **Child Rehabilitation Services:**

The Child Rehabilitation Services under the Child Development Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare is responsible to follow up on children victims of violence placed in Shelters/Residential Care Institutions and ensure the welfare of those children. Its mandate encompasses rehabilitation of children and their biological families through parental visits with a view to returning them to their families.



#### 4) Family Welfare and Protection Unit

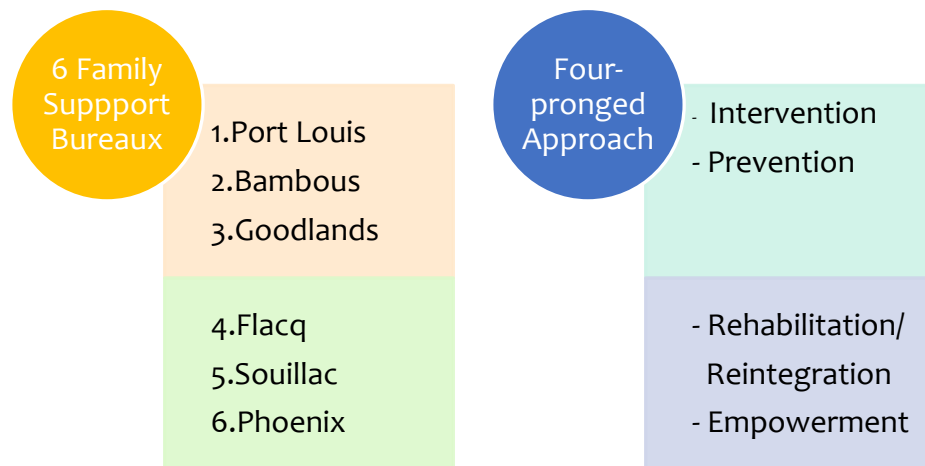
The Family Welfare and Protection Unit was set up in July 2003 and is mandated to:

- implement appropriate policies and strategies to promote family well-being; and
- develop relevant strategies to address gender-based violence.

The Family Welfare and Protection Unit operates through a network of six (6) Family Support Bureaux around the island, and provides the following services:

- (i) Family Counselling;
- (ii) Psychological Counselling;
- (iii) Legal Counselling;
- (iv) Assistance to adult victims of gender-based violence; and
- (v) Assessment of cases.

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





## **5) Home Economics Unit**

The Home Economics Unit aims at promoting the socio-economic empowerment of women as well as the community at large through MQA recognised training programmes run in more than 75 venues over the whole island.

The Unit is also responsible for the management of three specialised regional training centres (Home Economics Resource Centres) of Phoenix, Quartier Militaire & Plaine Magnien as well as Plaine des Papayes Production Centre which is a centre that acquaints prospective agro-processors with semi-industrial processing equipment. Latter equipment can be utilised by micro entrepreneurs for production purposes free of cost.

## **6) Psychological Services Unit**

To ensure that members of the public benefit from a quality psychological service to improve the mental health and psychological wellbeing of clients (i.e. victims of violence; children and adults) and to provide appropriate psychological treatment programmes designed and targeted to assist child perpetrators and perpetrators of domestic violence to develop skills to reduce reoffending and to adopt socially acceptable behaviours.

The Unit also attends to requests from different stakeholders namely the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution and the Judiciary with respect to psychological evaluation of child perpetrators, child victims/witnesses and perpetrators of domestic violence.

Psychological interventions are carried out with the consent of the clients or through a court order.

A multidisciplinary approach is adopted in all psychological interventions being carried out.

The unit operates in collaboration with other stakeholders such as the office of the Director, Public Prosecutions, the Police, Probation Office, etc. Such a network helps in provision of prompt assistance to clients in need of psychological support.

## **7) Social Welfare Division**

Social Welfare Centres were set up under the Social Welfare Centres Act 1961 and their objectives are *“to further health, advance education, provide facilities for mental and physical training and generally for recreation ad for social, moral and intellectual development”*.

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.

## **8) Adoption Unit**

The Adoption Unit is mandated to look into all cases of adoption of a foreign child by Mauritian citizens or foreigners having an occupation permit/permanent resident.

The actual policy for Mauritians to adopt a foreign child as follows:

- Childless couples can adopt only one child
- A single person may also apply for the adoption of a foreign child
- The persons willing to adopt a child should be relatively young

Presently, the adoption of a foreign child by Mauritian citizens is regulated by the Code Civil Mauricien. The Adoption Unit also looks into cases of adoption of a foreign child by foreigners holding an occupation permit/ permanent residence in Mauritius. This is catered for under the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

## 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), a parastatal body under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, was established in year 1985. It operates under the new NWC Act 2016 which was passed at the National Assembly on 3 May 2016 with the aim to provide a modern and appropriate legislative framework to further promote women's empowerment and gender equality.

#### The objectives of the Council are:

- Promote women's empowerment and gender equality;
- Ensure and promote the active participation of women in the social, economic and political fields in order to further their overall empowerment; and
- Provide a platform for women to voice their needs, concerns and aspirations.

The National Women's Council is managed and administered by the NWC Board.



### (ii) National Women Entrepreneur Council

The National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWECC) is a parastatal body set up in 1999. It is the main organisation 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; and promote activities for the welfare of children in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The NCC is managed and administered by the NCC Board.



### **(iv) National Adoption Council**

The National Adoption Council (NAC) 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.

The National Adoption Council is managed and administered by the NAC Board. The Board meets whenever there is a demand for the adoption of a Mauritian child and to consider other matters relating to intercountry adoption. The Council calls for an inquiry whenever there is a demand for

adoption as the Council deems fit and pronounces itself on the adoption within 60 days of the application. Where the Council is satisfied that all possibilities for placement of the child within Mauritius have been duly considered and that the demand for adoption is in the interest of the child, the Council authorizes an application for adoption to be made to the Judge in Chambers.

#### **(v) 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 organises community based Programmes in its 140 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 which is conducted in 50 regions throughout the island.

The Fund also manages some of the amenities such as social hall, toilets, bathrooms, priest quarters at Grand Bassin to assist the pilgrims during Maha Shivratri, Ganesh Chaturthi and other religious and social festivals.



## Gender Statement

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare recognizes the vital role of women as agents of development, and strongly believes that gender equality and the empowerment of women must be achieved in national development to enhance participation of women and men, boys and girls, vulnerable and marginalized groups for the attainment of sustainable development.

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare has retained the slogan **“Championing Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goal” which speaks to ‘Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls’**.

While it is widely recognized that securing gender equality is among basic principles in the respect for human rights and the key imperative for overall social, economic and political progress, the Ministry has aligned its policies, interventions and programmes to international and regional treaties on gender equality such as Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); the Maputo Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; the Beijing Platform for Action; the Sustainable Development Goals specifically Goals 5 (Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls).

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, as the National Gender Machinery, has through its National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming set up in 2010, advocated successfully for the allocation of a Vote Item on ‘Gender Mainstreaming’ and since the year 2018, each Ministry has been receiving Rs 200, 000 for the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies. The Ministry has provided assistance to Ministries to identify gender gaps that can be addressed using the funds allocated. In addition, the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development has also the responsibility to follow through its regular indicators that funds are being utilized properly.

The attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5) warrants a Gender Mainstreaming Approach across all sectors. In a bid to address issues of gender equality at various levels, the Gender Unit has undertaken the following measures:

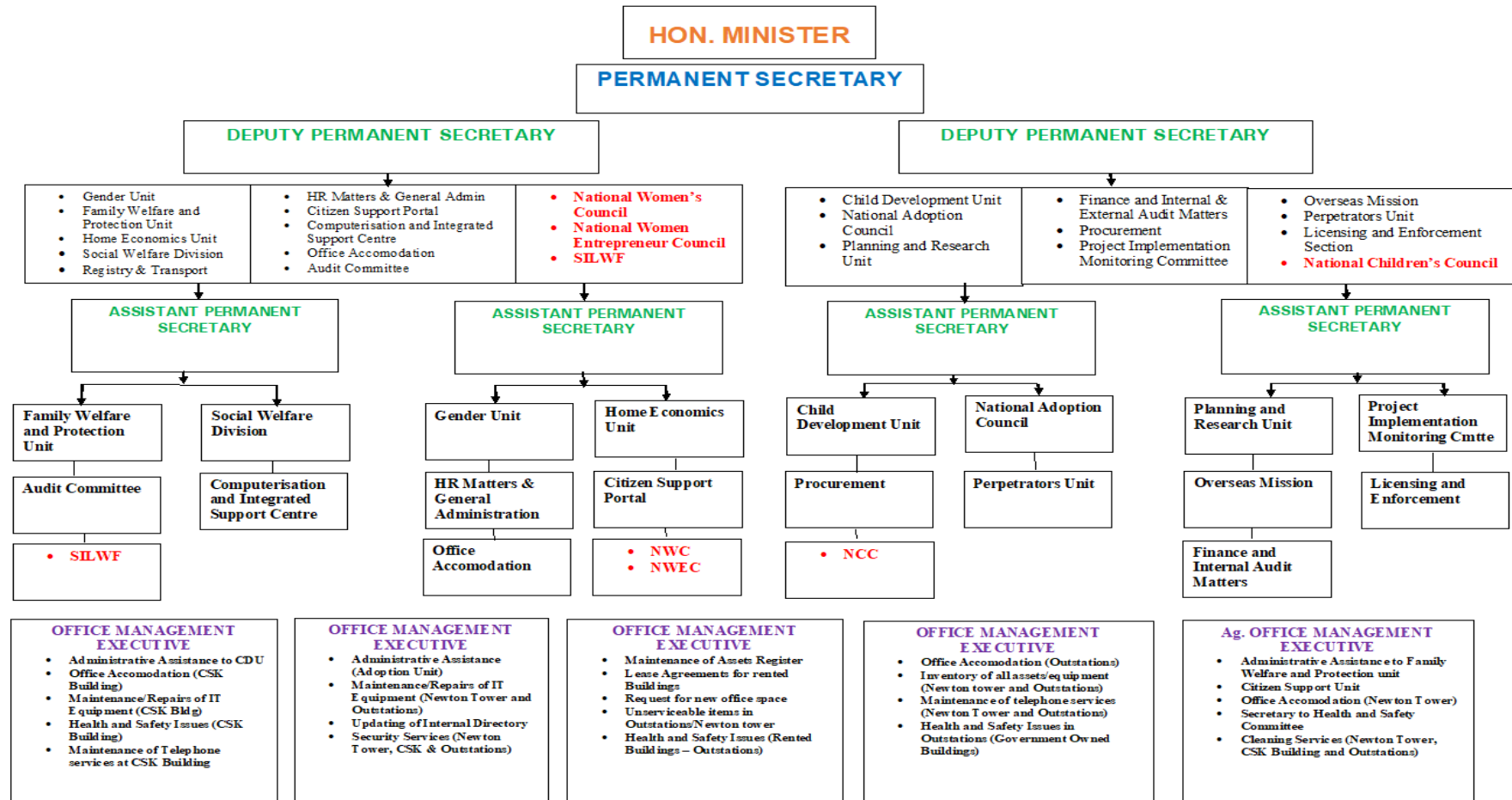
- prepared draft instructions to the Gender Equality Bill that aims at eliminating gender based discrimination in the Republic of Mauritius, thereby requiring good governance through accountability mechanism to realise gender justice and achieve substantive equality outcomes.
- formulated a National Gender Policy (2021-2030) to have principal guidelines that will support and translate Government’s commitment into concrete gender equality measures and actions;
- implemented of Gender Mainstreaming Strategies to empower women socially, economically and political in a bid to bridge prevailing gender gaps.

The Ministry has also played a significant role in advising and assisting line Ministries to identify gender gaps within their respective sector, and address these effectively.

Capacity building and awareness raising on the gender concept has also been sustained over the years to ensure that the discourse is understood at all levels.

# About our People

## MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY WELFARE



**Staff in post - Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare  
as at 30 June 2021**

<b>SN</b>	<b>Post/Grade</b>	<b>Total</b>
1	Senior Chief Executive	1
2	Deputy Permanent Secretary	2
3	Assistant Permanent Secretary	4
4	Manager, Financial Operations	1
5	Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	1
6	Financial Officer/Senior Financial Officer	1
7	Assistant Financial Officer	1
8	Assistant Manager, Procurement & Supply	1
9	Principal Procurement & Supply Officer	1
10	Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer	2
11	Assistant Manager Internal Control	1
12	Internal Control Officer/Senior Internal Control Officer	1
13	Office Management Executive	4
14	Office Supervisor	1
15	Office Management Assistant	14
16	Management Support Officer	45
17	Head, Planning & Research Unit	1
18	Head, Child Development Unit	1
19	Head, Gender Unit	1
20	Head, Family Welfare and Protection Unit	1
21	Coordinator	15
22	Senior Family Welfare and Protection Officer	5
23	Child Welfare Officer	1
24	Psychologist/Senior Psychologist	19
25	Head, Home Economics Unit	1

26	Senior Home Economics Officer	1
27	Home Economics Officer	8
28	Family Counselling Officer	3
29	Family Welfare and Protection Officer	87
30	Enforcement Officer	18
31	Confidential Secretary	3
32	Word Processing Operator	9
33	Child Care Worker	7
34	Instructor	4
35	Driver	14
36	Store Attendant	1
37	General Worker	3
38	Head Office Auxiliary	2
39	Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary	14
40	Security Guard	1
41	Gardener/Nursery Attendant	2
42	Receptionist/Telephone Operator	1
43	Adviser (on contract)	3
44	Social Welfare Commissioner	1
45	Deputy Social Welfare Commissioner	1
46	Principal Social Welfare Officer	4
47	Senior Social Welfare Officer	13
48	Social Welfare Officer	18
49	Manager, Human Resources	1
50	Assistant Manager, Human Resources	1
51	Human Resource Executive	2
52	Systems Analyst	1
53	Assistant Systems Analyst	1
54	YEP Trainee	1
55	Computer Support Officer	1

56	Statistician	1
57	Senior Statistical Officer	1
58	Statistical Officer	1
59	Research Officer	1
60	Handy Worker	14
61	Intern under Service to Mauritius Program	8
62	Psychiatric Nurse(on contract)	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>254</b>

## PART II ACHIEVEMENTS

### (ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY- JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021)

#### A. PLANNING AND RESEARCH UNIT

- 3 legislations were passed in the National Assembly in December 2020:
  - (i) The Children's Act 2020
  - (ii) The Children's Court Act 2020
  - (iii) The Child Sex Register Act 2020

During the financial July 2020 to June 2021 72 Child Day Care Centres were registered

- 9 Residential Care Institutions were granted licenses as Places of Safety
- In March 2021, Technical Assistance was obtained from the European Union through the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Facility(TAIEX) for the following:
  - (i) Amendments to Protection from Domestic Violence Act;
  - (ii) Setting up of Victim/Witness Support Service and Guardian Ad Litem program; and
  - (iii) Setting up of Children's Court.

#### B. GENDER UNIT

##### A. National Level

1. The Gender Unit, with the support of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Development Bank launched the '50 Million African Women Speak Project' at national level on **11 February 2021** at the Hennessy Park, Hotel, Ebène. The objectives were to:

- Create awareness about the existence of the platform among different stakeholders at national level;
- Strengthen national ownership of the platform as one of the ways to ensure sustainability of the initiative;
- Promote the platform as a unique tool to support women in business;
- Showcase the practical benefits of the platform and;
- Drive user registrations on the platform

2 The Gender Unit has also provided technical support/entry point to line Ministries regarding the implementation of a gender perspective in their policies.

3. The Gender Unit has contributed to the formulation of national reports submitted to International and Regional institutions.

#### 4. **Celebration of International Women's Day**

Celebration of International Women's Day on 28 March 2021 at **Swami Vivekananda Convention Science Centre** around the theme "**Post COVID: Voices and Choices of Women**". Some **7, 000 guests** attended the event.

#### **B. Programming Level**

The Gender Unit has sustained its Information, Education and Communication campaigns ranging from Sexual and Reproductive Health; Sustainable Development Goals; Gender Concept to Climate Change and Economic Empowerment. Activities are as follows:

##### GOAL Programme

The Gender Unit implemented the GOAL Programme during the month of **July 2020 to February 2021**. The objective was to empower girls aged 13 to 18 years old, who are mostly school drops or still attending school through the modules of the Programme that include, *inter alia*, Be yourself; Be Healthy; Be Empowered and Be Money Savvy so that they can make informed life choices. Some **250 girls** have benefitted from the programme.

##### Theme of the month

A one-day workshop on 'Harnessing the potential of young women and girls to accelerate the gender equality agenda' was held on **Wednesday 12 August 2020** at Lecture Theatre of National Empowerment Foundation. Some **83** young women have participated in the workshop.

Awareness campaigns were carried out on the theme "Gender Based Violence" during the month of **November 2020** at district level in collaboration with the Association for Population and Development (APD). Some **125** women have benefitted from these talks.

##### Activities for elderly women

Monthly activities organised for elderly women which comprised 'Awareness sessions on Inheritance and Property Rights: Key legislation and procedures', 'Introduction to social media applications', 'Awareness on elderly abuse and rights', storytelling, indoor games, amongst others. The activities being organised were meant to address the feminization of ageing and empowering lonely and elderly women through brain training games and outdoor activities to boost their cognitive skills, develop memory skills and reduce the feeling of isolation, amongst others. Some **870** elderly women have benefitted from the activities.

### **Sports and physical activities**

The sports and physical activities include 'Initiation to Tai Chi', 'Exercise to music', 'Initiation to aqua gym', 'Initiation to petangue', 'Initiation to zumba', amongst others. The objective is to encourage women to practice healthy activities in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Some **770** women participated in these activities.

### **Self - Help activities**

The self-help activities are organised on a monthly basis for the empowerment of women, through sharing of their skills and knowledge. The beneficiaries acquire various skills which enable them to enhance their livelihoods, through activities such as 'Induction to compost making', 'Making of eco bag', 'Upcycle old clothes into gorgeous quilts', 'Initiation to kitchen gardening', 'Induction to making electrical connections', amongst others . Some **860** women have benefitted from these activities, so far.

### **Awareness campaign on Gender Concept**

Awareness campaign on gender concept have been held in secondary and prevocational schools, to empower young boys and girls being an important factor leading to the achievement of Gender Equality, to have a change in mind-set of the young. Some **1240** students (both boys and girls) have benefitted from the campaign.

## **C. HOME ECONOMICS UNIT**

Training /empowerment programmes and related activities of the Home Economics Unit were severely impacted upon by the global COVID – 19 pandemic, which resulted in the closure of our training centres for several months and hence a cessation of these initiatives. Nevertheless, around **1500** persons were trained in around **55** centres over the island. **16 mini – fairs** were organised to assist about **200** of our trainees (potential women entrepreneurs) to sell their products and hence earn income for their families. Mini fairs also aim at developing the marketing skills and boosting up the self-confidence of these micro entrepreneurs.

With a view to enhancing food security especially during this COVID – 19 period, **14 Agricultural Women's Clubs** were set up over the island and **200** women were trained to grow vegetables and fruits and well as rear small animals.

In order to make our services accessible to a large target audience;

- 03 e-pamphlets namely, '*Healthy Living for Seniors*', '*The Family budget*' and '*Best Practices for Sustainable Living*' were drafted to be posted the website of our Ministry and
- 02 e-recipe booklets on '*Iron-rich Foods*' and '*Healthy Snacks*' have been developed.



- Training programmes on healthy eating & planning of meals were organised for working persons at their site of work. Training lasted over six weeks & 140 Officers (both men & women) were reached.
- A menu plan for inmates of Shelters for children under the purview of the Ministry was prepared & follow up ensured so as to promote healthy eating among the children.

#### **D. CHILD DEVELOPMENT UNIT**

##### **No. of Child Abuse cases reported to the Child Development Unit during the year -2020 / 2021:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Gross Total</b>
<b>July 2020 – Dec 2020</b>	<b>1517</b>	<b>1951</b>	<b>3468</b>
<b>Jan 2021 – June 2021</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>1308</b>	<b>2207</b>
<b>Gross Total:</b>	<b>2416</b>	<b>3259</b>	<b>5675</b>

<b>Total Number of Cases Reported and Intervened during the COVID-19 Lockdown 10 March 2021 to 07 May 2021</b>	
<b>Period of: 10 March 2021 to 07 May 2021:</b>	Total No. of Cases received for all Outstations: <b>681 cases</b> Total No. of Interventions done by CDU Outstations: <b>443 Cases</b> Total No. of Interventions done by Police: <b>337 Cases</b>

#### **Other Service Deliveries:**

##### **Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction:**

Mauritius acceded to the **Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction** on **01 October 1993** with the aim at securing the prompt return of children wrongfully retained in another State and see to it that the rights of custody and of access under the law of one Contracting State are effectively respected in another State.

For Financial Year 2020-2021, 05 cases of International Child Abduction were reported and 44 cases were still on-going.

##### **Tardy Declaration of Birth:**

The CDU works in close collaboration with other stakeholders, including, the State Law Office, the Civil Status Office, the Police Department, the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Judiciary to identify and record cases of undeclared births and to arrange for the registration of same within the shortest delay.

<b>Total No. of Cases Lodged FY 20 - 21</b>		
<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Gross Total</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>79</b>

<b>Total No. of Children Declared FY 20 - 21</b>		
<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Gross Total</b>
<b>07</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>12</b>

### **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) – Inclusive of Child Prostitution and Trafficking**

This Ministry is mandated to cater for the needs of children who are victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

For the financial Year 2020 – 2021, 18 awareness campaigns were carried-out under CSEC, thereby targeting 792 children (216 males and 576 females). In year 2020, the Child Development Unit (CDU) also carried-out 25 awareness campaigns, on CSEC thereby reaching: 262 males and 685 females (total: 947 persons).

In year 2020, the Drop-in-Center undertook 33 sensitisation campaigns on CSEC, thereby reaching 1551 persons. In 2021, an additional of 05 sensitisation campaigns were undertaken, thereby reaching 82 persons, i.e. 24 males and 58 females, by the Drop-in-Center.

### **High Powered Working Together Committee:**

As part of the recommendations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Government has adopted a whole child centered approach that enables all stakeholders to bridge the gap in services and activities for the welfare of children by providing all sectors with a common vision of the Mauritian child.

A High Powered – Working Together Committee was set up, in 2010 with the main objective to look into the avenues of collaboration amongst all stakeholders dealing with issues relating to the protection, development and welfare of children.

One meeting of the High Powered Working Together Committee was held on 17 May 2021.

## Community Child Protection Programme:

The Community Child Watch Committee allows for proximity service for surveillance of children who are exposed to any form of violence and are set up in the immediate locality of high risk areas to ensure early detection and reporting of child at risk cases.

### Achievements:

For FY 20 – 21, 47 Community Child Watch Committees were currently active, **202 meetings were held and 78 children were referred. 05 Mass campaigns were carried-out, wherein 451 persons were targeted (233 children and 218 parents were targeted).**

### Child Rehabilitation Services:

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare (MGEFW), through the Child Rehabilitation Services (CRS) under the Child Development Unit (CDU), provides for all children requiring its services impartially. The CRS team work for the proper rehabilitation of all children under its care, whereby all children are treated and cared for equally, with a view of providing a sustained continuum of care and services.

## Rehabilitation Section

The Rehabilitation Section caters for a Rehabilitation Programme for Children victims of violence who are placed in Shelters. As a measure of last resort, children with utterly non-stable families are placed in Shelters and are provided with more permanent residential care facilities following the issue of Committal Orders. These institutions are Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations which work in collaboration with the Ministry.

As at 30 June 2021, the Ministry is working with **21** Shelters (**17** Residential Care Institutions run by NGOs and **4** Government-owned Shelters (**1** run by the National Children's Council (NCC)).

As at 30 June 2021			
	Govt Owned	NGOs	Total
Number of Shelters	4	17	21
Total Number of Residents	92	492	584

## Back-to-Home Programme:

The Back-to-Home Programme has been initiated since October 2018, in order to facilitate the reintegration of minors into their family settings. The main objective of the Back-To-Home Programme is to provide children in Shelters with the opportunity to live and evolve among their kins and relatives through appropriate rehabilitation of the minor, the parents and relatives.

The Back-to-Home Programme is being implemented in close collaboration with a multidisciplinary team comprising Social Workers, Psychologists, Psychiatric Nurse and Officers of Brigades Pour La Protection des Mineurs for post-discharge follow-up.

**Total Number of Children Re-integrated:**

For Financial Year 2020 – 2021, 245 children were re-integrated into their families.

**Follow-Up of Cases:**

For Financial Year 2020 – 2021, 309 follow-up of cases were undertaken by Officers of Back to Home Section.

**Parental Visits:**

The Parental Visit are organised by the Ministry to enable and encourage biological parents to visit their children, so as to promote proper bonding and prepare both parties for re-insertion in the family.

Overall a total number of 100 – 120 visits are effected by Officers on a monthly basis. Since its setting up till mid July 2021, **680** visits were been effected.

**Foster Care Programme:**

The Foster Care System has been legally initiated as a Programme under the Child Protection Act and Section 23 (a) of the Child Protection (Foster Care) Regulations 2002 and amended in 2005.

The main objective of the Foster Care Programme is to provide opportunities to the child to evolve in a substitute family environment. The main role of the Foster Parents is to provide financial, emotional, social and spiritual supports to the child.

➤ **No. of Children placed in Foster Care Families:**

- In Financial year 2020 – 2021: 28 children were placed in Foster Care Families.

➤ **No. of Applicants granted registration as Foster Parents:**

- In Financial year 2020 – 2021: 29 applicants were granted registration as Foster Parents.

- **Total No. of Foster Home as at 30 June 2021: 73**

- **Total No. of Foster Children as at 30 June 2021: 86**

## Child Mentoring Programme:

The Programme through its trained Child Mentors provides assistance to children aged 10 to 16 years in need of emotional and social reconstruction. Since the inception of the programme 182 of Child mentees have been placed under the Child Mentoring Programme, as at 30 June 2021. The Child Protection (Amendment) Act 2008 makes provision for the Child Mentoring Scheme which was initiated as the Child Mentoring Programme in 2009.

<b>Note: These information are as at end 30 June 2021</b>	
Number of mentees under Mentoring Order	<b>24</b>
Number of mentors assigned with mentees	<b>14 Child Mentors assigned with 25 Child Mentees</b>
Number of minors already matched and Mentoring Order to be applied	<b>6 (6 male - 0 female)</b>
Number of minors placed on the Child Mentoring Programme for the year 2021 (from January 2021 to 31 May 2021)	<b>35 (18 male - 17 female)</b>
<p><b>- Of which:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• are ongoing cases (cases applied in 2019/extended in 2020)</li> <li>• are new cases of minors placed under programme in 2020</li> <li>• are cases that have lapsed and been discharged accordingly</li> </ul>	<p><b>18 (9 male - 9 female)</b></p> <p><b>6 (3 male - 3 female)</b></p> <p><b>11 (6 male - 5 female)</b></p>
Total number of Child Mentors registered under the Child Mentoring Programme	<b>55</b>
Total number of Child Mentees placed under the Mentoring Programme since inception of the project	<b>182</b>
No of minors to be considered for the Child Mentoring Scheme	<b>85</b>

## **E. FAMILY WELFARE AND PROTECTION UNIT**

I. The Ministry has initiated a "Programme d'Accompagnement des Familles" at Panchavati, Riviere du Rempart 05 Dec 2020 which was successfully completed on 27 Feb 2021. The Programme is sustained in a manner in which family ties are reinforced.

II From 03 to 04 December 2020, a refresher course for stakeholders (Probation, Police, Prison, MGEFW) most likely to implement the Perpetrator's Rehabilitation Programme was conducted with the assistance of UNDP.

III A letter of Agreement between UNDP and this Ministry was signed in Nov 2020 and fund to the tune of MUR 1 Million was allocated for the implementation of the said project.

IV. A protocol for intervention binding this Ministry, the Main Police Command and Control Centre and Police Stations for GBV cases referred through the mobile app Lespwar was signed on 21 November 2020.

V. The GBV Mobile Application Lespwar, developed in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office and the UNDP was launched on 25 November 2020 by the Hon Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

## **F. Psychological Services/ Child Perpetrator Support Unit**

### **ACHIEVEMENT**

Statistics of cases referred to the psychological services unit from July 2020 to June 2021

Cases attended at level of outstation CDU:

Total number of cases REFERRED [outstation level] from July 2020 to June 2021: 7655

Total number of cases ATTENDED [outstation level] from July 2020 to June 2021: 5525

Cases attended at level of outstation FWPU:

Total number of cases REFERRED [outstation level] from July 2020 to June 2021: 4014

Total number of cases ATTENDED [outstation level] from July 2020 to June 2021: 2483

STATISTICS OF CASES ATTENDED AFTER HOURS:

Total number of cases ATTENDED afterhours when on call [cases referred from the CDU and FWPU] from July 2020 to June 2021: 492

TOTAL RETURN OF CASES ATTENDED BY PSYCHOLOGISTS DURING LOCKDOWN 2021:  
564

STATISTICS FOR CHILD PERPETRATOR SUPPORT UNIT FROM JULY 2020 to JUNE 2021:

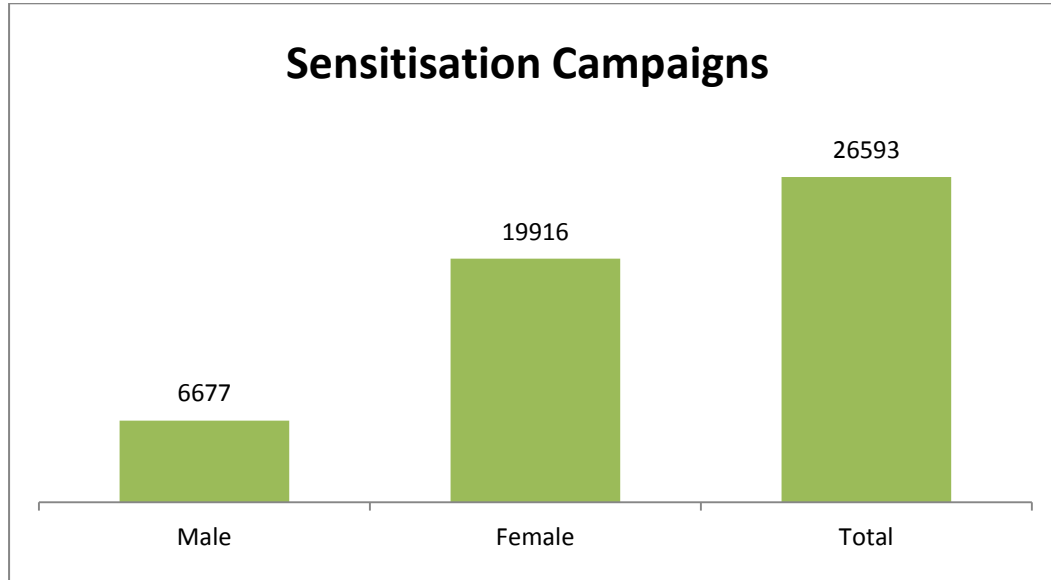
Total number of cases attended: 96

Total number of cases ATTENDED by psychologists from July 2020 to June 2021: 9160

**G. Social Welfare Division**

The main areas of intervention of Social Welfare Centres are:

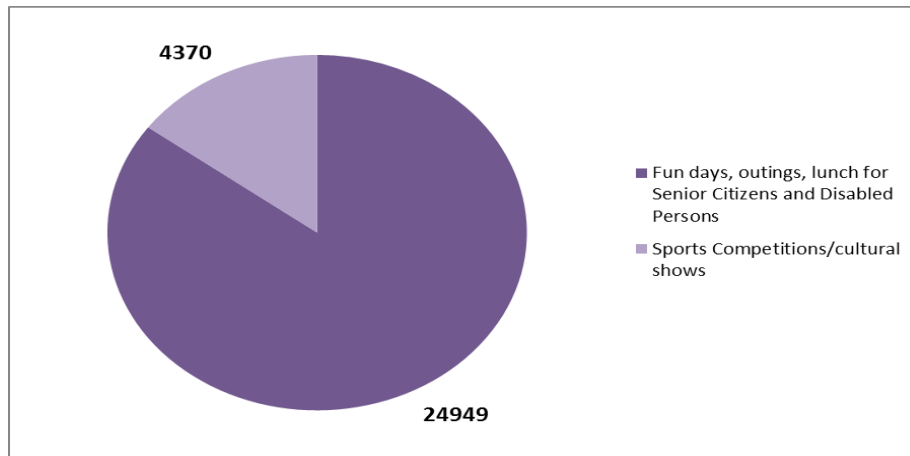
(a) **Sensitization Campaigns** through IEC programmes on issues like environment, health, cyber security, road safety, domestic violence, drug abuse, human rights etc. During the period July 2020 to June 2021, 26,593 persons were sensitized. The bar chart below illustrates this:



b) **Capacity building and skills development programmes** target non-working women, potential entrepreneurs, community leaders, youth and children. The table below highlights the programmes run at the different SWCs during 2020/2021.

Programme	Male	Female	Total
Capacity building on communication and leadership skills	2293	5957	8250
Skills development courses (25 out of which 10 are MQA approved) run by the Dressmaking Unit	36	1890	1926
Skills development courses run by other institutions like NICE	1121	8533	9654
Creativity activities for children	979	1448	2427

(c) **Sports, leisure and recreational activities** are popular means for SWCs of involving people in healthy group activities. When people meet and interact, they develop a higher level of mutual respect and understanding, two essential ingredients for national unity and nation building. The chart below shows the number of persons who participated in such activities.



(d) **SWCs provide services to the community.** Chairs, tarpaulins, tubular frame, tables and the hall are hired against payment of nominal fees and deposit. During 2020/21, some 2,311 families have availed themselves of this service for different family events like birthday anniversaries, celebration of marriage, religious ceremonies and family gatherings.

Infrastructural facilities for the practice of both indoor and outdoor games are provided by SWCs. Some 8,129 persons have benefitted from the facilities.

SWCs are also used as a springboard for different government outreach services. 14,093 persons have benefitted from vaccination programmes, verification of scales, etc.

Senior Citizens Associations, Women's Associations, Socio-cultural Associations and Forces Vives use SWCs for their meetings and activities. Some 31,218 persons have called at the different SWCs for this purpose.

In times of natural calamities, SWCs are also used as emergency shelters. Victims of cyclone, floods and fire are temporarily harboured for their security and that of their family.

(e) **Marking national and international days** with the participation of the local people helps to raise awareness on issues of national and international importance. Concepts like climate change, adaptation and mitigation strategies, sustainability, renewable energy, human trafficking etc are vulgarized through talks, events and discussions. Some 11,579 persons have been reached out on this count.



## STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET MEASURES

Reporting Period: July 2020 to June 2021

Budget para	Budget Measures	Status
320	Amendments to the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act to strengthen protection given to victims and make Perpetrators Rehabilitation Programme compulsory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Correspondence issued to EU for Technical Assistance</li> <li>2. Inputs/Views sought from Stakeholders</li> <li>3. Webinar with EU Consultants for amendments to be brought to PDVA</li> <li>4. Submission of Report from Consultants</li> <li>5. Consultative Workshop with Stakeholders</li> </ol>
321	Setting up of a Gender Based Violence Observatory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Meetings are held with relevant stakeholders for a harmonised intake form</li> <li>(ii) An integrated dashboard is being worked out by the MRIC</li> <li>(iii) Harmonised intake form provided to FWPU for enlistment of service provider for setting up of GBVIMS.</li> <li>(iv) Agreement/MOU signed between this Ministry and MRIC</li> <li>(v) Setting up of the steering committee</li> <li>(vi) Operationalisation of GBV Observatory</li> </ol>
324	Setting up of additional Child Protection Services in the Districts of Grand-Port, Moka, Pamplemousses and Plaine Wilhems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The NPF Building Rose Hill will house the CPS for Plaine Wilhems. All clearances have been obtained.</li> <li>2. An office space at Bois Cheri Road, Moka has been identified to accommodate a new Child Protection Services in the region of Moka. Clearances are being awaited.</li> <li>3. An office space at Royal Road, Morcellement St Andre has been identified to accommodate a new Child Protection Services in the region of Pamplemousses. Clearances are being awaited.</li> </ol>

		4. An office space at Gilbert Road, Plaine Magnien has been identified to accommodate a new Child Protection Services in the region of Savanne. Clearances are being awaited.
326	Extension of the Foster care programme to cover children above 10 years old	Foster care programme covers children below 18 years of age

## STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY ACTIONS FY 2020/2021

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target 2020/2021	Status
Implementation of the new National Gender Policy	Percentage of actions implemented	95%	Final document ready. Awaiting Cabinet approval
Implementation of Back to Home Programme	Number of children re-integrated into their biological families or next to kin	100	For financial year 2020-2021, 267 children were re-integrated into their biological families or next to kin.
Implementation of Foster Care Programme	Number of children placed into Foster Families	25	As at end June 2021, there were some 87 children under Foster Care, of which 20 were placed in FY 2020/21.
Strengthen Perpetrators' Rehabilitation Programme	Legislation amended to institutionalise the Perpetrators' Rehabilitation Programme		A refresher course for prospective facilitators of the programme was conducted in December 2020. Consultations with stakeholders ongoing. The EU is providing Peer to Peer Assistance on amendments to be brought to the Protection from Domestic Violence Act. Amendment to legislation is expected by Nov 2021.

## **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 Mr N. Lutchmadoo
Members	APS Mr. A.N. Tackoory
	Coordinator Mr N. Taukoordass (CDU)
Secretary	Mrs D. Kripa (OMA)

Meetings were held on 04 March 2021, 09 April 2021, 04, 17 and 30 June 2021.

The duly signed Performance Contract has already been forwarded to the Office of the Public Sector Governance for financial year 2021/2022. The Status Report of the Audit Committee for financial year 2019/2020 has already been submitted to the Office of the Public Sector Governance.

The ICAC initiated the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework in 2009 to enable public bodies to take up the challenge to build corruption resistance and enhance public trust in their respective organisation. The Anti-Corruption Committee set up in Ministries are expected to drive the project. This Ministry has developed an Anti-Corruption Policy which sets out the full commitment of this Ministry for the deterrence and detection of corruption and for adherence to a culture of integrity.

### **Application – “Lespwar”**

One of the outcomes of the High Level Committee on the Elimination of Gender-based Violence (GBV), chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister, is the development of a mobile application “*Lespwar*”, a panic button, for victims of gender-based violence. This mobile App enables a victim of GBV to rapidly connect with the Main Police Command and Control Centre. This application can be downloaded on a smart phone and clear instructions are provided for registration and use of the panic button.

On 25 November 2020, the mobile application (app) “*Lespwar*” was launched as a rapid response system to victims of gender-based violence.

**Process when panic button is pressed:**

- 1) Police officers at the Main Police Command and Control Centre (MPCCC) obtain service requestor data and geolocalisation from the backend
- 2) The information is sent to the nearest police station
- 3) Police officers nearest to the place of incident initiate the first intervention through response officer and liaise with PFPU officer on call in division
- 4) After intervention, police station report outcome to MPCCC
- 5) **Second intervention** are carried out by officers of the PFPU if required
- 6) My Ministry on a 24 hour basis provides all psycho-social support to **all cases referred by the police**, including accompanying and admission of victims to shelters if need be.

Note: Once the panic button is pressed, officers of my Ministry concurrently with the MPCCC receive such notifications.

**Legislations in favour of Children**

On 15 December 2020, three legislations in favor of children’s protection were passed at the National Assembly:

- (i) the Children’s Act 2020;
- (ii) the Children’s Court Act 2020; and
- (iii) the Child Sex Offender Register Act 2020.

The Acts will be proclaimed shortly, not later than December 2021.

A Ministerial Committee on Children’s Legislation has been set up under the chairpersonship of Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookhun-Luchoomun GCSK, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology to facilitate the implementation of the Children’s Act 2020, the Children’s Court Act 2020 and the Child Sex Offender Register Act 2020.

**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 Centres.

It comprises 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 through songs, dances, theatre, and instrumental music, amongst others.

### **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
- (d) Care of Senior Citizens
- (f) Amenities (tarpaulins, chairs etc.)
- (g) Self-Help Project
- (k) Protection of the Environment
- (l) Emergency Shelter for victims of cyclone & other natural disasters; amongst others

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN- DIRECTOR OF AUDIT COMMENTS

Report 2020/2021

<b><u>SN</u></b>	<b><u>Issues raised</u></b>	<b><u>Actions Taken / Proposed Measures</u></b>
<b><u>1</u></b>	Construction of a Model Shelter at La Colombe – Project not completed due to delay in addressing Sanitary Issues	<p>The Ministry will not go ahead with the Construction of a Model Shelter at La Colombe, as per the Ministry of National Infrastructure, the site is not suitable for the setting up of the Model Shelter.</p> <p>Upgrading works of the existing shelter already completed. Electrical works are being undertaken by ESD.</p>
<b><u>2</u></b>	Integrated Support Centre Services Project – Objective not achieved due to delays in resolving IT issues	<p>Availability of hotline - As at date the Hotline 139 is being attended to through 4 parallel lines on a 24/7 hour basis as compared to mapping on a single line last year.</p> <p><b><i>Procurement of Tablets</i></b> Technical specifications which are compatible with the existing software are awaited from Mauritius Telecom</p>
<b><u>3</u></b>	Residential Care Institutions - Non-compliance with Regulations	<p>Remedial actions have already been initiated as follows:</p> <p><b><i>Most Residential Care Institutions (RCIs) were not yet registered as Place of Safety</i></b></p> <p>The Ministry has issued letters to each Shelter as from November 2020 urging them to complete procedures for the registration of their institution as Place of Safety.</p>
<b><u>4</u></b>	Overstay of child victims of abuse at hospitals – Non-compliance with Policies and Guidelines	<p>With the opening of additional shelters and relay shelter, overstay of child victims of abuse at hospitals has been addressed.</p> <p>Currently, as at June 2021, the Ministry has 23 Shelters/RCIs operating under its aegis. 19 are NGO run shelters and 4 are Government Owned. Following which, out of the 19 existing NGO run shelters, 9 have obtained their Licences for Places of Safety and the remaining 10 are yet to be registered as Place of Safety.</p> <p>Furthermore, 4 new Places of Safety have been set up under the new Regulations and are operational.</p> <p>Therefore, a total of 9 duly registered Places of Safety are operational as at date.</p>

		Also, the Ministry is currently working on the 'Upscaling of the Foster Care System.'
<b>5</b>	Child Protection Register (CPR)	Data on children with protection orders already being input in the system
<b>6.</b>	Governance Issues - Non-compliance with Legislations	The National Children Council has submitted its financial statements for FY 2019/20 to the National Audit Office for auditing purposes



## **PART III: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

### **3.1 Financial Highlights**

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

- 5-301: General
- 5-302: Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming
- 5-303: Child Protection, Welfare and Development
- 5-304: Family Welfare and Protection from Gender-Based Violence
- 5-4 : Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities

Figure 1 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 5-301-(General) for the year 2019/ 2020 and 2020/2021

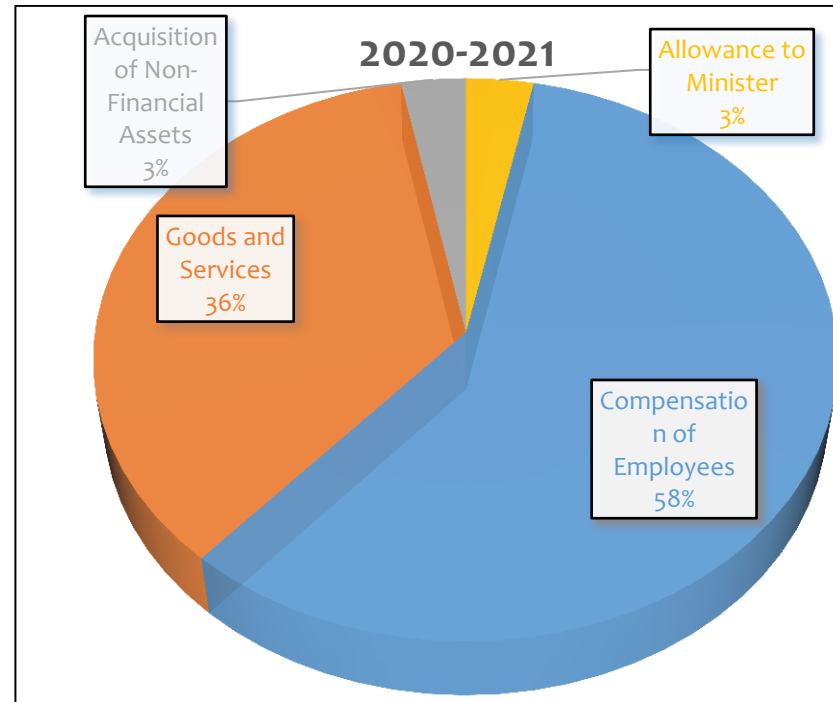
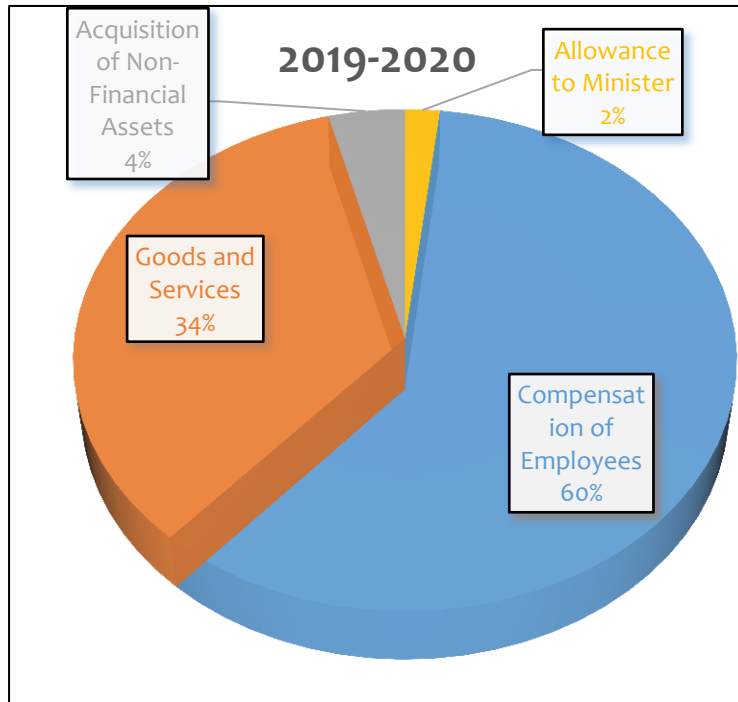


Figure 2 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 5-302 (Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming) for the year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021

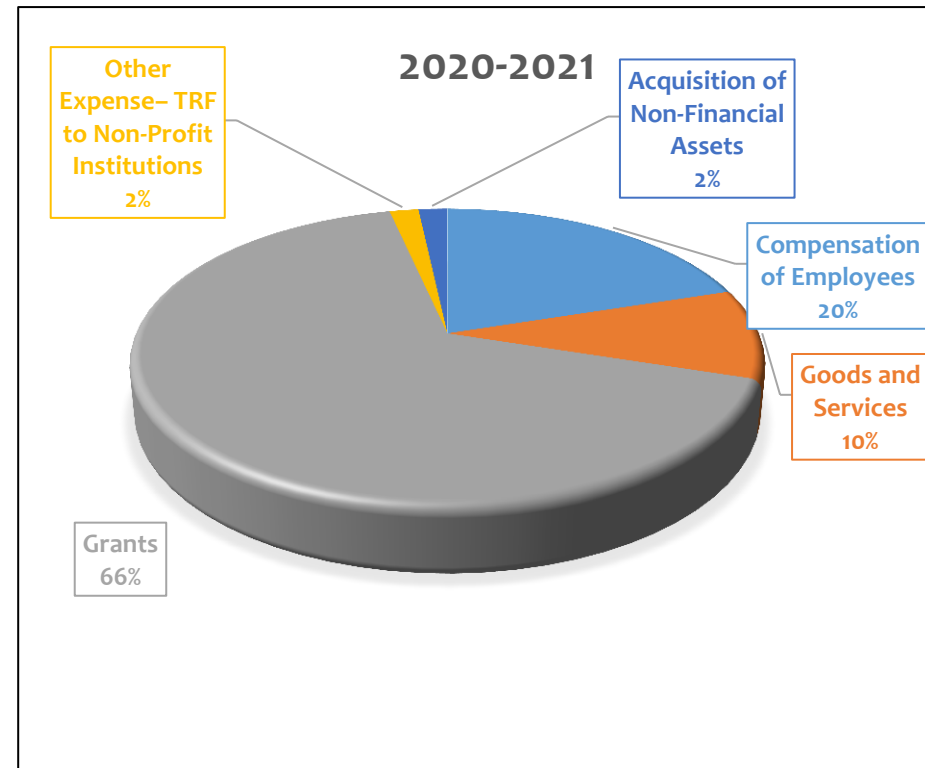
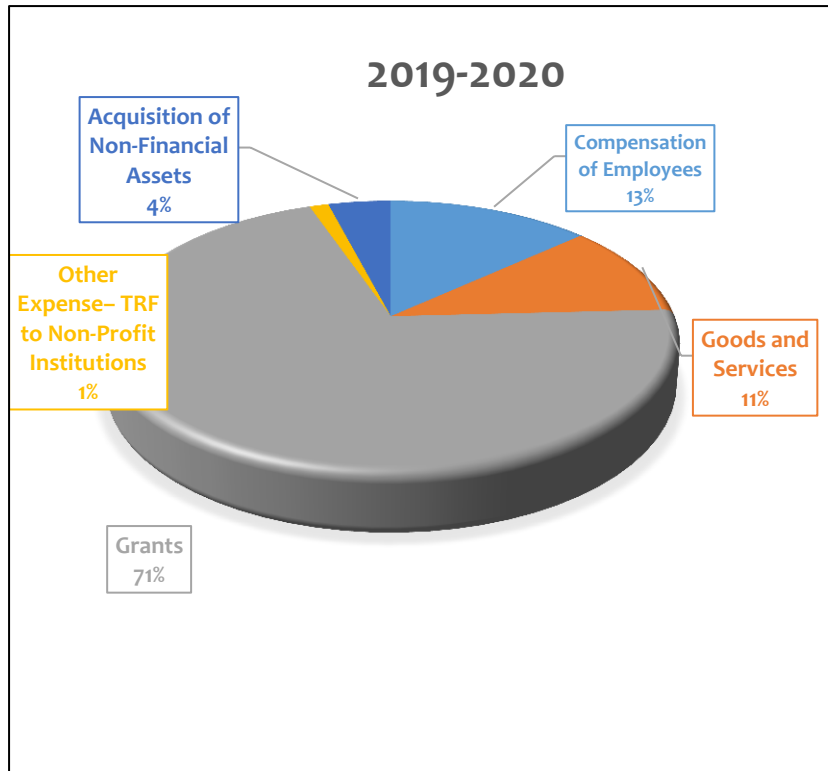


Figure 3 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 5-303 (Child Protection, Welfare and Development) for the year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021

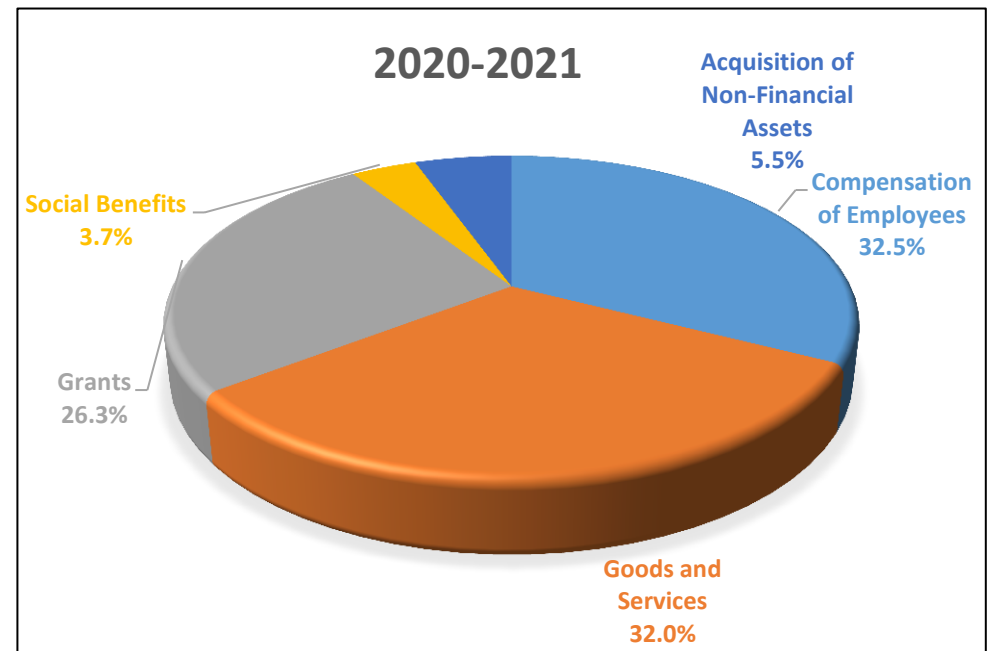
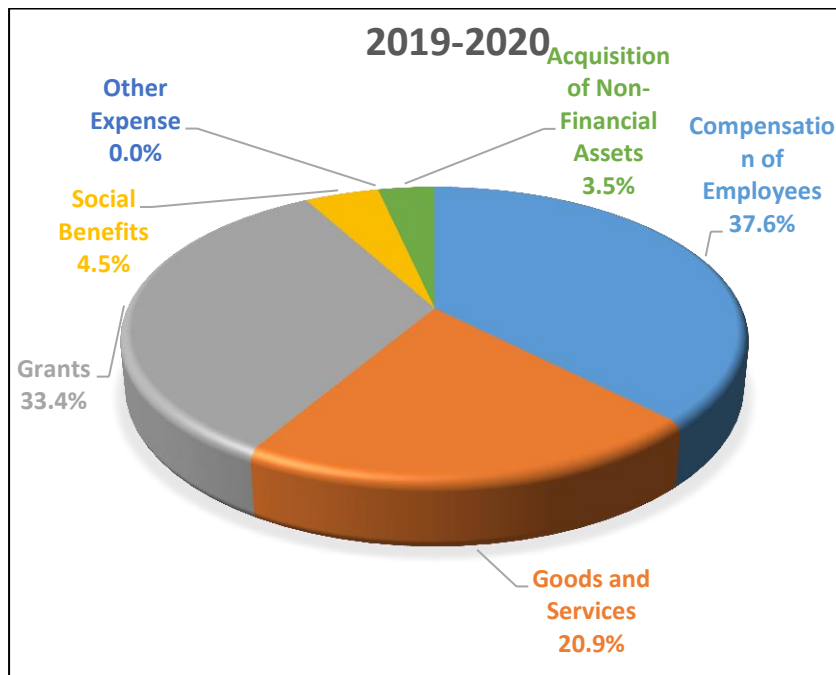


Figure 4 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 5-304 (Family Welfare and Protection from Gender-Based Violence) for the year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021

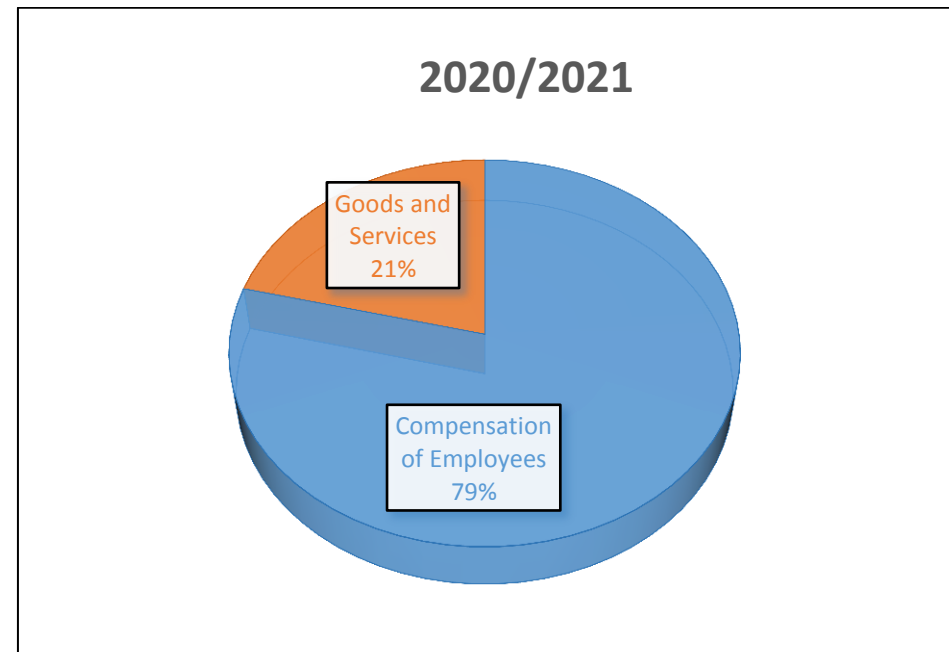
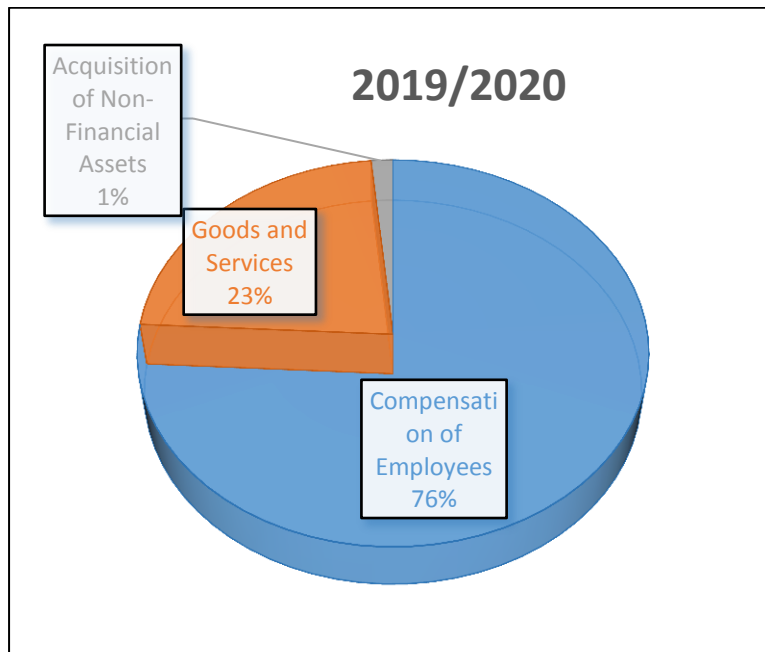
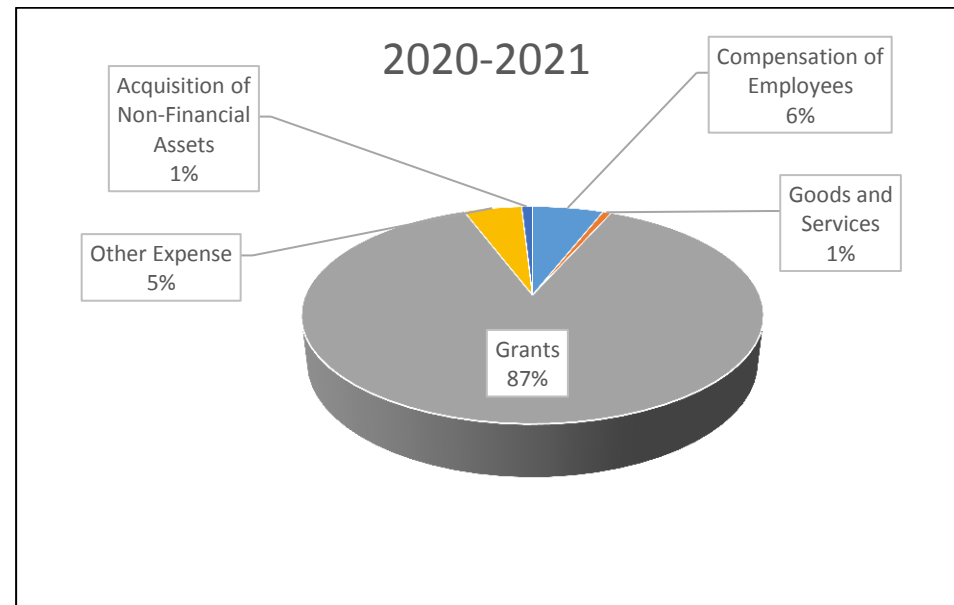
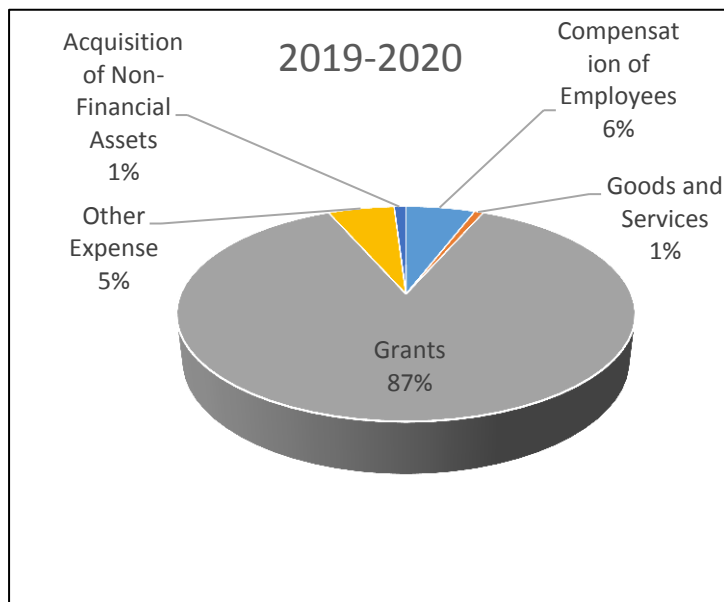


Figure 5 below show budget appropriation under vote item 5-4 (Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities) for year 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.



### 3.2 Statements of Revenue and Expenditure

#### Statement of Expenditure

##### 23- 101 - GENERAL

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2019-2020 ACTUAL (Rs M)	2020-2021 ESTIMATES (Rs M)	2020-2021 ACTUAL (Rs M)
Allowance to Minister	1.5	2.4	2.4
Compensation of Employees	48.6	46.2	43.4
Goods and Services	28.0	26.6	26.4
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	3.3	1.3	2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>81.4</b>	<b>76.5</b>	<b>74.5</b>

##### 23- 102 - WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2019-2020 ACTUAL (Rs M)	2020-2021 ESTIMATES (Rs M)	2020-2021 ACTUAL (Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	19.2	20.7	19.7
Goods and Services	15.7	16.9	9.6
Grants	101.7	99.0	65.3
Other Expense – Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions	1.8	2.6	1.7
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	5.9	2.5	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>144.3</b>	<b>141.7</b>	<b>98.0</b>

**23-103 - CHILD PROTECTION, WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT**

<b>HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2019-2020 ACTUAL (Rs M)</b>	<b>2020-2021 ESTIMATES (Rs M)</b>	<b>2020-2021 ACTUAL (Rs M)</b>
Compensation of Employees	42.2	45.6	44.1
Goods and Services	23.5	36.6	43.5
Grants	37.5	32.0	35.6
Social Benefits	5.1	7.0	5.0
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	3.9	19.0	7.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>112.2</b>	<b>140.2</b>	<b>135.6</b>

**23-104 - FAMILY WELFARE AND PROTECTION FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

<b>HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2019-20 ACTUAL (Rs M)</b>	<b>2020-2021 ESTIMATES (Rs M)</b>	<b>2020-2021 ACTUAL (Rs M)</b>
Compensation of Employees	25.1	28.4	26.2
Goods and Services	7.5	16.2	7.0
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	0.5	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>33.2</b>

**23-2 - SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY BASED-ACTIVITIES**

<b>HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021 ESTIMATES (Rs M)</b>	<b>2020-2021 ACTUAL (Rs M)</b>
	<b>ACTUAL (Rs M)</b>		
Compensation of Employees	21.0	22.5	19.7
Goods and Services	2.7	3.5	2.3
Grants	314.0	291.0	291.0
Other Expense	20.1	22.0	16.1
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	3.6	4.0	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>361.4</b>	<b>343.0</b>	<b>332.1</b>



## PART IV: WAY FORWARD

### **4.1 Trends and challenges**

The year 2020 marked key milestones related to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) namely:

- The 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in September 1995.
- The High-Level Meeting in New York to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action.
- The end of the African Women's Decade 2010-2020, whose themes are aligned to the Beijing Platform for Action.
- The 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.
- The 10th anniversary of UN Women's establishment as the Global Champion for Women's and Girls' empowerment.
- The 5th anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **Gender Equality**

In 2020, Mauritius was ranked 115 out of 153 countries worldwide. Women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making position – the share of women among cabinet ministries is 14.3% (3 out of 21 Ministers). However, there has been an increase in the proportion of women holding senior positions in government services from 19.2% in 1999 to 39.7% in 2020.

#### **Gender Based Violence**

In 2020, there were 2425 reported cases of Domestic Violence at the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare. However, these figures do not include some 3614 cases reported at the Police Family Protection Unit. Therefore, there are some 6,039 cases annually.

#### **Child Protection and Welfare**

The total number of cases reported at the Child Development unit is 5,917 in 2020 compared to 6,225 in 2019.

### **The main challenges are:**

- Financial and human resources constraints for the implementation of programmes, action plans and projects.
- A fragmented approach in service delivery and time and cost overruns in the implementation of projects
- Gender mainstreaming strategies are not given adequate consideration by other Ministries/Departments
- Lack of expertise in the fields of gender, family and child matters at national level
- Complexity and magnitude of acts of domestic violence and child abuse

### **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 line with the Sustainable Development Goals agenda,
- to 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;
- to 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;
- to reinforce its policies and review and reinforce its programmes, projects and activities.

### **4.2 Strategic Direction 2021-2024**

- Sustaining awareness amongst the public and private sectors, and all non-state actors on the need to adopt a gender perspective and a human right –based approach in regard to the implementation of their respective mandates;
- Providing continuous support to line Ministries for the implementation of gender mainstreaming strategies;
- Implementing specific projects for different categories of women;
- Raising awareness on the promotion of gender equality targeting different audiences;
- Working on the implementation of the recommended action of the National Gender Policy (2021-2030).

- Devising the national costed action plan on gender mainstreaming for the public sector
- Finalising and enforce the Adoption Bill and the Gender Equality Bill
- Implementing recommended action(s) of the IORA Work Plan on Women Economics Empowerment (2018-2022)
- Preparation of a new Early Childhood Development Policy Paper and its costed Action Plan
- Implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan of the High Level Committee on the Elimination of Gender Based Violence in the Republic of Mauritius
- Formulation of a National Children’s Policy Paper and its Costed Action Plan
- Preparation of a new Early Childhood Development Policy Document (0-3 years)
- Preparation of a new Policy Paper on the Family and its Costed Action Plan
- Implementation of the IEC Strategy and Action Plan of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
- Promulgation of the Children’s Act, the Children Court Act and the Children Offender Register Act
- Extension of the Child Protection Services to all districts for immediate assistance, protection and follow-up to children victims of violence and abuse
- Strengthening the Back to Home Programme
- Scaling up of Foster Care Programme
- Reviewing all legislations for better protection of the citizens
- Preparatory works for the setting up an Observatory for Gender-Based Violence
- Implementing the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS)
- Implementation of the Perpetrators’ Rehabilitation Programme
- Setting up of a Victim and Witness Support Service to provide both pretrial and post-trial support to victims and witnesses
- Amendments to the Protection From Domestic Violence Act
- Extending the DOVIS to the Police Department and Rodrigues
- Implementation of a National Protocol on Domestic Violence
- Model Shelter for Women Victims of Gender-Based Violence/Working Hostel for Women Victims
- Licensing of Residential Care Institutions as place of Safety
- Setting Up of a Children’s Village

## Gallery Photos (Achievements 2020/ 2021)



International Women's Day 2021



Distribution of Food Packs



International Day Against Violence Against Women



Donation of Cheque - UNDP