



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS



MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND FAMILY WELFARE



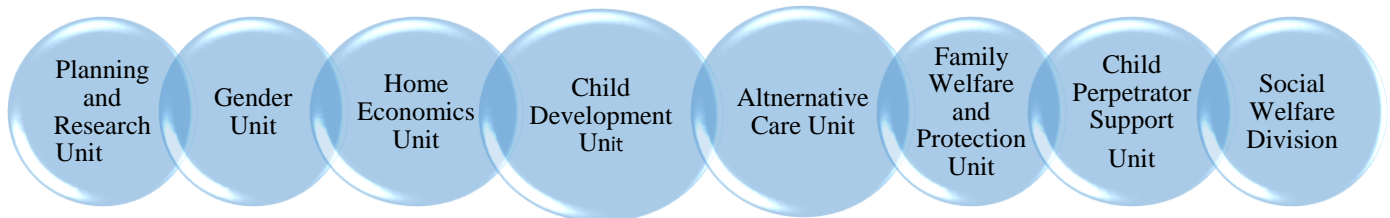
ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE FY 2019/2020

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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 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 2019/2020. The responsibility of this Ministry was entrusted to me in November 2019. As policy maker, I am committed to devising new policies and programmes to respond to the aspirations and emerging needs of men, women, children, families and the community of the Republic.

Under my impulse, the Ministry has developed a Mid-Term Strategic Engagement Plan for Gender Equality and Family Well-Being for 2020-2023 and it comes at an opportune moment, as 2020, coincides with the start of a fresh mandate of the newly elected Government and with the fifth Anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals.

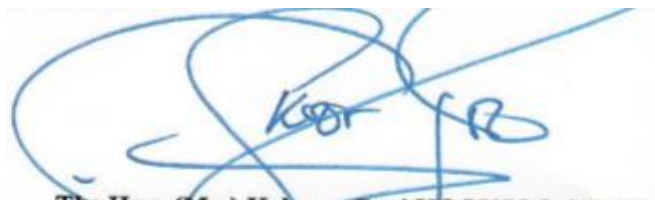
Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 Pandemic, violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence has intensified worldwide so much so that it has been referred to as shadow pandemic. My Ministry left no stone unturned to deal with cases of domestic violence and child abuse during confinement period from 20 March to 30 May 2020 to ensure the safety of the victims in Mauritius. During the confinement period, 520 cases of domestic violence were reported through the Hotline 139, out of which 39 were males and 481 were females. In addition, 468 child abuse cases have been referred to the six Child Development Unit Outstations and interventions have been made in all cases.

A series of measures were put in place to ensure that there was no disruption in service delivery to respond to cases of domestic violence and child abuse. Some of the measures are, *inter-alia*,

- The two hotlines 113 and 139 which are free of charge, for reporting cases of domestic violence and other family issues were operational on a 24/7 basis;
- Constant monitoring of all children placed in Shelters and Residential Care Institutions; and
- Enhanced collaboration with the Police Department whereby home visits, patrols and warning to perpetrators of domestic violence were made, ensuring their safety and protection.

Furthermore, the Mauritius Film Development Corporation developed a video clip on the importance of reinforcing family ties and to promote family values and was broadcasted on television to sensitise Mauritian families and to raise awareness of the population at large to report cases of domestic violence.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff of my Ministry for their dedication, commitment and hard work. My thanks go also to all our partners Government bodies, Non-Governmental Organisations and Community Organisations for their ongoing support. I believe that such collaboration will help us make a difference in the lives of our citizens.



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

MESSAGE OF THE PERMANENT



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 2019-2020.

I have joined the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare as Permanent Secretary since August 2020 and it is my privilege to present the Annual Report on Performance for the Financial Year 2019/2020.

A Mid-term Strategic Engagement Plan for Gender Equality and Family Well-being 2020-2023 has been developed by this Ministry on January 2020 and a roll-out implementation plan was prepared to ensure proper monitoring purposes of projects and programmes.


In the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic, this Ministry has put in place a series of measures in order to cater for the least protected in society and continue to promote gender equality and defend the rights of women and children victims of violence and abuse.

The Child Protection “Place of Safety for the Welfare and Protection of Children” Regulation 2019 was passed in the National Assembly on 9 August 2019 and gazetted on 1 October 2019 to ensure that norms and standards of the Residential Care Institutions are met to provide a better continuum of care. Presently, the Ministry has three (3) Government-owned Shelters and it is working with fifteen (15) Residential Care Institutions run by Non-Governmental Organisations to cater for the needs of those children victims of violence. Some **543 children** were placed thereat as at 30 June 2020.

Moreover, this Ministry also provides assistance to victims of domestic violence and works in close collaboration with Non-Governmental Organisations. Actually, this Ministry provides capitation grant to NGOs providing emergency accommodation to victims of domestic violence. For the financial year 2019/2020, **590** women and **718** children were admitted in shelters.

The Ministry offers protection, care and support services to victims of domestic violence and child abuse. For the financial year 2019/2020, total number of cases of domestic violence and child abuse reported to this Ministry were respectively **2,185** and **5307**. One case of domestic violence or child abuse is ‘one too many’, hence the need to scale up our interventions to curb the incidence of violence on women and children of the Republic of Mauritius.

Our laudable achievements have been only possible by the unflinching support and teamwork of our people therefore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our staff for their commitment, hard work and whose dedication brings us even closer to our goals. I would also like to thank all those collaborators from other service sectors as well as the contribution of Non - Governmental Organisations in a quest for a country free of violence.


Dr (Mrs) R. Y. Moorghen
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

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

- economic and social 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 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. Child Protection (Place of Safety for the Welfare and Protection of Children) Regulation 2019
6. Protection from Domestic Violence Act (1997, 2004, 2007, 2011 and 2016)
7. Social Welfare Centres Act 1961
Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Act 1974
8. National Adoption Council Act 1988
9. National Women Entrepreneur Council Act 1999
10. National Children's Council Act 2003
11. National Women's Council Act 2016

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 social and economic 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 and economic 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.



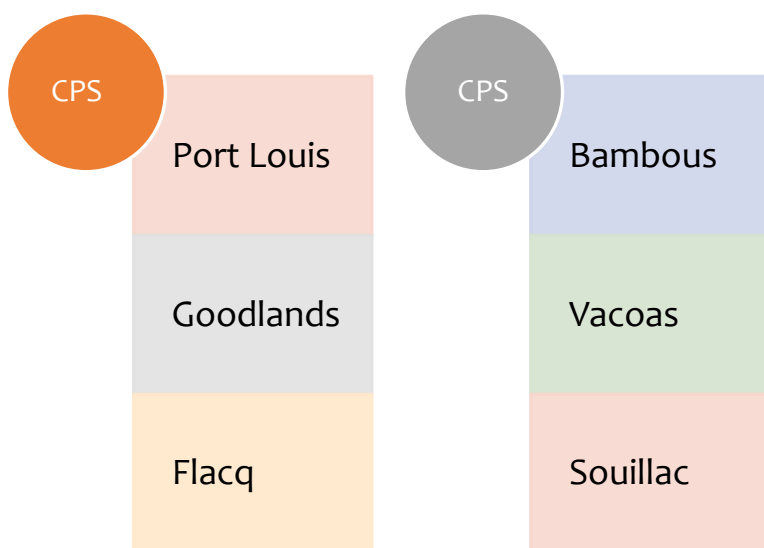
3. Child Development Unit (CDU)

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, whereby the best interests of the child are of primary concern in all policies, programmes and actions.

Child Protection Services:

The Child Development Unit operates through a network of six Child Protection Services across the island and provides the following services:

- (i) Protective and supportive measures;
- (ii) Rehabilitation services; and
- (iii) Counselling and psychological support; amongst others.



4) Alternative Care Unit (ACU)

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 for assistance under the Child Mentoring Programme.

The major focus of the Unit 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)

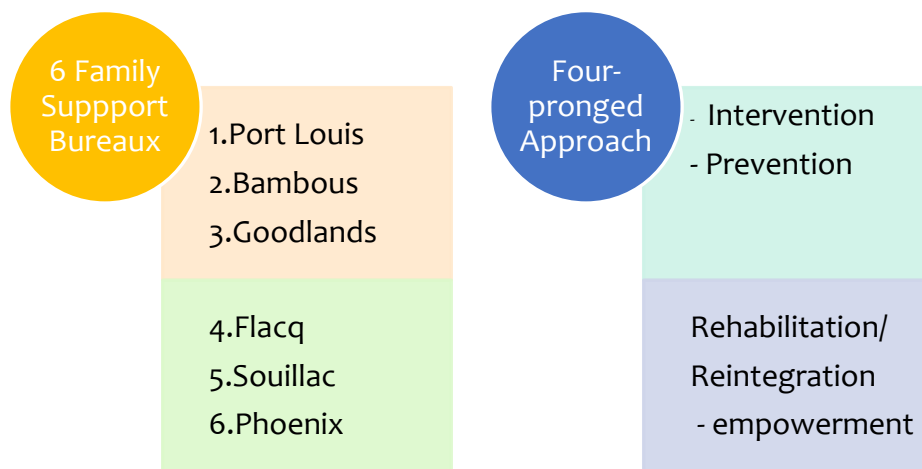
The Family Welfare and Protection Unit (FWPU) was set up in July 2003 and is mandated to:

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

The Family Welfare and Protection Unit operates through a network of six (6) Family Support Bureaux (FSBx) 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 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. The target group has been diversified to include men & boys as well as the elderly.

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 cum Sales Outlet which is a specialised centre that acquaints prospective women agro-processors with semi-industrial processing equipment. Micro entrepreneurs can use this semi-industrial equipment for production purpose and it is free of cost.

7) Psychological Services/ Child Perpetrator Support Unit

Psychological services offered by this Ministry were restructured in 2016, with the aim to ensure that members of the public benefit from a quality psychological service so as to improve the mental health and psychological wellbeing of clients (victims of violence; children and adults) and also to provide appropriate psychological treatment services to perpetrators of domestic violence

The Child Perpetrator's Support Unit was set up in the same year to cater for the psychological needs of child perpetrators and provide appropriate psychological treatment programmes designed and targeted to assist child perpetrators to develop skills to reduce reoffending 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.

8) 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 and 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.

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 and a new National Women's Council Act 2016 was passed in the National Assembly on 03 May 2016 to provide for a 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 and economic and political fields.

The objects of the Council 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.

The NWC is managed and administered by the NWC Board.



(ii) National Women Entrepreneur Council

The National Women Entrepreneur Council (NWE) 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 NWE 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 **139** 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.



(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.

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, 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).

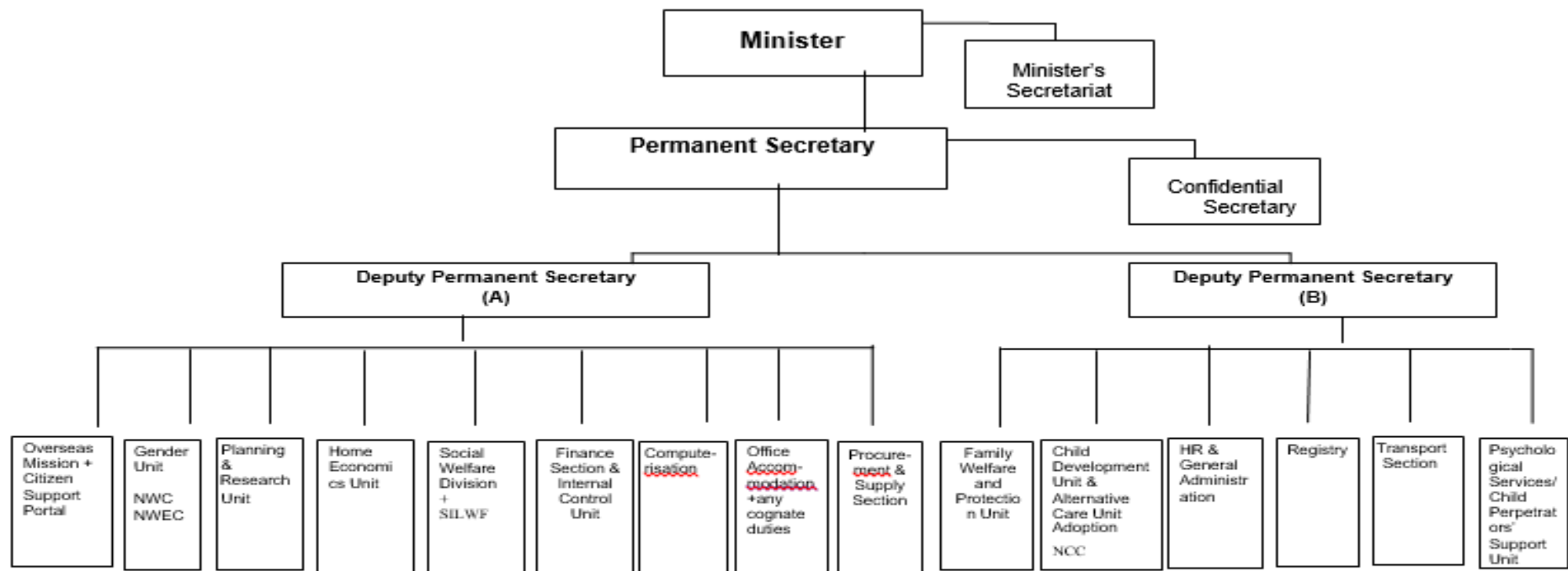
The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, as the National Gender Machinery, has through its National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming set up **in 2010**, advocated successfully for the allocation of a Vote Item on ‘Gender Mainstreaming’ and since the year 2018, each Ministry has been 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;
- formulation of a National Gender Policy (2020-2029) to have principal guidelines that will support and translate Government’s commitment into concrete gender measures and actions;
- formulation of a National Costed Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming for the public sector to strengthen the implementation of gender equality principles in public sectors and enhance a coordinated approach towards gender mainstreaming;
- development of a set of guidelines for the setting up of four(4) Gender Technical Working Groups (Private sectors; Media; Academia; and Civil Society’s Organisations) to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in the workplace settings as well as nurturing a gender-sensitive culture and ethics; and
- implementation of Gender Mainstreaming Strategies to empower women socially, economically and political in a bid to bridge prevailing gender gaps

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

NWE: National Women Entrepreneur Council

SILWF: Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund

**Staff in post - Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
as at 30 June 2020**

SN	Post/Grade	Total
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 Manager, Procurement & Supply	1
8	Principal Procurement & Supply Officer	1
9	Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer	2
10	Assistant Manager Internal Control	1
11	Internal Control Officer/Senior Internal Control Officer	1
12	Office Management Executive	4
13	Office Supervisor	1
14	Office Management Assistant	14
15	Management Support Officer	41
16	Head, Planning & Research Unit	1
17	Head, Child Development Unit	1
18	Head, Gender Unit	1
19	Head, Family Welfare and Protection Unit	1
20	Coordinator	15
21	Senior Family Welfare and Protection Officer	5
22	Child Welfare Officer	1
23	Psychologist/Senior Psychologist	19
24	Head, Home Economics Unit	1

25	Senior Home Economics Officer	2
26	Home Economics Officer	8
27	Family Counselling Officer	6
28	Family Welfare and Protection Officer	101
29	Enforcement Officer	17
30	Confidential Secretary	3
31	Word Processing Operator	9
32	Child Care Worker	7
33	Instructor	5
34	Driver	15
35	Store Attendant	2
36	General Worker	5
37	Head Office Auxiliary	2
38	Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary	11
39	Security Guard	1
40	Gardener/Nursery Attendant	2
41	Receptionist/Telephone Operator	1
42	Programme Coordinator (employed on month to month basis)	0
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	11
48	Social Welfare Officer	21
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	2
55	Computer Support Officer	1
56	Statistician	1
57	Senior Statistical Officer	1
58	Statistical Officer	1
59	Research Officer	1
60	Handy Worker	15
61	Intern under Service to Mauritius Program	3
62	Psychiatric Nurse(on contract)	1
Total		391

PART II ACHIEVEMENTS

PLANNING AND RESEARCH UNIT

- A Mid-Term Strategic Engagement Plan for Gender Equality and Family Welfare 2020-2023 was prepared in January 2020.

GENDER UNIT

3 E's Project and Goal Programme

- In line with the Sustainable Development Goal 5 to “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, the Gender Unit implemented the 3 E’s project entitled “Empowerment through Education and Entertainment”. During July/August 2019 and December 2019 school holidays, Some **220** girls / young women (aged between 13 – 29 years) of deprived regions benefited from the various activities.
- The Gender Unit implemented the GOAL Programme during the month of July 2019 to February 2020. Some **500 girls** have benefitted from the programme.

Regional outdoor activities and workshops

- **4 regional outdoor activities** were held for the elderly/lonely women on **08 to 11 October 2019** at Belle Mare; Flic en Flac; Blue Bay & Mont Choisy Public Beaches. Some **750 elderly women** attended.
- **4 regional workshops** on the theme “**Women's Rights are Human Rights**” were held during the month of **October / November 2019** at the District Councils of Pamplemousses and Moka; Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes and Souillac Women Empowerment Centre/Rose Belle Multi-Purpose Hall.
- Some **400 women** were sensitized.

UNDP Country programme

- Under the UNDP Country Programme (2017-2020) - **Pillar 1: Inclusive development and public sector efficiency**, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare organised a Training of Trainers Programme entitled ‘**L.E.A.D: Leadership, Empowerment, Advocacy and Development**’ from 11 – 13 November 2019. Some **20 participants** (Officers from the Gender Unit; National Women’s Council; representatives from the National Youth Council and Rodrigues) were trained.

Activities

- A half day Symposium on the 'Gender Implications of Cancer' was held on Thursday **06 February 2020** at Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre, Bell Village. Some **160 participants** attended this activity.
- The Ministry organised the celebration of the International Women's Day 2020 on 08 March around the theme "**Accelerating the realization for Gender Equality**". Some **7, 500 guests** attended the event.

Sensitisation Campaigns

- The Gender Unit has sustained its sensitization campaigns on issues related to women's empowerment and gender equality. The objective was to sensitise women and the public at large on pertinent issues pertaining to their welfare and empowerment. Some **4, 480 participants (3, 818 women and 662 men)** reached.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT UNIT (CDU)

SN	SECTION	Achievements
1	International Child Abduction	<p>Number of Child Abduction Cases registered at the level of CDU since the inception of the Project is 166 cases.</p> <p>9 cases of International Child Abduction Cases received from July 2019 to June 2020. As at June 2020, 39 ongoing Cases and no case was closed.</p>
2	Early Childhood Development	139 Child Day Centres registered with this Ministry for the period 2019/2020
3.	Tardy Declaration of Birth	<p>From July 2019 to June 2020, 42 cases have been recorded and registered. Total number of Cases lodged is 32.</p> <p>From July 2019 to June 2020, 43 children have been tardily declared.</p>
4.	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Combatting Child Trafficking Unit	<p>Training</p> <p>Training on CSEC Victims: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to dealing with CSEC victims conducted in January and February 2020. 120 participants out of which 38 male and 82 female.</p> <p>From July 2019 to June 2020, 898 persons have been sensitized on CSEC.</p>

5.	Community Child Protection Programme	<p>For the period 2019-2020:</p> <p>As at March 2020, 42 Community Child Watch Committees were active.</p> <p>229 meetings held.</p> <p>110 cases have been referred</p> <p>From July 2019 to June 2020, 934 children have participated.</p> <p>From March to June 2020, all centres were closed due to confinement.</p>
6	Trainings	<p><u>Child Protection Register:</u></p> <p>6 YEP and 1 Family Welfare and Protection Officer were trained on the usage of the Child Protection Register (CPR)</p> <p><u>Early Childhood Development Section</u></p> <p>14 Officers were trained on Early Childhood Development.</p> <p>26 Officers were trained on the following subjects: Legal, Internet safety and child protection, Child Sexual Abuse and Teenage Pregnancy and training on Parentalité.</p>
7	Awareness Campaigns	<p><u>Services of the CDU and Child Abuse and Child Protection Services</u></p> <p>629 persons (Including adults and youths) have attended the training sessions in Schools and Social Welfare Centres.</p> <p><u>Radio Talks</u></p> <p>11 Radio Talks have been organized</p>

ALTERNATIVE CARE UNIT

Rehabilitation Section	Prise en Charge of Children Victims of violence in Shelters/RCI's	543 Children victims of violence were placed in eighteen (18) institutions, three (3) Government-owned Shelters and fifteen (15) NGO-owned RCIs.
	Service de Proximite' to ensure parental visits	12 venues such as the Community Centres, Social Welfare Centres and Women 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. Since 2018, 510 parental visits have been effected in the different venues.
	Regulations for RCIs	On 1 October 2019, the Child Protection "Place of Safety for the Welfare and Protection of Children" Regulations 2019 was passed and gazetted to ensure that the norms and standards of the RCIs, whereby children victims of violence are placed, are met to provide a better continuum of care.
Back-to-Home Section		From July 2019 to June 2020, 108 Children have been re-inserted into a family setting.
Foster Care Section	Placement of Children	As at June 2020, 31 children were placed in 26 foster care families.
Child Mentoring	Training and Capacity building Programme	As at June 2020, 67 Child mentors were facilitating the programme and 45 Child mentees were being assisted.
Training and Capacity		In July 2019, a sensitisation campaign on "Sexual & Reproductive Health" (Including

***Development
Programme***

HIV and AIDS), as well as free AIDS voluntary screening, was conducted for ACU Staff. **16** Officers participated in the voluntary AIDS screening.

In August 2019, training on “Legal Issues in the field of Child Protection and Welfare” in partnership with Mauritius Civil Service College (MCSC) and Department of Public Prosecution’s (DPP) office was offered for **50** officers.

In November 2019, training from Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies (IJLS) was conducted for staff of Alternative Care Unit.

In August and September 2019, training Programme for Child Mentors were organized. The themes covered comprised the new challenges affecting children mainly on Sexual and Reproductive Health and the techniques to be adapted for a child mentor to get detached from child mentee when mentoring order lapses.

Trainings have been conducted for the **26** new foster parents on 10 and 11 May 2019 and **30** existing foster parents on Saturday 24 March 2019.

Training of newly Registered Foster Parents. A training programme on parenting skills was carried out on 27 September 2019 for **30** existing Foster Parents.

FAMILY WELFARE AND PROTECTION UNIT

A stakeholders' engagement workshop on the Perpetrators' Rehabilitation Programme was conducted in November 2019. All key stakeholders actively engaged in addressing domestic violence were apprised of the contents of the programme and the outcome of the workshop was a referral pathway, customized for the rehabilitation of perpetrators in the local context.

HOME ECONOMICS UNIT

23 types of MQA recognised training programmes were imparted in 123 centres over the island. Latter programmes were coupled with training in 'Entrepreneurship Development'. 3267 persons benefitted from these Training Programmes.

→ Specialised projects

Specialised projects were run in collaboration with various stakeholders, in order to promote income generating activities, namely: -

- Cultivation of medicinal plants;
- Caring for the Elderly;
- Caring for Children;
- Training of potential caterers; and
- Training of single mothers in Beauty Care.

→ Other activities:

- 'Lifeskills Development Programmes for youth' were run for both boys & girls of age group 11- 15 years during school holidays (August & December). 1157 children were targeted out of which **49%** were male.
- 27 mini fairs were organised at various venues over the island in order to offer a platform to our trainees to sell their products and hence earn income.
- Basic training in agriculture was conducted at 25 venues following which 4 Regional Kitchen Garden Competitions were organised with a view to promoting food security and income generation.
- Enterprise Development Programmes for potential entrepreneurs (trainees) were organised at the level of the 4 Home Economics Resource Centres. Each programme lasted over 8 weeks. Around 100 women completed the course. They have now started income generating activities & have been requested to liaise with the NWECC or the SME Mauritius for further assistance.

- Training of working persons on healthy lifestyle both at their site of work and at the level of Home Economics Resource Centres (during evenings & week-ends) were held. Around **300** persons (both man & women) were reached. These programmes were run over 36 hours.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES/ CHILD PERPETRATOR SUPPORT UNIT

Achievements
1. Total number of cases attended at level of outstation CDU : 5251
2. Total number of cases attended at level of outstation FWPU: 2143
3. Total number of cases attended at the level of the Alternative Care Unit : 629
4. 5 Training sessions have been carried out with stakeholders on dealing with CSEC victims
5. 10 training sessions have been carried out with members of the Mauritius Police Force
6. 17 mass counseling session have been carried out on marital/family conflict and domestic violence in Women's Empowerment Centres and Social Welfare Centres
7. 14 group therapy programme have been conducted with victims of domestic violence at the level of Police Family Protection Units in various region.
8. Since July 2019 till June 2020, total number of cases of child perpetrators attended was 57 and the number of cases referred was 75 .
9. Child Perpetrator Support Unit has initiated a rehabilitation programme for juvenile sexual offenders committed in Correctional Youth Centre.

SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION

Income Generating Activities	Male	Female	Total
Regional and National Sales Exhibition	393	766	1159
Monthly Fairs	184	914	1098
Sale of products at Grand Bay, Surinam and Wooton Boutiques	57	152	209

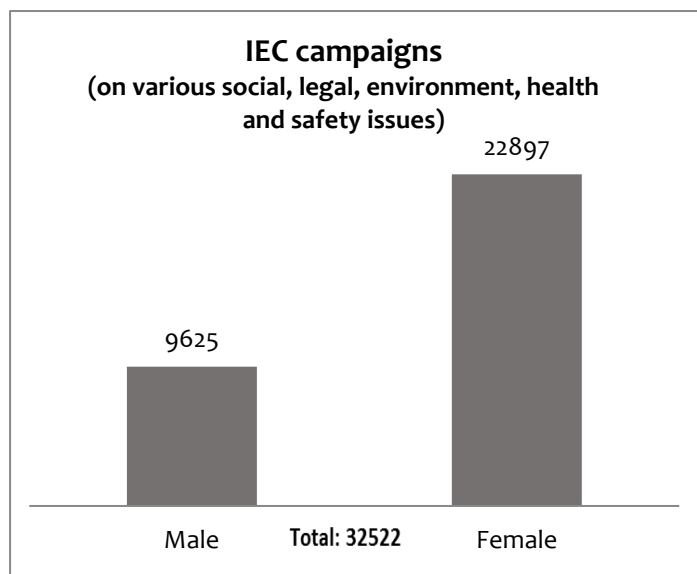


Figure 1

A total of **32,522** participants have attended IEC campaigns out of which **22,897** were female and **9,625** were male.

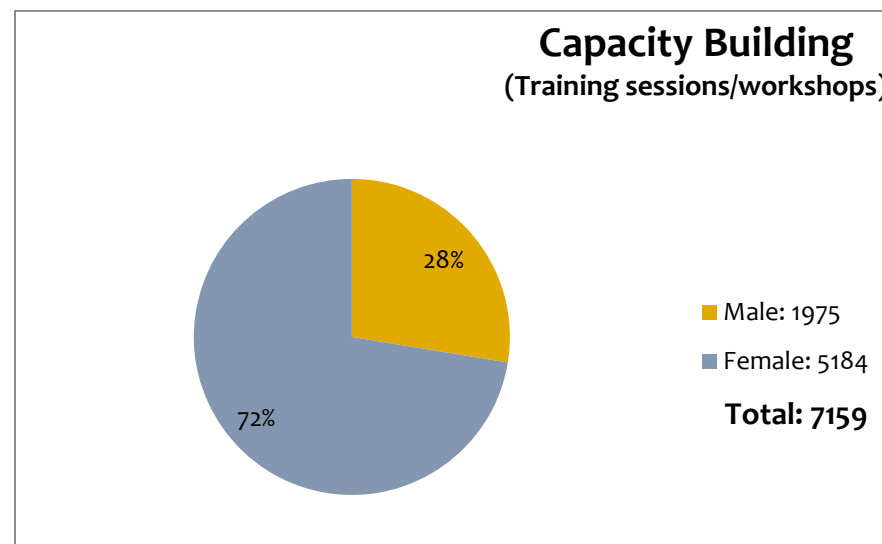


Figure 2

For the Financial year 2019/2020, **7,159** persons have attended training session, out of which **1,975** were male and **5,184** were female.

Skills Development (No. of trainees)

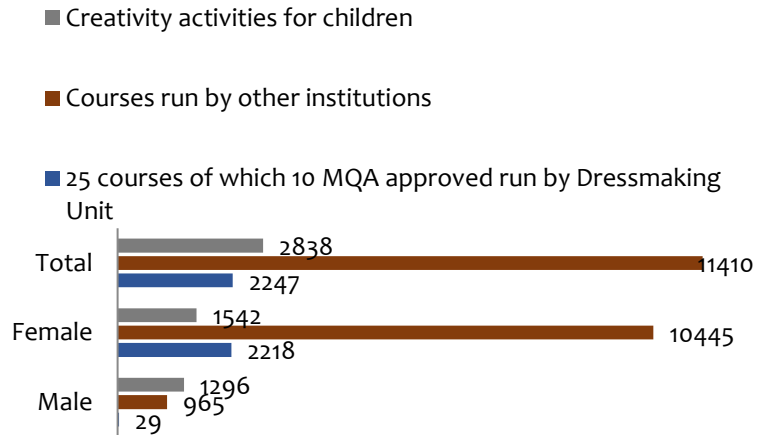


Figure 3

During the financial year 2019/2020, **2,838** children have participated in creativity activities **25** courses of which 10 MQA approved run by dress making and **2,218** women have participated.

Recreation, Sports and Leisure

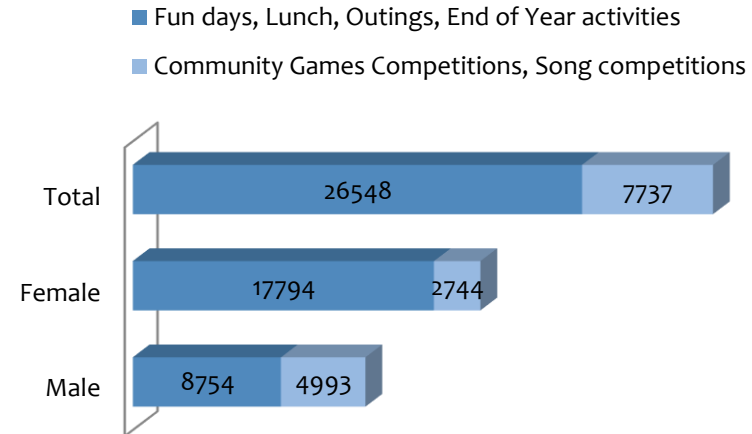


Figure 4

34,285 persons have participated in recreation, sports and leisure.

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET MEASURES

Reporting Period: July 2019 to June 2020

Budget para	Budget Measure	Status
295, 296	Finalisation of the National Gender Policy 2019-2029 and Implementation of the gender mainstreaming programme in Government ministries and departments.	Kept in abeyance pending the enactment of the Gender Equality Bill.
297	Revamping of Women`s Empowerment Centres with additional facilities	3 projects namely “Atelier des Métiers/Savoirs”, “Wellness Centre” and “Day Care Centre for elderly women were not implemented due to COVID-19 lockdown.
302	Recruitment of 10 additional Family Welfare Protection Officers; and 5 more Enforcement Officers.	<p>10 additional posts of FWPO were created in Budget 2019/2020. The 10 additional funded posts plus the existing 12 funded vacancies were reported to the Public Service Commission (PSC) on 9 October 2019. The post was advertised on 30 January 2020 with closing date 19 February 2020. However, the vacancies were not filled by PSC.</p> <p>Regarding the 5 additional posts of Enforcement Officers provided in Budget 2019/2020, requests were made on 3 occasions to the PSC to fill the vacancies from the merit list drawn from the last selection exercise carried out in 2018. However, from the lists submitted by PSC, some candidates either declined the offer or did not turn up. Only 4 of the vacancies were filled by 4 February 2020. Moreover, one of the candidate out of the above 4, resigned on 19 June</p>

		2020, leaving only 3 vacancies being filled by end of June 2020 out of the 5 additional posts of Enforcement Officers.
303	Increase in the budget of the Foster Care programme by Rs 1 million, that is by 14%	<p>(i) There are 31 children placed in 26 foster families.</p> <p>(ii) Sensitisation campaigns have been conducted on the foster care programme. 160 persons have been reached for the said period.</p> <p>21 foster parents have been registered accordingly.</p> <p>(iii) Trainings have been conducted for the 26 new foster parents on 10 and 11 May 2019 and 30 existing foster parents on Saturday 24 March 2019 and on Friday 27 September 2019.</p> <p>First meeting held with all children presently in Foster Care Programme for the Christmas Celebration held on 20 December 2019 at National Women Development Centre, Phoenix.</p>

STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY ACTIONS FY 2019/2020

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target (as per Budget Estimates)	Status
Licensing and monitoring of Child Day Care institutions	Number of Child Day Care Centres compliant with Regulations	225	141
Revamping Women Empowerment Centres through innovative projects	Number of innovative projects implemented	4	Nil
Foster Care Programme	Number of children placed into Foster Families	25	20
Back-to-Home Programme	Number of residents reintegrated into their biological families or to next kins	125	101

OTHER INTERNALLY DEVELOPED KPI'S FOR THE FY 2019/2020

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target (as per Budget Estimates)	Actual Status as at 2019/2020
Rehabilitation Programme	% placed in Shelters/RCIs of the Ministry	100%	100%
Child Mentoring Programme	Number of children placed into Child Mentoring Programme	75	45 Child Mentees

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	APS Mrs N. Goolooa
	Coordinator Mr N. Taukoordass (FWPU)
Secretary	Mrs D. Kripa (OMA)

Meetings were held on 13 & 24 September 2019, 15 October 2019, 6 March 2020 and 18 June 2020.

The duly signed Performance Contract has already been forwarded to the Office of the Public Sector Governance for financial year 2020/2021. 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 organization. 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.

On 02 October 2019, Chairperson of Anti-Corruption Committee (DPS Mrs S. Bahadoor) and Integrity Officer (AMHR - Mr Ruttun) of this Ministry have attended a one-day workshop which had as objective to reinforcing the role and responsibilities of Chairpersons and Integrity officers of the Anti-Corruption Committees for public bodies.

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 8 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) 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, many cases have been resolved while for other cases close follow up is ensured.

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 2018/2019

SN	Issues Raised by the National Audit Office	Remarks by the Ministry
23.1	<p>Child Protection Register (CPR) and Domestic Violence Information System (Dovis) – Systems Underutilised.</p> <p>(a) Non implementation of the Child Protection Register (CPR) and DOVIS systems at the Family Support Bureau (FSB) and Child Protection Services (CPS) of Flacq.</p> <p>(b) Domestic violence and child maltreatment cases not recorded on the Systems.</p> <p>A review of the above revealed that there has not been much improvement.</p> <p>(i) As of December 2019, manual recording of cases of child abuse/neglect and domestic violence was still being carried out at the FSB/CPS of Flacq. Some 2,200 cases of domestic violence and 3,200 cases of child neglect/abuse were reported over the period 2016 to September 2019 at the FSB/CPS.</p> <p>(ii) Out of the 18,000 cases of child neglect reported at the five other CPSs of the Ministry as of August 2019, some 15,000 cases had not yet been recorded on the CPR system. Training on the CPR system was provided to about 80 officers of the Ministry. Inputs were not being done on a regular basis.</p> <p>Also, of some 12,000 cases of domestic violence reported at the five FSBs over the period June 2016 to September 2019, only some 9,900 have been registered on DOVIS.</p> <p>In February 2019, the Ministry undertook to implement the two systems at the FSB and CPS of Flacq in the first week of March 2019. The Ministry also informed that a team of officers was working to clear out the backlog in respect of cases to be input on the systems.</p>	<p>The two systems could not be implemented at the Flacq FSB/CPI as renovation works are currently being carried out. The renovation works have sustained considerable delays.</p> <p>(i) As regards backlogs at the other FSBs/CPIs: (i) Arrangements are being made for input of the backlogs on the DOVIS and same will be completed by end of August 2020. DOVIS is operational at FSB Souillac since February 2019 and due to lack of equipment and human resource constraints, migration of case files started in about August 2019.</p> <p>(ii) Six YEP interns have been recruited in October 2019 to clear the backlog of 15,000 cases on the CPR. Also, since November 2019, officers on the CDU outstations have been instructed to input cases on a daily basis, or as soon as possible, to ensure that an updated position is available.</p>

23.2	Residential Care Institutions (RCIs) - Shortcomings in the Regulations of 2019	<p>The Ministry informed NAO that the advice of the State Law Office is being sought regarding the process pertaining to the Financial Accounts of RCIs.</p>
	<p>The Place of Safety for the Welfare and Protection of Children Regulations 2019, issued under Section 21 of the Child Protection Act, was made effective on 1 October 2019. The Regulations provide that no RCI should be in operation unless it obtains a license designating it as a place of safety by the Minister. RCIs existing at 1 October 2019 were required to make their applications by 31 December 2019 for designation as places of safety.</p> <p>The terms and conditions governing the issue of the licence include, among other things, that the accounts of the RCI will have to be audited by the NAO. The mechanism for the preparation of the Financial Accounts of the RCIs, their submission to the NAO and the time frame for their auditing and reporting have not been defined.</p>	
23.3	Shelters/RCIs – Non Compliance with Ministry’s Policies	
	<p>At paragraph 16.2 of the Audit Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2018, I highlighted weaknesses that existed at three Government Shelters and private Residential Care Institutions where the Ministry had placed children in distress. Significant shortcomings were again noted in the administration of the Shelters/RCIs.</p> <p>During the year 2018-19, the Alternative Care Unit at the Ministry ensured the placement of children in distress in 16 Shelters/RCIs, three of which were Government owned. As of 10 September 2019, there were 490 children residing at the 16 shelters. Funds disbursed by the Ministry in 2018-19 in relation to placement of children in distress amounted to Rs 56.9 million, of which some Rs 37.6 million were made to private shelters either as Capitation/Fixed Annual Grant payments or reimbursement of expenses.</p> <p>Site visits were carried out at the three Government Shelters and five Shelters run by NGOs to ascertain compliance with the Ministry’s new policies for RCIs issued in January 2018, that were aimed at providing even better care to children in distress placed in RCIs. These policies were however non-binding for Non-Governmental Organisations as no</p>	

memorandum of understanding was signed with them.

The Ministry's new policies were not being properly adhered to by the Shelters/RCIs regarding staffing, quality of food and recording with an adverse effect on the standard of care to inmates and also inmates remaining undeclared.

Adequacy of Personnel

Government Shelters, as well as the private shelters did not have the required number of caregivers and other general staff to cater for the number of residents in the shelters. Government Shelters had about half of the required number of caregivers and staff, while the ratio of caregiver/staff for the private shelters varied significantly from the Ministry's policies.

Completeness of Administrative records

Books and records at RCIs, in particular files of residents, were not properly maintained. They were found to be incomplete in terms of court orders, Birth and Health Certificates, schooling, dietary requirements and medical/psychological follow ups.

Care plans have not been developed and placed in the file at the private shelters, for each resident who had suffered trauma. Daily Information Sheets regarding behaviour, attitude and conduct of the residents were also not kept.

Inmates not Declared

As of November 2019, two minors at the private shelters were not yet declared, though they have been placed there since 2012 and 2017 respectively.

With regards to personnel at Government Owned Shelters, the National Children Council could not recruit additional staff due to budgetary constraints. Arrangements are needed for the existing staff to service the shelters for additional hours against payment of overtime. Also, the Ministry has embarked on the selection of Management services in respect of two Government Owned Shelters.

As for Private Shelters, the lack of personnel is due to high staff turnover. The enforcement of the Child Protection Regulations 2019 will ensure compliance as regards to personnel and administrative requirements of RCIs.

Tardy Declaration procedures have started for Minor 1 in November 2019, while for Minor 2, the Ministry is awaiting an order from Magistrate to proceed further.

23.4 One off Cash Grant Scheme – Inadequate Management Oversight of the Grant Scheme

The Scheme was introduced in 2013 by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to enable Child Day Care Centres (CDCCs), in existence for at least one year, to obtain the Certificate of Registration with the Ministry by upgrading themselves with the view to satisfying the required standards of child care services under the Institutions for Welfare and Protection of Children Regulations. The National Children Council (NCC) took over the Scheme in March 2015. A maximum amount of Rs 500,000 is given to each beneficiary since November 2018. During the period March 2015 to November 2019, funds totalling some Rs 13.1 million were disbursed under the Scheme to 50 beneficiaries through the NCC.

Information sharing between the NCC and the Ministry regarding beneficiaries were not done on a systematic basis. As of December 2018, out of 415 CDCCs that were in operation, only 155 were registered with the Ministry. In the absence of readily available information, proper actions were not taken against the 260 unregistered CDCCs.

The Certificate is valid for two years and needs to be renewed thereafter. Six of the 15 CDCCs which have obtained their Certificate of Registration over the period September 2015 to May 2019 have not renewed their registration subsequently.

The Ministry informed NAO that the Grant Scheme is managed by the NCC and all related issues are reported to the Board. The list of CDCCs is provided by the Ministry to the NCC. The CDCCs apply to the NCC for the grant. Funds are disbursed by the NCC and the last 10 per cent is disbursed only after the registration of the CDCC with the Ministry. Both the NCC and the Ministry are aware of the number of CDCCs registered and which have benefited from the grant.

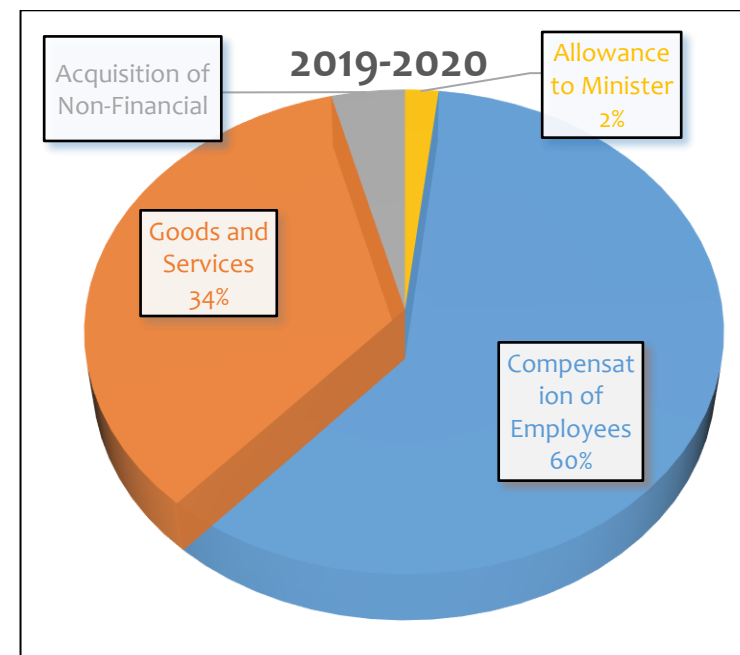
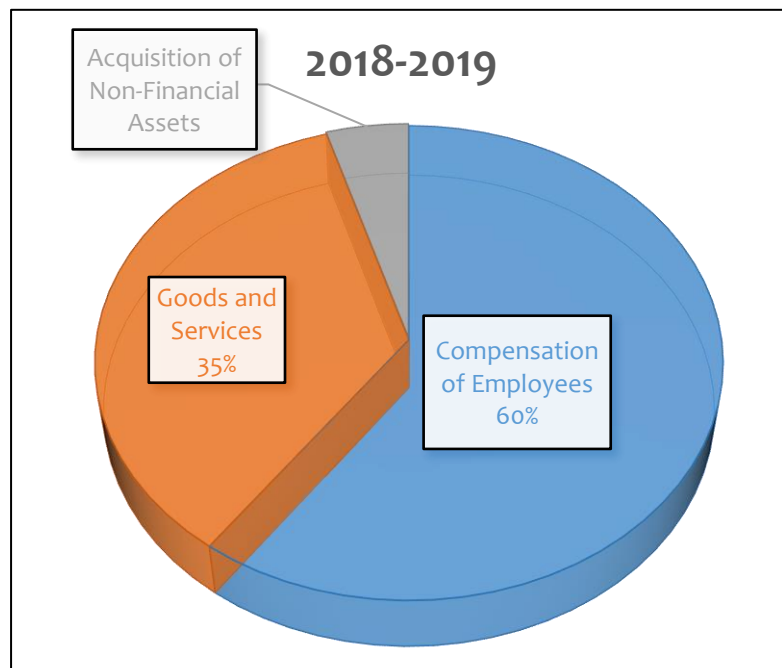
PART III: FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

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 2018/ 2019 and 2019/2020



- Figure 2 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 5-302 (Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming) for the year 2018/2019 and 2019/2020

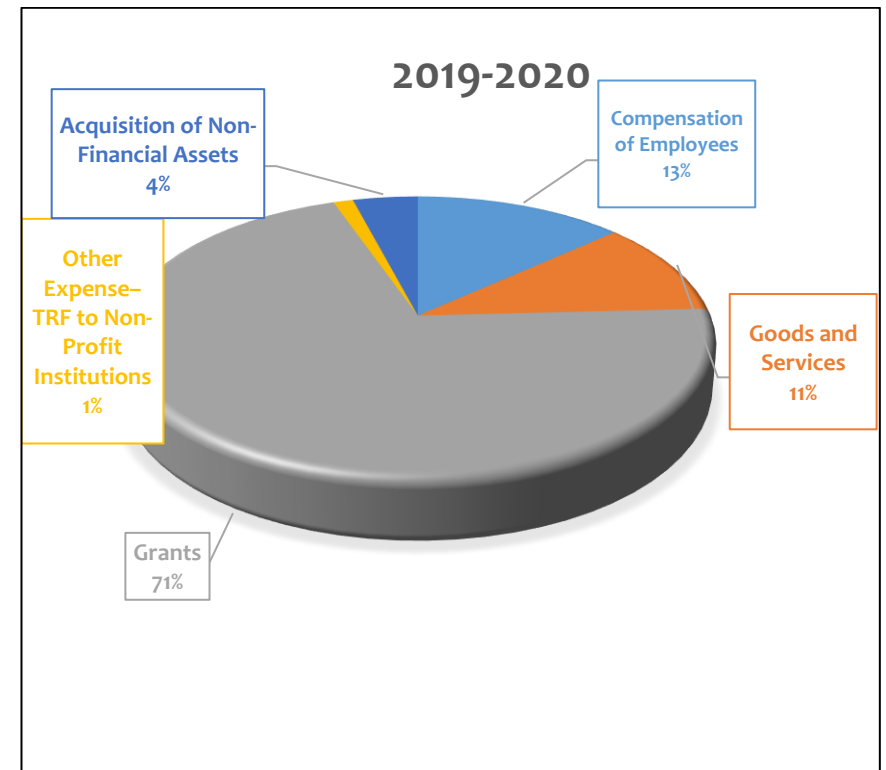
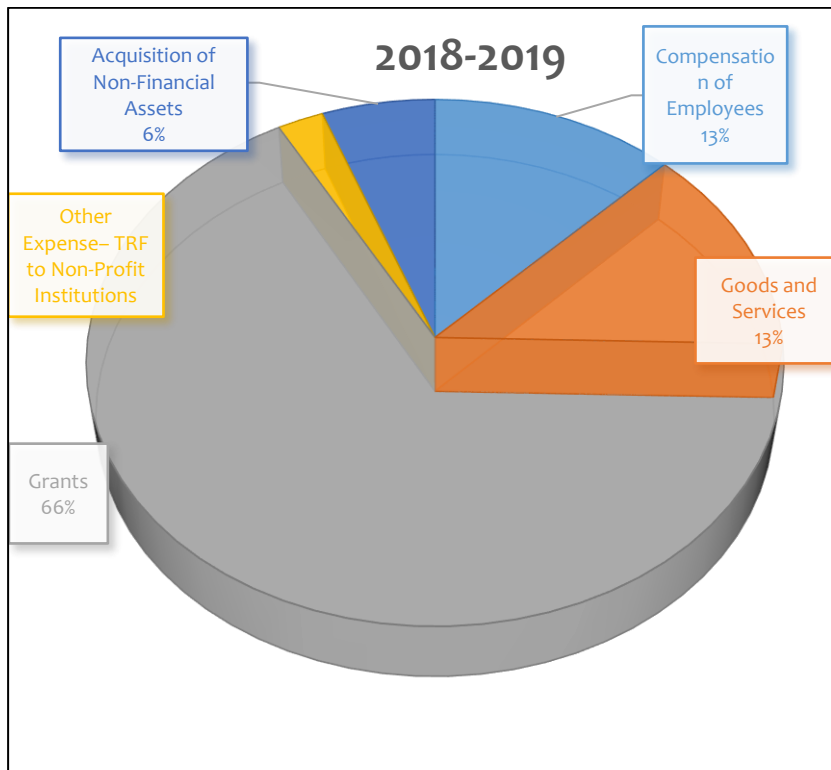


Figure 3 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 5-303 (Child Protection, Welfare and Development) for the year 2018/2019 and 2019/2020

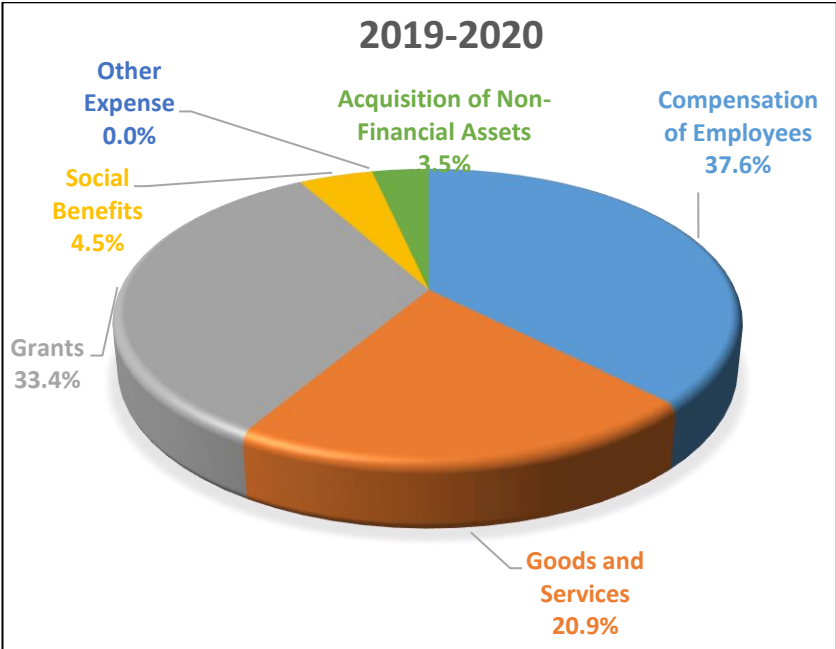
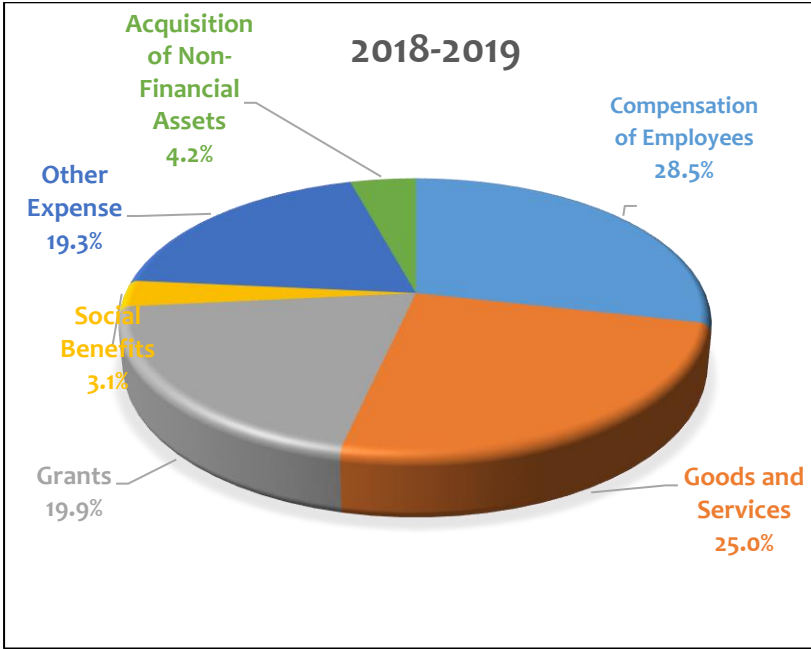


Figure 4 below shows budget appropriation under vote item 5-304 (Family Welfare and Protection from Gender-Based Violence) for the year 2018/2019 and 2019/2020

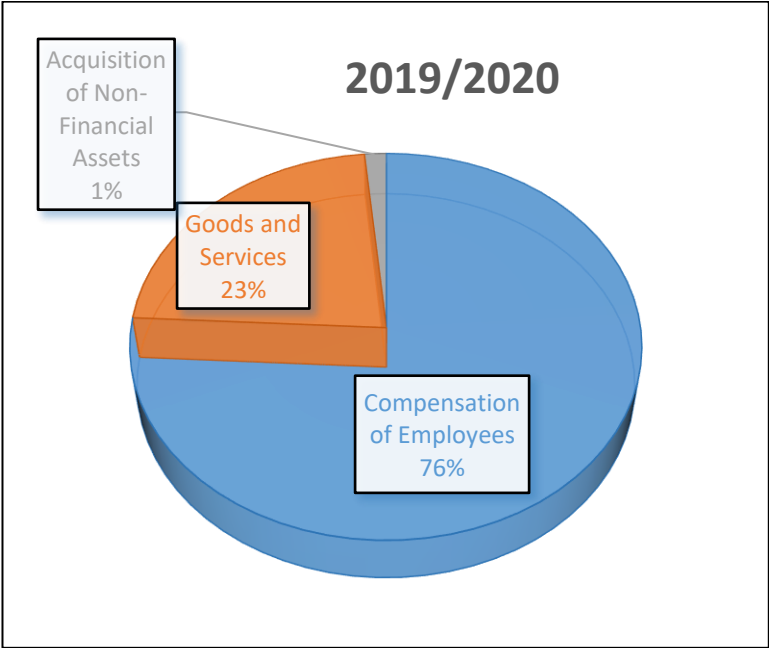
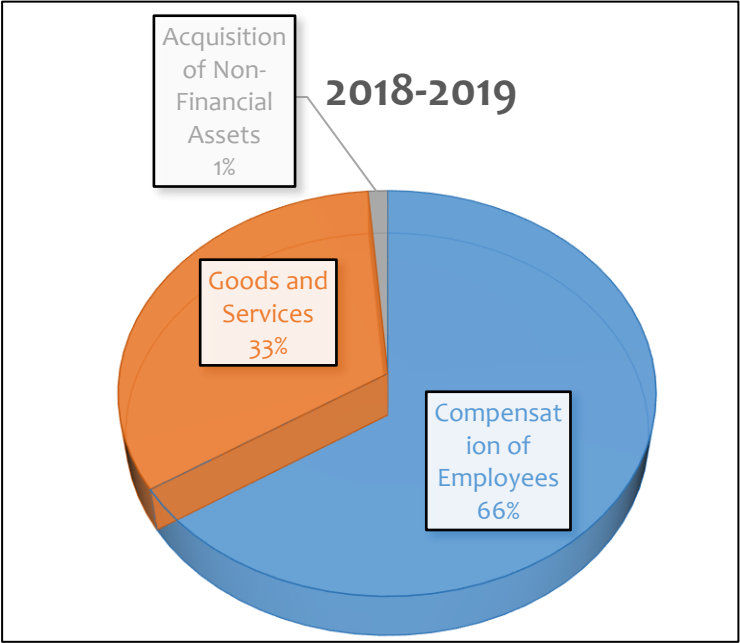
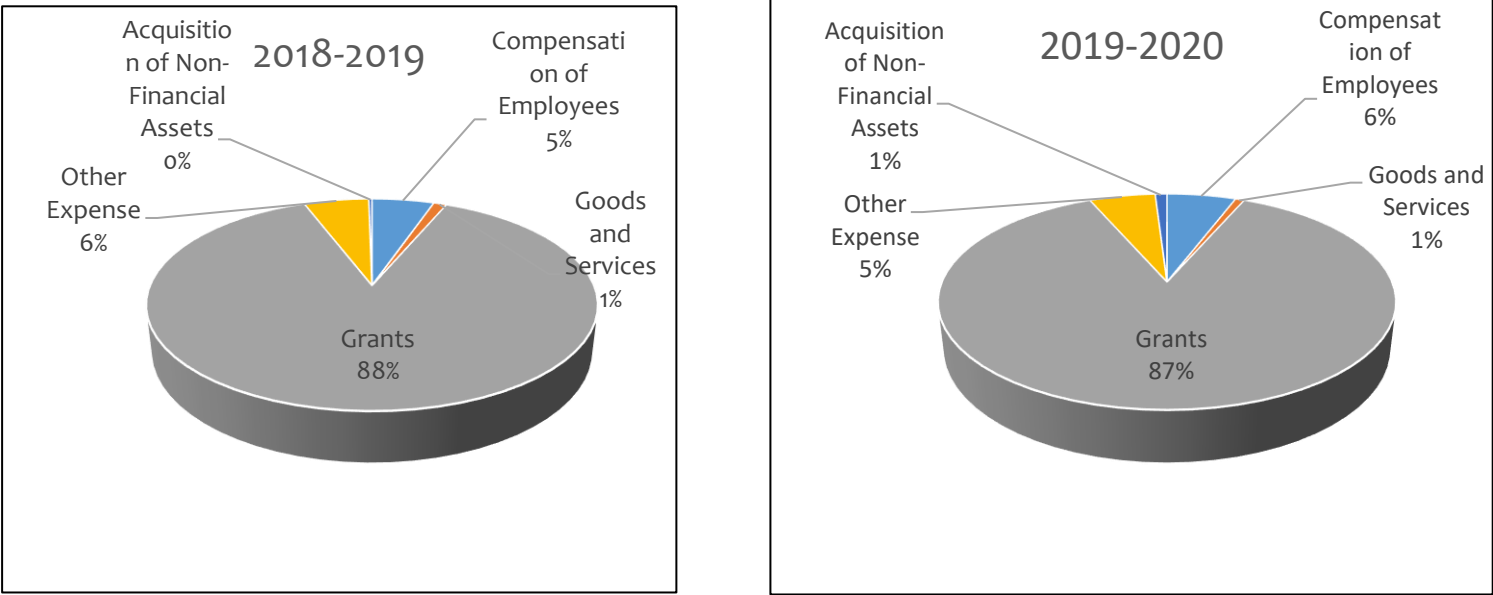


Figure 5 below show budget appropriation under vote item 5-4 (Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities) for year 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.



3.2 Statements of Revenue and Expenditure

Statement of Expenditure

5- 301 – GENERAL

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2018-19 ACTUAL (Rs M)	2019-2020 ESTIMATES (Rs M)	2019-2020 ACTUAL (Rs M)
Allowance to Minister	-	1.5	1.5
Compensation of Employees	47.7	51.0	48.6
Goods and Services	28.1	35.5	28.0
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	3.7	3.9	3.3
Total	79.5	91.9	81.4

5- 302 - WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2018-19 ACTUAL (Rs M)	2019-2020 ESTIMATES (Rs M)	2019-2020 ACTUAL (Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	18.6	21.9	19.2
Goods and Services	19.2	28.7	15.7
Grants	99.0	103.0	101.7
Other Expense – Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions	3.5	2.6	1.8
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	8.6	21.3	5.9
Total	148.9	177.5	144.3

5-303 - CHILD PROTECTION, WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2018-19 ACTUAL (Rs M)	2019-2020 ESTIMATES (Rs M)	2019-2020 ACTUAL (Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	38.9	45.3	42.2
Goods and Services	34.2	36.9	23.5
Grants	27.2	37.5	37.5
Social Benefits	4.2	8.0	5.1
Other Expense	26.3	-	-
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	5.8	23.3	3.9
Total	136.6	151.0	112.2

5-304 - FAMILY WELFARE AND PROTECTION FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2018-19 ACTUAL (Rs M)	2019/2020 ESTIMATES (Rs M)	2019-20 ACTUAL (Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	25.4	29.2	25.1
Goods and Services	12.7	20.8	7.5
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	0.5	0.7	0.5
Total	38.6	50.7	33.1

**5-4 - SOCIAL WELFARE AND
COMMUNITY BASED-ACTIVITIES**

HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2018-19	2019-2020	2019-2020
	ACTUAL	ESTIMATES	ACTUAL
	(Rs M)	(Rs M)	(Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	19.2	22.4	21.0
Goods and Services	4.0	4.6	2.7
Grants	318.0	314.0	314.0
Other Expense	20.1	27.0	20.1
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	1.0	8.0	3.6
Total	362.3	376.0	361.4

PART IV: WAY FORWARD

4.1 Trends and challenges

In line 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 line with 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 its policies and review and reinforce its programmes, projects and activities.
- 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

Moreover, 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.
- 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, the Adoption Bill and the Gender Equality 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 System 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 and Rodrigues
- 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.
- Licensing of Residential Care Institutions as place of Safety
- Formulation of a new National Gender Policy (2020-2029)
- Formulation of a National Costed Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming.
- Preparation Work i.c.w the setting up of four (4) Gender Technical Working Groups namely the private sector, the academia, the media and Civil Society Organisations, in terms of preparation of guidelines regarding their '*modus operandi*'.

Gallery Photos (Achievements 2019/ 2020)

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women



Launching meeting of the Setting up of the Observatory on Gender Based Violence



Legal training form Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies



Workshop on Bio-Farming at Camp Fouquereaux



Talent Show – Grand Port Savanne Region



Floral Arrangement Course at Quartier Militaire HERC

Hotlines of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

Family Counselling	119
Domestic Violence	139
Child Development Unit	113

Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare
7th Floor Newton Tower
Sir William Newton Street 11328
Port Louis
Mauritius