



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

**Ministry of Gender Equality
and Family Welfare**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

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MESSAGE OF THE HON. MINISTER



It is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare for the period July 2024 to June 2025. This Report covers a time of transition period following the general elections of November 2024 and reflects the fresh vision set by the *Alliance du Changement* Government.

The State of the Economy Report of December 2024 highlighted the difficult legacy we inherited — slower growth, rising debt, and weakening trade performance. In response, the Government launched the 2025–2029 programme, “Bridge to the Future,” a roadmap built on transparency, inclusiveness, and a new model of sustainable development.

With this national agenda, the Ministry has prioritized the protection of children, empowerment of women, strengthening of families, and to promote social inclusion. Between November 2024 and June 2025, we achieved important milestones:

- Expanding Family Support Services to Flacq and Goodlands, while engaging workplaces in gender based violence awareness campaigns.
- Advancing women’s empowerment through leadership initiatives, economic programmes, and gender mainstreaming across government.
- Supporting more than 280 children through rehabilitation and foster care placements.
- Extending psychological support to over 9,500 individuals and upgrading Social Welfare Centres to better serve local communities.

Looking ahead, Ministry’s **Action Plan 2025–2029: A New Horizon for Children, Gender Equality and Families** will steer our work in the upcoming years. Priorities will include reforming child protection services, creating more opportunities for women in entrepreneurship and vocational training, strengthening the licensing of care institutions, and establishing a Gender Information System to better guide policy and action.

This Annual Report marks the beginning of a new chapter. It reflects our determination to rebuild trust, deliver on the Government’s commitments, and ensure that no woman, child, or family is left behind as we move towards national renewal.

Hon (Mrs) Marie Arianne NAVARRE-MARIE
Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

MESSAGE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY



This Annual Report for the period July 2024 to June 2025 presents a comprehensive account of the programmes, services, and financial performance of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare.

As Accounting Officer, I have the responsibility to ensure that the Ministry's resources are managed with efficiency and effectiveness and in full compliance with the principles of public financial management. The year under review was marked by both the continuity in service delivery, and the need for rapid adaptation in the wake of the general elections of November 2024.

The Ministry remained focus on addressing cases of domestic violence and child abuse, while further strengthening support services through its 12 Family Support Service outstations, as well as through child rehabilitation and outreach programmes. These efforts have contributed to safeguarding vulnerable children, promoting family welfare and fostering a culture of care and protection across society. Our Psychological Services continued to provide vital interventions to victims and their families. Social Welfare Centres recorded more than a quarter of a million visits, confirming their importance as community anchors.

The Ministry also maintained its commitment to good governance. Monitoring systems were strengthened to track the implementation of budget measures and to address recommendations of the Director of Audit. Procurement and licensing procedures were streamlined to reinforce compliance with statutory obligations, particularly under the Children's Act and related regulations.

Importantly, this year also laid the foundation for future reforms. The **Action Plan 2025–2029: A New Horizon for Children, Gender Equality and Families**, provides a clear framework to guide implementation. Priority will be given to strengthening service delivery through the 12 Family Support Services, which serve as *guichet unique* for families and children in need of protection; developing harmonised data systems; professionalising residential care institutions; and ensuring timely compliance with international treaty reporting obligations.

The achievements of the past year are attributable to the dedication of the Ministry's staff, who continued to deliver under challenging circumstances. I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable support of our parastatal bodies, partner ministries, and civil society organisations.

The Ministry remains firmly committed to transparency, accountability, and quality service delivery, ensuring that resources are channeled towards the protection of children, the empowerment of women, and the strengthening of families.

J.D.P. Labonne
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare

PART 1: ABOUT THE MINISTRY

1.1 ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare is responsible for the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes to promote women empowerment, child development as well as welfare of the community.

The main objectives of the Ministry are:

- promote and defend children and women's rights as human rights within the Republic.
- work for the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against children (0-18 years) to promote their safety and security;
- promote the development and welfare of children from the very tender age in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC);
- promote family welfare and combat Gender-Based Violence;
- work for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and promote equality between men and women;
- implement gender-sensitive macroeconomic policies and strategies, including those related to poverty alleviation.
- promote the welfare and empowerment of citizens through community-based programmes for an inclusive society.

1.2: MISSION AND VISION

MISSION:

We undertake to design and implement policies and programmes geared towards promoting gender equality and equity, protecting the rights of children and enhancing their overall development and promoting the welfare of families.

VISION:

Our vision is to have a society free from violence and discrimination based on sex, where the fundamental rights of our citizens including children are respected and where human values within the family and the civil society are cherished.

1.3 KEY LEGISLATIONS AND REGULATIONS UNDER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINISTRY

1. THE CHILDREN'S ACT 2020
2. THE CHILDREN'S COURT ACT 2020
3. THE CHILD SEX OFFENDER REGISTER ACT 2020
4. THE RESIDENTIAL CARE INSTITUTION FOR CHILDREN REGULATIONS 2022
5. THE CHILD (FOSTER) CARE REGULATIONS 2022
6. THE CHILD (FOSTER CARE) (AMENDMENT)REGULATIONS 2024
7. THE CHILD DAY CARE CENTRES REGULATIONS 2022
8. THE PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT 1997, *Subsequently amended in 2004, 2007, 2011 and 2016*
9. THE SOCIAL WELFARE CENTRES ACT 1961
10. THE SUGAR INDUSTRY LABOUR WELFARE FUND ACT 1974
11. THE NATIONAL ADOPTION COUNCIL ACT 1988
12. THE NATIONAL WOMWN ENTREPRENEUR COUNCIL ACT 1999
13. THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL ACT 2016
14. THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S COUNCIL ACT 2003
15. THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON THE CIVIL ASPECTS OF INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION ACT 2000

**THIS MINISTRY COMPRISES EIGHT MAIN TECHNICAL UNITS
NAMELY:**

- 1. Planning and Research Unit**
- 2. Gender Unit**
- 3. Family Welfare and Protection Unit**
- 4. Child Development Unit**
- 5. Home Economics Unit**
- 6. Social Welfare Division**
- 7. Adoption Unit**
- 8. Psychological Services**

1.4: UNITS OF THE MINISTRY

1.4.1: PLANNING AND RESEARCH UNIT

Established in 1989, the Planning and Research Unit (PRU) serves as a key coordination and support body within the Ministry. It provides strategic and technical assistance to all units and affiliated parastatal organizations operating under the Ministry's purview.

The PRU plays a central role in the formulation of policies, programmes, projects, action plans, and reports related to women's empowerment, child development, family welfare, social welfare, and community development. It is also tasked with developing and maintaining baseline data on women, families, and children in critical sectors such as health, education, and employment.

A flagship publication of the PRU is the annual report titled "*Statistics in Mauritius – A Gender Approach*," which is widely disseminated to inform evidence-based policymaking among stakeholders.

In addition, the Unit acts as a vital liaison between the Ministry, other government institutions, and non-state actors on matters of shared concern, ensuring cohesive and informed responses to pressing social development issues.

Licensing and Enforcement Section

The Licensing and Enforcement Section is responsible for ensuring that all institutions and facilities falling under its mandate operate in full compliance with established legal and regulatory frameworks. Its core responsibilities include:

- i. **Residential Care Institutions** – Monitoring and ensuring that Residential Care Institutions, where children who are victims of violence are placed, adhere to prescribed norms and standards to provide a safe, nurturing, and consistent continuum of care.
- ii. **Child Day Care Centres** – Ensuring that Child Day Care Centres comply with the requirements set forth in the **Child Day Care Centres Regulations 2022**, enacted under the **Children's Act 2020**, thereby promoting a secure and developmentally appropriate environment for children.

Through regular inspections, compliance monitoring, and enforcement actions, the Section plays a critical role in upholding the rights and welfare of children in institutional and day care settings.

1.4.2: GENDER UNIT

The Gender Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare in Mauritius functions as the national machinery responsible for promoting gender equality and mainstreaming gender perspectives across all government ministries and sectors.

It plays a central role in developing policies, coordinating implementation, and monitoring progress to eliminate gender discrimination and promote equal opportunities. One of its flagship initiatives is the National Gender Policy 2022–2030, launched in March 2022, which provides a comprehensive strategic framework guiding gender mainstreaming efforts across diverse sectors

To operationalize its mandate, the Gender Unit has established several institutional structures. These include 48 Gender Cells embedded within ministries to ensure continuous gender-sensitive programming, as well as a National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming and an Inter-Ministerial Gender Technical Working Committee that facilitate coordination and policy coherence. The unit also oversees gender-responsive budgeting, allocating an annual amount of Rs 200,000 to each ministry to implement gender-related initiatives, thereby encouraging ministries to prioritize gender equality in their programs.

Capacity building is another critical focus of the Gender Unit whereby public officers are trained on gender concepts and mainstreaming techniques, enhancing their ability to incorporate gender considerations in policy formulation and service delivery. The unit also actively collaborates with international partners which strengthens the institutional capacity of the government to address gender issues effectively.

The Gender Unit conducts extensive outreach and awareness programs targeting key social challenges like gender-based violence, digital literacy for women, reproductive health, economic empowerment and climate change impacts.

In addition to its government functions, the Gender Unit supports and coordinates with important parastatal bodies:

The National Women’s Council, established in 1985, comprises affiliated associations and works to promote gender and development principles in communities.

The National Women Entrepreneur Council, founded in 1999, supports women entrepreneurs,

implements national strategies for women's entrepreneurship, and serves as the country's chapter of the COMESA Federation of Women in Business.

The Gender Unit operates through a network of eight (8) Women Empowerment Centres and one (1) Wellness Centre for Women strategically located across the island, which provide an appropriate and exclusive environment, relevant to the needs of women, where they can come together to gain confidence; develop skills; participate in training; get support; organise group meetings, activities and access other services.

Women Empowerment Centres	1.	Paillotte
	2.	Rose- Hill
	3.	Flacq
	4.	Dagotièr
	5.	Lallmatie
	6.	Riche Lieu
	7.	Camp Laboue
	8.	Baie du Tombeau
Women Wellness Centre	Floreal Women Wellness Centre	

The Gender Unit also works in close collaboration with the National Women's Council and the National Women Entrepreneur Council to ensure the social, economic and political empowerment of women.

In December 2023, the Gender Unit had initiated a project called the 'HeForShe club', which has been implemented in 25 Community Centres across the island. The project aimed at bringing about male peer groups for reflection and taking collective action for accelerated behavioural change. It had a team leader as CHAMPION for gender equality and other voluntary male members who worked in alliance with other ambitious leaders in different sectors across Government (Gender Focal Points, Parastatals, non- state actors, Academia amongst others) to make gender equality a reality.

1.4.3: CHILD DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Child Development Unit (CDU) is mandated to uphold and promote the survival, protection, development, and participation rights of children, in strict accordance with the **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** and the **African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child**.

Recognizing the State's obligation to safeguard children's welfare, the CDU assumes a parental role whenever biological parents are unable or fail to fulfill their responsibilities. The Unit acts as a guardian to ensure that every child's rights and well-being are protected.

Given that any child may be vulnerable to violence or abuse, the CDU is tasked with timely intervention. It provides a comprehensive range of services aimed at delivering immediate assistance and sustained follow-up care to support the child's recovery and development.

Child Protective Services (CPS):

Child Protective Services (CPS) delivers specialized, multidisciplinary support through a child-friendly, one-stop-shop system. A dedicated team of professionals collaborates to address the immediate and complex needs of children who have been victims of abuse.

To ensure accessibility and proximity of services, the CPS operates through a network of **ten (10)** strategically located outstations. This network enables timely intervention, providing immediate assistance, protection, and ongoing follow-up to children affected by violence and abuse, including cases of sexual abuse.

Through this integrated approach, CPS strives to safeguard the welfare and rights of vulnerable children while promoting their recovery and well-being.

Services offered by the CDU	1.	Child Protectives Services
	2.	Child Rehabilitative Services
	3.	Back to Home Programme
	4.	Rebonding Section
	5.	Foster Care Programme
	6.	Child Mentoring Programme
	7.	Child Abduction Section
	8.	Community Child Protection Programme
	9.	Parental Empowerment Programme

Child Protectives Services across the Island	1.	FLACQ
	2.	GOODLANDS
	3.	TRIOLET
	4.	PORT- LOUIS
	5.	BAMBOUS
	6.	ROSE- HILL
	7.	VACOAS
	8.	MOKA
	9.	PLAINE- MAGNIEN
	10.	SOUILLAC

1.4.4: FAMILY WELFARE AND PROTECTION UNIT

The **Family Welfare and Protection Unit (FWPU)** provides a wide range of services aimed at supporting victims of **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** and promote the family well-being. Its core mission is to ensure safety, empowerment, and recovery for individuals and families affected by violence.

Key Services Offered:

- **Counselling and psycho-social support**
- **Legal advice and guidance**
- **Assistance with temporary accommodation** for victims
- **24/7 Hotline (139)** offering immediate support and referrals

Through its **8 Family Support Services (FSS)** centres strategically located across the island, FWPU ensures proximity and access to essential services:

S/N	FSS Location
1	Rose-Hill
2	Abercrombie
3	Port-Louis
4	Souillac
5	Bambous
6	Phoenix
7	Flacq
8	Goodlands

LESPWAR Mobile Application

Launched on **25 November 2020**, the **LESPWAR mobile application** is a digital tool designed to strengthen the national response to GBV. It enhances victim safety through technology-driven, rapid-access services.

App Features:

- **Emergency Response via Geolocation**

Direct alerts to police with real-time location tracking for immediate intervention.

- **Information & Support Platform**

Provides victims with access to support services, legal information, and psychosocial resources to ensure they feel protected, heard, and supported.

"LESPWAR" represents hope and resilience, empowering victims through quick, discreet, and effective access to help.

1.4.5: HOME ECONOMICS UNIT

The Home Economics Unit is committed to promoting both social and economic empowerment for women and the community through capacity building programs and community-based projects implemented throughout the island.

As professional in the field of Home Economics, it is believed that true development stems from the empowerment of both women and men. This is achieved not only through formal education but also through training in areas such as:

- Daily life management
- Food and Nutrition
- Family resource management
- Childcare and elder care
- Climate change and
- Consumerism

Our aim is to equip individuals and families with the knowledge and skills needed to improve their quality of life. Through Home Economics Extension Services, we promote food security, sustainable production and consumption at household level. To this end, the unit has launched initiatives such as:

- Food waste reduction campaigns.
- Training to women through Agricultural Women clubs in backyard and pesticide free gardening for own consumption or as income generating activities.
- Promotion of home-based income-generating activities through enterprise development programmes and organization of regional fairs.
- Impact of climate change on families.

Our Commitment is to empower individuals and families by enhancing self-reliance and promoting sustainable living.

The Unit operates through three Home Economics Resource Centres and one Production centre. The Plaine des Papayes Production centre is equipped with semi industrial equipment and can be used for production purposes, free of charge.

Home Economics Resource Centres	Production Centre
Quartier Militaire	Plaines des Papayes
Phoenix	
Plaine Magnien	

1.4.6: PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

The Psychological Services is committed to delivering high-quality psychological support to victims of violence, while simultaneously engaging with perpetrators of domestic violence to promote positive behavioral change.

Additionally, the Unit operates a dedicated Victim/Witness Support Service within the Children's Court, providing comprehensive pre-trial and post-trial assistance to children involved in the criminal justice system. This service aims to alleviate anxiety, enhance psychological and emotional stability, and improve the competency of child witnesses during trial proceedings.

In accordance with Section 66 of the Children's Act 2020, the Unit has initiated the implementation of the Guardian Ad Litem Programme. This initiative ensures that the child's voice is actively represented in all court decisions affecting them, and that their best interests are robustly advocated for throughout judicial processes.

1.4.7: SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION

Social Welfare Centres were set up under the Social Welfare Centres Act 1961 with the objectives 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 this Ministry since January 2017. It manages a network of 56 Social Welfare Centres scattered across the island. The centres are mostly located in rural areas to provide proximity service and serve all age-groups in local communities including children, youth, women, men, senior citizens and persons with disabilities, amongst others.

The main axes of intervention of a Social Welfare Centre are:

- (a) Sensitization Campaigns through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes;
- (b) Capacity building and skills development programmes;
- (c) Sports, leisure and recreational activities;
- (d) Community Services; and
- (e) Marking National and International days.

Social Welfare Centres are used by other Ministries and agencies for their outreach programmes/services.

Social Welfare Centres serve as a meeting point for members of the community and clubs/associations/organisations of the respective locality.

Presently, 45 out of the 56 Social Welfare Centres are also used as **Evacuee Centres** in times of need like cyclone and natural calamities.

Furthermore, the Division has under its responsibility the Dressmaking section which is responsible for the empowerment of women through skills development courses at Social Welfare Centres, Community Centres and Elderly Day Care Centres

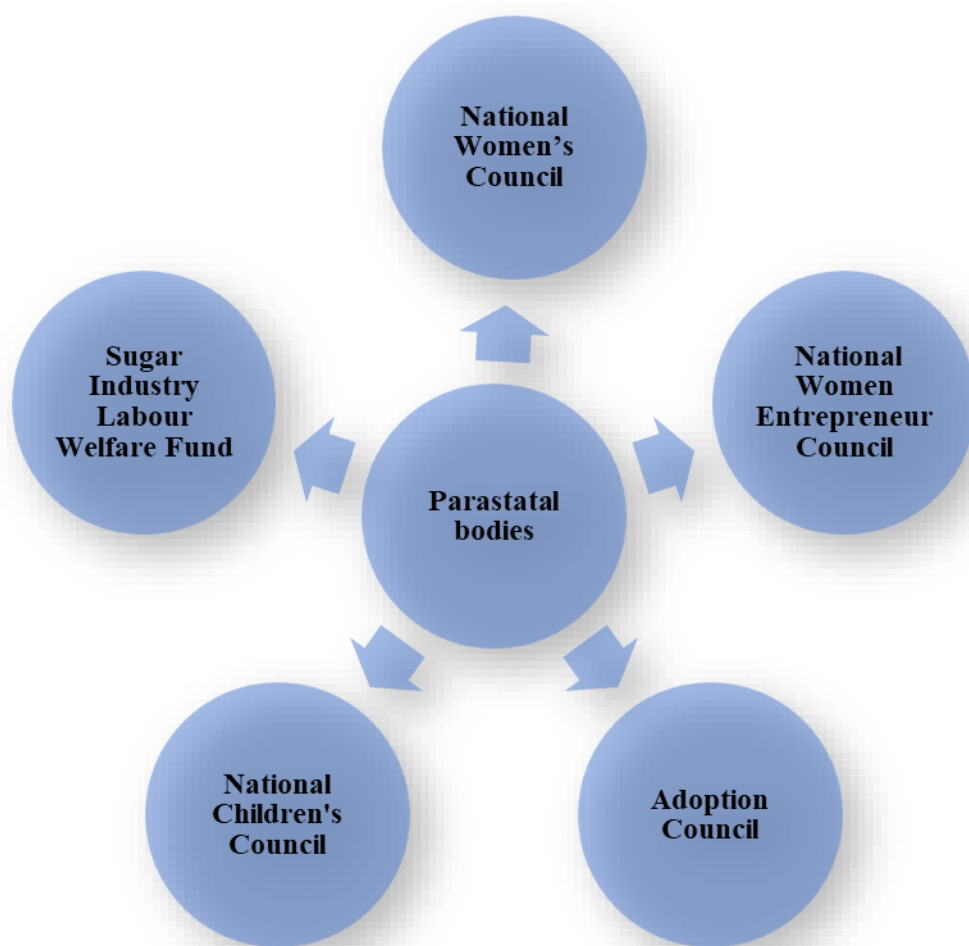
1.4.8: ADOPTION UNIT

Mauritius is party to the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (known as the 1993 Hague Convention) since 1998. The Adoption Unit within the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare is the Central Authority for Mauritius under the Convention. The Adoption Unit acts as the focal point in the adoption of children from foreign countries. It also handles cases of legitimation of children having foreign nationalities and residing in Mauritius. The Adoption Unit is designated to deal with inter-country adoptions, Mauritius as receiving country, in accordance with the provisions of The Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption 1993.

A fundamental principle guiding the Adoption Unit is to ensure that inter-country adoptions are conducted under conditions that uphold the highest standards of ethical practice, safeguard the best interests of the child, and eliminate the risk of abuse or exploitation.

1.5: PARASTATAL BODIES

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



Each Parastatal Bodies with its specific objectives focus on women's empowerment, children's welfare and adoption processes.

The Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund (SILWF) engages in community-based programmes and manages amenities for pilgrims and Evacuee Centres

1.6: GENDER STATEMENT

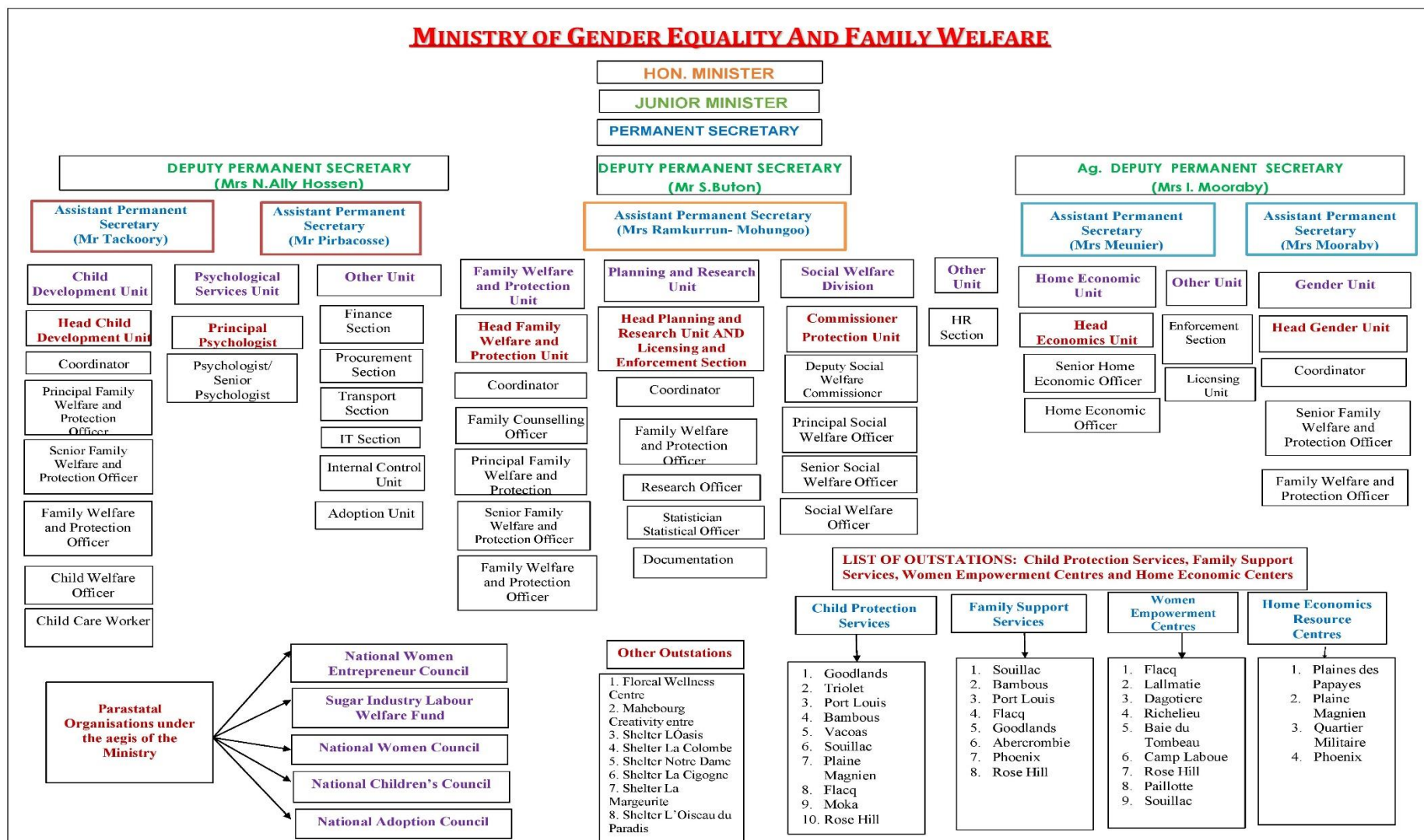
Over the years, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, as the National Gender Machinery, has adopted a human rights-based perspective associated with diversity and inclusion, where men, women, girls and boys have the same opportunities and rights to access and participate in the socio-economic and political development processes. Achieving gender equality and women empowerment is at the core of the county's gender transformative agenda. Great strides have been recorded in integrating gender equality in all sectors. This has been enabled through progressive legal and policy frameworks, that the MGEFW continues to champion. Despite the success made, there have been barriers identified that hinder full achievement of gender equality.

Mauritius is signatory to various International and Regional Human Rights Instruments that promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, such as the Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; the Beijing Platform for Action; the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, Goal 5.

Gender Equality and the empowerment of all women and girls are key drivers in advancing sustainable development; the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare remains committed to realisation of gender equity and the integration of a gender perspective in its policies, programmes, projects, and service delivery as well as across all sectors to ensure an all-inclusive society, where no one is left behind.

In light of same, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare will continue to provide supportive efforts to mainstream gender in all planned actions in the public sector, further, this will be rolled out to the non-state actors, namely, Private Sectors, Media, Academia, Civil Society's Organisations and Faith- Based Organisations.

1.7: ABOUT OUR PEOPLE



PART II: ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 Major Achievements (JULY 2024- JUNE 2025)

Unit	Achievements
Planning and Research Unit	- The 'Statistics in Mauritius: A Gender Approach Report 2023', issued in June 2025, examines gender-related trends and developments throughout the year 2023. - collaborated with the Ministry of Public Service and Administrative Reforms to produce a video clip on the services of the Public Service including the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare. The video was broadcast on 23 June 2025 by the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation to mark the United Nations Public Service Day."
Gender Unit	- By April 2025, 58% of the National Gender Policy's recommendations had been enacted. 1,270 public officers were trained in gender mainstreaming, supported by workshops to enhance policy implementation and internal Ministry capacity. - The Unit also engaged in international partnerships, benefiting from European Union technical assistance and a UNDP project to promote women's leadership in public institutions.
Family Welfare and Protection Unit	1. Expansion of Family Support Services - All Family Support Bureau (8) converted to Family Support Services with a view to enhancing support for families affected by gender-based violence. 2. Community Engagement Programmes - Intergenerational Relationship Programme: Conducted from March to June 2025 across 7 regions, reaching 359 participants. - Men as Caring Partners Programme: Held in April and May 2025 across 10 regions, with participation of 309 men. - Interfaith Forum Campaigns: Carried out from February to May 2025 in 20 regions, reaching 934 individuals through 35 campaigns. 3. Workplace GBV Awareness 13 Ministries and 5 private companies engaged in awareness campaigns on gender-based violence in the workplace (July 2024 – June 2025). 4. Economic Empowerment for Survivors 16 GBV survivors trained in Basic Hairdressing Techniques under the Economic Empowerment Programme (Sept – Dec 2024). 5. Climate Change and Family 382 Community Leaders trained on the impact of climate change on families (July 2024 – June 2025). 428 participants attended awareness sessions on climate change (Oct 2024 – June 2025).

	6. International Day of Families – 2025 A Family Fun Day was organised on Sunday, 01 June 2025 at SSR Botanical Garden, Pamplémousses under the theme: <i>“Fami: Nou Rasinn, Nou Lafors, Nou Lavenir”</i> (Family: Our Roots, Our Strength, Our Future)
Child Development Unit	283 children benefitted from rehabilitative services and were successfully reintegrated into mainstream society. 29 children were placed in foster families, ensuring their care, protection, and holistic development in a nurturing environment
Psychological Services Unit	From July 2024 to June 2025, Psychologists attended to a total of 10, 601 cases, providing essential psychological support and interventions to individuals in need.
Social Welfare Division	1. Community Outreach and Beneficiary Support - A total of 253,927 individuals benefitted from various programmes and services offered through Social Welfare Centres (SWCs) exceeding the targeted figure. 137,044 Males 116,883 Females 2. Infrastructure Development & Upgrades - Conversion of Volleyball Pitch into Mini-Soccer Pitch at Bel-Air and Amaury (<i>Bel-Air completed and at Amaury development started as at April 2025</i>) - Waterproofing Works at Grand Sable & Wooton SWCs. - Upgrade of SWCs used as Evacuee Centres: Installation of water tanks, pump, generator, fire alarm system, and sanitary facilities: Completed: <i>Bambous & Roche Bois SWCs</i> Ongoing: <i>Rose Belle, Riviere du Rempart, Petite Riviere, Grand Bois, La Chaux SWCs</i>
Child Adoption Unit	For the 2024/2025 period, 2 children were successfully adopted from India. As of the reporting date, approval to adopt a foreign child has been granted by the Prime Minister to 2 individuals and 8 couples, reflecting continued progress in facilitating family-based care for children in need.
Home Economics	- During the year under review, a total of 22 projects were implemented across various target groups, addressing diverse needs and priorities. - Through capacity-building programmes, 1,906 individuals were empowered with knowledge and skills. - In addition, 3,385 participants benefitted from activities such as Regional Fairs, Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP), World Home Economics Day, Family Day, and jury sessions for culinary competitions.

2.2 STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET MEASURES

Reporting Period: July 2024 to June 2025

MONITORING OF BUDGET MEASURES 2023-2024 (Infrastructure)				
Project ID	Project Title	Status Update/ Remarks	Impact/Key Performance Indicator	Target Impl. Date
PRJ0001906	Revamping of Community Centres into Community Wellness Centres - Riviere du Rempart, Moka and at St Aubin	The construction of Gokhoolah Wellness Centre completed. The construction of Wellness Centres at St. Aubin and St. Pierre are on hold in line with advice of Ministry of Finance tendered in October 2024.	Improved physical, mental, and emotional health of the local population. Strengthened community ties and increased civic participation.	Revised completion date is 30 Jun 2026

MONITORING OF BUDGET MEASURES 2023-2024 (Non-Infrastructure)				
Project ID	Project Title	Status Update/ Remarks	Impact/Key Performance Indicator	Target Impl. Date
PRJ0003253	FY23/24 - 268 - National Adoption Bill will be introduced to provide a legal framework for both local and foreign	Meeting with the AGO on policy issues of the Child Adoption Bill is still ongoing. There was a meeting on 25 June 2025 at the AGO where further policy decision has to be taken. The matter will be taken at the level of the Ministry for a reply to be made to AGO.		

MONITORING OF BUDGET MEASURES 2023-2024 (Non-Infrastructure)				
Project ID	Project Title	Status Update/ Remarks	Impact/Key Performance Indicator	Target Impl. Date
PRJ0003254	FY23/24 - 269 - To promote women entrepreneurship at the grassroot level, some 50 women will be provided	Training in Costing, Pricing and Budgeting, Marketing and ICT have been completed.		
PRJ0005713	413 - Launching Survivor Support Scheme with a one-off financial assistance of Rs 5,000 to help victims	Awaiting another decision on the scheme.		

STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY ACTIONS FY 2024/2025

Outcome		Outcome Indicator	Target 2024/25	Achievement as at 30 June 2025	Remarks
(i) A more gender inclusive society (ii) Provision for better care, protection and assistance to children (iii) Socially cohesive society through family focused policies		Percentage of reported GBV victims provided with required assistance	100%	100%	All clients attending the Family Support Services are provided with all the services requested.
		Number of child victims rehabilitated	90	131	Rehabilitation services were provided to all child victims placed in shelters
Delivery Unit	Main Service	Key Performance Indicator	Target 2024/25	Achievement as at 30 June 2025	Remarks
Gender Unit, Home Economics Unit & National Women's Council	Empowerment of women in the social and economic spheres	Implementation of National Gender Policy 2022-2030 Action Plan	60%	58%	1.Setting up a National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming completed; 2. Setting up of Inter-Ministerial Gender Technical Working Group-completed; 3.Reinforcement of Gender Cells-Ongoing (45% completed); 4. Development for Action for Public Sector-25% 5.Sectoral Gender Policies/Action

					Plan- (6 Ministries; 6.Setting up and launching of Gender Mainstreaming in Private Sectors, Academia, CSO- 15%; and 7. Replication of Gender Monitoring Mechanism in Rodrigues (Ongoing)
		Number of Women Empowerment Centres revamped into Wellness Centres	1	-	The Ministry had decided to open 2 Women Empowerment Centres instead of Revamping them into Wellness Centres. Richelieu Women Empowerment Centre reopened on 15 March 2025. Camp La Boue Women Empowerment Centre reopened on 08 March 2025.
		Number of participants attending Empowerment Programmes	44,000	51, 424	Gender Unit: 13542 National Women's Council: 31 844

					Home Economics Unit: 3278 National Women Entrepreneur Council: 2760
Child Development Unit	Implementation of Back-to-Home Programme	Number of children re-integrated into their biological families and next to kin (cumulative)	190	283	
	Extension of the Foster Care Programme	Number of children placed in foster care families	25	29	The modus operandi of the Foster Care Division has been reviewed/revamped. There has subsequently been an increase in the output capacity of the Foster Care Division.
National Children's Council	Implementation of Programmes for development and protection of children/teenagers	Number of children/teenagers benefiting from the Programmes	6,500	13, 401	
	Parental Training Programme to enhance parent-child relationship.	Number of parents trained	125	120	
Social Welfare Division and Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund	Community Development Programmes at the Social Welfare Centres and Community Centres	Number of beneficiaries of Welfare and Empowerment Programmes	425,000	752, 427	SWD: 253, 927 SILWF: 498, 500

2.3 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 for year 2024-2025:

Chairperson	Deputy Permanent Secretary, Mr Kumardut Puddo
Members	Assistant Permanent Secretary: Mr Ashley N Tackoory
	Coordinator, Mr. Pooshan Boojharut, Mrs Ah Nien-Kotadoo, Mrs N Seereekissoon
Secretary	OMA, Mr. M Bundhun

Meetings were held on 02 August 2024, 13 September 2024, 20 Feb 2025, 04 April 2025 and 28 April 2025 & 20 May 2025.

The duly signed Performance Contract has already been forwarded on 19 July 2024 to the Office of the Public Sector Governance for financial year 2024/2025. The Status Report of the Audit Committee for the quarterly ended 30 June 2024 has already been submitted to the Office of the Public Sector Governance.

The ICAC (*now Financial Crimes Commission, FCC*) 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.

Strengthening Family Support and Child Protective Services

The family unit remains the cornerstone of Mauritian society. In recognition of its vital role in national development, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare continues to prioritize the **strengthening of family support systems and child protective services** as a means to foster safe, nurturing, and inclusive environments for all children and families.

1. Integrated Family Support Services

This Ministry has adopted a **holistic and preventive approach** to family welfare. Support programmes are designed to build family resilience and promote positive parenting practices. Key initiatives include:

- **Family Counselling Services**, delivered through regional offices.
- **Parenting Education Programmes**, including sessions on effective communication, conflict resolution, and emotional well-being
- **Support Groups for Single Parents, Grandparent Caregivers**, and families in distress
- **Public Education Campaigns** promoting family values, gender equality, and healthy relationships

These interventions aim to prevent family breakdown and reduce domestic conflict which empower families with the tools needed to provide safe and stable homes.

The Protection from Domestic Violence Act, as amended, is being reviewed and a Domestic Abuse Bill is currently in preparation, in light of recommendations made during broad consultations done on the 25 and 26 September 2024; Non-Government Organisations on 31 September 2024; and Rodrigues on 05 March 2025. The Bill is currently in the drafting stage at the level of the Attorney General's Office.

2. Enhancement of Child Protection Mechanisms

Protecting the rights and welfare of children is a national priority. This Ministry has strengthened its response systems through:

- **Timely Case Management and Intervention Services** via the Child Development Unit (CDU)
- **24/7 Child Helpline** (113), ensuring immediate response to cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation
- **Training and Capacity Building** for child protection officers.
- **Multi-sectoral collaboration** with law enforcement, education, justice, and health sectors for coordinated responses

Legislative frameworks such as the **Child Protection Act 2020 and Child Day Care Centres Regulation 2022** are being reviewed and updated to align with international standards, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3. Alternative Care and Rehabilitation Services

For children who cannot remain safely with their families, this Ministry ensures access to:

- **Foster Care and Residential Placement Services**
- **Rehabilitation and Psychosocial Support** for children in institutional care
- **Reintegration Programmes** to reunite children with families where appropriate and safe

Continuous monitoring and training of care providers are prioritized to uphold the **best interests of the child**.

4. Community Engagement and Advocacy

Empowering communities to take an active role in child protection is essential. This Ministry through the National Children's Council, Social Welfare Division and SILWF works in close partnership with:

- **Community-based organisations (CBOs)** and NGOs
- **Religious and Cultural Groups** to advocate against harmful practices and promote child-friendly environments
- **Schools and Youth Clubs** to raise awareness on children's rights, peer support, and protection from violence

Empowering the Community through Holistic Development

The Community Development Association convenes monthly to plan and coordinate initiatives that address the needs and aspirations of the local population. These initiatives are implemented through the **ECSER Programme**, a holistic framework encompassing **Educational, Cultural, Social, Economic, and Recreational** activities. These Programmes seek to uplift community members through knowledge-sharing, creativity, economic empowerment, social engagement, and healthy living.

1. Educational Initiatives

Educational activities form the cornerstone of our development strategy. These programmes aim to **empower, educate, and sensitize** residents on a wide range of pressing social issues including **drug abuse prevention, road safety awareness, environmental consciousness**, and the promotion of a **healthy lifestyle**. These efforts are focused on equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge to improve their lives and contribute meaningfully to the community.

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 Activities

Culture plays a vital role in strengthening community identity and fostering unity. The Association organized several cultural events designed to celebrate diversity, promote shared values, and encourage creative expression. 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, instrumental music, amongst others.

3. Social

Social activities form a vital pillar of the **ECSER Programme**, with a central focus on promoting **social cohesion, unity, peace, and mutual understanding** among members of the community. These initiatives aim to enhance the **well-being of all individuals**, particularly vulnerable groups, while fostering a spirit of **solidarity and active citizenship**.

Throughout the reporting year, the Community Centre has undertaken several key social initiatives designed to strengthen the social fabric and build a more resilient and caring community. Among the community and the activities include the following:

i. Welfare of Society

ii. Child Development and Protection

iii. Care of Senior Citizens

iv. Environmental Protection

v. Emergency Shelter and Disaster Preparedness

2.4 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN- DIRECTOR OF AUDIT COMMENTS

Matters Reported in Audit Report 2023-24

Sn	Findings	Recommendations	How were recommendations addressed?
1.Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities (Pages 471-475)			
1.1	Grant to SILWF - Grant application to the MGEFW lacked required Progress Reports, contrary to Financial Instructions No.2 of 2014 and MOFED Circular No.4 of 6 March 2024 - In 2023/24, Government disbursed a total of Rs 406 Million in grants to SILWF. The majority of the grant meant for community initiatives was spent on labour and administrative costs, with only Rs 11.3 million (3%) used for the community programme.	- The Ministry should ensure that all grant applications are supported by the relevant financial and non-financial documents per financial instructions and guidelines. - Specific Key Performance Indicators should be established to assess how effectively funds were utilized in fulfilling the mission of fostering community-based programmes for the welfare of the citizens.	Needful is being done since July 2025. Relevant documents would be provided in due course by SILWF The SILWF is a labor-intensive institution. In addition to Community based programme projects, the Fund manages Evacuee Centres used by vulnerable persons victims of natural disaster such as cyclones, floods, fire. Also, the Fund assists other Ministries and private organisations in their service delivery to cater for the welfare of the inhabitants. About 480,000 people benefits from those programmes and projects.
1.2	Overlapping Roles of SILWF and the Social Welfare Division(SWD) SWD and SILFW Community Centres had overlapping roles and activities, leading to duplication of services and inefficient use of financial resources	The SILFW and Social Welfare Centres (SWCs) activities should be demarcated.	Both, Social Welfare Centres and Community Centres have their respective clientele. Community Centres are located in remote and deprived areas whereas Social Welfare Centres cater for larger agglomeration. SWCs were created for a purpose that is still relevant. SWCs role is to enhance and promote social welfare in line with the mandate of the Ministry whereas CCs are involved in Community Development. SWCs are thus involved in social development in partnership with Social Welfare

			Committees, that is, working with all individuals. Gradual changes are being brought to infrastructural facilities to meet the needs of the community Furthermore, SWCs and CCs do not operate in the same locality. Efficient use of financial resources is assured by crediting of Grants to SWCs quarterly based on application received and upon scrutiny and approval of the Ministry. As such, a maximum of 60% of the grant goes for overhead expenses and the remaining 40% is used for community-based programmes The initially set objective of a SWC is still relevant. However, amendment needs to be brought to certain sections of the Act to match with today's reality and needs.
1.3	Government Social Welfare Centers Act 1961 and Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Act 1974 The SILFW Act and Social Welfare Act are outdated. Since the year 2020-21, Government has planned to review the SILFW Act 1974 with a new Family and Community Welfare Fund Act to better support family and community welfare	The SILFW Act 1974 and the Social Welfare Act 1960 should be reviewed, and the new objectives should be clearly defined.	A draft has already been worked out and submitted to the parent Ministry for consideration. The initially set objective of a SWC is still relevant. However, amendment needs to be brought to some sections of the Act to match with today's reality and needs.

1.4	Revamping of SILwF Community Centres into Community Wellness Centre More than 4 years have lapsed since the project was initiated, ye only one centre (Gokhoola) has been completed.	Proper monitoring of the SILFW Community Centers project should be ensured.	Only the Wellness Centre at Gokoolah is completed. A sum of Rs 5M has been earmarked in FY 2025-2026, arrangement has been made to procure equipment for the Wellness Centre.
	As per project plan submitted by SILFW, the construction of 2 Centres and the upgrading of 7 other Centres were scheduled for completion by December 2023. None of the projects had started in October 2024.		SILWF has been advised by the Ministry of Finance in letter dated 04/10/24 to put on hold the Revamping Project.

2. Upgrading of Shelter La Colombe

	Between 2018-19 and 2023-24, Rs 34.8 million was budgeted for upgrading Shelter La Colombe, but only RS 6.7 million was spent. As of October 2024, work remains incomplete with unresolved sanitary issued, and the shelter has been closed for over five years causing overcrowding in 11 of 20 other Residential Care Units.	The MGEFW should effect proper planning and monitoring of the renovation project	Site visits in April 2025 have been effected with MNI- Architect Section and the MNI has been requested to submit drawing of the new design of the Shelter prior to undertake the electrical and other works. Same is awaited and follow up is being carried out.
	An amount of Rs 4.2 million was spent on the relocation of children. Security costs totaled Rs 1.2 million until a contractor was hired in June 2024. Of the Rs 11.2 million budgeted for shelter upgrades in 2023-24, only Rs 104,000 was spent on minor repairs, while Rs 5.2 million was redirected to International Women's Day events.	Management needs to address the sanitary issued at Shelter La Colombe to facilitate its prompt reopening.	The new design would include a leaching field and new toilet blocks. Approval of the Permanent Secretary and the Ministry of Finance was obtained to effect a virement of Rs 5.2 M to vote and item 20-102 22900014 (b) - Gender/International Women's Day (Virement No. 11 of 28/03/2024 and Virement Warrant No. 48 of 2023/2024 refers) as savings had been identified under Vote and Item 20-103 31111407 Upgrading of Shelters for Children(b) -

			Renovation Works at Shelter La Colombe Pte aux Sables.
	On 13 APRIL 2023, the Ministry awarded the contract for the construction of new toilet blocks and a leaching field at Shelter La Colombe for Rs 16.2 million. However, the contract agreement could not be signed since the MNICD reported pricing irregularities in the BOQ. There has been a lack of adequate financial scrutiny at the evaluation stage.	When constituting a Bid Evaluation Committee, the Departmental Bid Committee should ensure that the selected evaluators have the required competence and expertise in line with Directive No. 51 of the Procurement Policy Office. For construction projects, the Bid Evaluation Committee should include a quantity Surveyor to assess cost estimates and verify the Bill of Quantities.	A Project Coordinator has been appointed to look into on-going projects and to ensure that officers with required necessary competencies and expertise are convened in the DBCs.
	Subsequently, a termination letter was issued to the contractor on 19 August 2024, a year after halting the contract signing process. On 28 August, the contractor submitted a claim amounting to Rs 3.2 million for costs incurred.		The contractor Sonalall and Sons Building Contractor Ltd was paid Rs 142,103.64 to settle its claim for compensation. As evaluated by MNI based on current legal implications.
3. Non-Registered Residential Care Institutions			
	- As of October 2024, 11 of the 22 shelters in operation were not registered under the RCIC Regulations 2022. Seven shelters lacked mandatory emergency plans, and 12 had not registered their caregivers and shelter managers, jeopardizing the safety and well-being of children. - Shelter L'Oiseau du Paradis, housing 26 children since December 2020, received Rs 2.9 million in 2023-24, but no MOU existed between the Ministry, NCC and the Shelter.	The Ministry should ensure that the Residential Care Institutions comply with the applicable laws and regulations.	The Ministry is taking into consideration the registration of shelters. Shelter L'Oiseau Du Paradis at Cap Malheureux is closed as at 05 June 2025 due renovation works.

4. Child Adoption Bill not Finalised

	As of November 2024, the Child Adoption Bill had not been finalised, preventing the Ministry from maintaining a register of adoptable children. None of the 389 children in 16 shelters were eligible for adoption under the existing law. Out of the 213 applications submitted from July 2021 to June 2024, only nine were finalized.	The Ministry should expedite the finalisation and enactment of the Child Adoption Law, which regulates all types of adoption in the best interests of the child.	The finalisation of the Bill requires close and frequent consultations with the AGO in order to address issues and emerging challenges. The Bill is being finalized.
	Private adoptions occur through the Supreme Court without Ministry oversight, post-adoption follow-up, or required National Adoption Council's authorization for non-citizens. There was no poor coordination between the Ministry and Judiciary, thus compromising the safeguards and best interests of the children.	Measures should be implemented to improve coordination between the Judiciary, the NAC, and the MGEFW to prevent non-compliance with adoption laws.	With the coming of the Child Adoption Act, the NAC would phase out because all adoptions would be centralised under a single Authority

5. Gender Based Violence

	In 2023-24, the Ministry used Rs 45.8 million of the Rs 54.5 million allocated for GBV initiatives. Recorded cases of violence were 6,506 in 2023-23 and 6,112 in 2023,24. These figures excluded cases reported at the Ministry of Health and Police. Details of cases on femicides were not available.	- The Ministry should act as a focal point and ensure a coordinated approach with all stakeholders of GBV. - The Ministry should create a single platform for recording GBV cases.	The Ministry has initiated actions towards setting up a Multi-Agency Technical Committee to better coordinate efforts to combat GBV. Approval has been obtained to seek views of stakeholders. TOR is being reworked and will be submitted to stakeholders for their views by end of September 2025. As regards the GBVIMS, technical expertise from the UNFPA was extended to this Ministry to undertake a feasibility survey in November 2023 and a Roadmap for developing the GBVIMS was submitted by the Consultant in May 2024.
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		The need for a shelter for male victims of domestic violence should be assessed.	Approval has been obtained to request technical and financial assistance from UN Women for the Project. In this respect an official correspondence, including the TOR been sent to Ministry of Foreign Affairs to transmit our request to UN Women. As regards male victims of GBV, FSS were consulted on the number of male victims who expressed their need to be admitted in a shelter for the period 2023- 2025. It is reported that no male victim has expressed their need to be admitted in a shelter.
	Male victims represent about 20 % of the total reported cases. There are no dedicated shelters for male victims. The Ministry lacked a comprehensive GBV database and meaningful performance indicators to track risks or assess programme effectiveness.	In the absence of Regulations for women's shelters, a memorandum of understanding could be signed with the shelters as a transitional measure.	The MoU has been transmitted to the AGO for vetting. Queries have been received from AGO on 12 September 2025 and reply to same is being processed.
	- In 2023-24, Rs 3.8 million was provided as capitation grants to two women's shelters, but there was no MOU in place to define the roles and responsibilities. As of October 2024, there were also no regulations for women's shelters. - The Domestic Abuse Bill remains unfinalised.	The Domestic Abuse Bill should be finalized after consultations with relevant stakeholders.	The Domestic Abuse Bill is at the drafting stage at the level of the AGO

6. Governance Issues: Non-compliance with Legislation

	Non-submission of Financial Statements for Audit - As of 31 December 2024, the following statutory bodies falling under the purview of MGEFW have not submitted their financial statements for audit: National Adoption Council, National Children's Council and National Women Entrepreneur Council - Annual reports not laid before the National Assembly - As of 31 December 2024, the annual reports of 2 statutory bodies had not yet been laid before the National Assembly- National Women Entrepreneur Council (FY 2022-23); National Women Council (FY 2020-21)	NAO is of the view that the Ministry should: - Exercise control over statutory bodies and other entities operating under its aegis to ensure that they comply with their statutory responsibilities regarding the preparation of financial statements and their submission for audit; - Lay a copy of the annual report and audited financial statements before the National Assembly.	Financial Statements 23/24 approved by the National Children Council Board on 23.12.24 and submitted to NAO on 30 Dec 2024. Audit has been completed by NAO for FY 23/24. Reply to management letter sent on 11 Sept 2025. The Financial Statements and Annual Report of the NWEF for the year 2022-2023 were submitted to the Parent Ministry on 17 October 2024 for circulation at the National Assembly. Same were sent to the National Assembly on 18 November 2024 as per Parent Ministry. The Financial Statements and Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024 were submitted to National Audit Office on 16 July 2025 for auditing purposes. The Financial Statements and Annual Report for the year 2024-2025 are in process. NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL The consolidated version of the audited report (Annual Report & Financial Statements) for the Financial Year 2020/2021 had been submitted to the Ministry on 24th February 2025 along with a soft copy on CD for necessary action.
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1. Child Day Care Centres -CDCC			
	Role of the Corporate and Business Registration Department (CBRD) and MGEFW CDCCs were still operating despite order to cease operation.	The Advisory Committee should be set up to oversee processes, standards, and strategies related to the implementation and development of CDCC.	Regulations are under review.
2. Risk Management Framework and Risk Register not yet finalised			
	As of 13 September 2023, a Risk Management Framework was not yet finalized and approved by the Accounting Officer.	Circular No.8 of 2021 issued by MoFEPD should be complied with, and the Risk Register should be implemented without delay.	The Risk Management Framework has already been finalized and approved by the Accounting Officer on 21 April 2025. The Risk Register is being processed and finalized.
3. Key Performance Indicators (KPI)			
	- Targets for “Back to Home”, “Foster Care”, and “Community Development” programmes were reduced for the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. The “Back to Home” program reintegrated fewer children, dropping from 210 to 162. The “Foster Care” target was reduced by 50%. - No explicit KPI was established regarding the implementation of family welfare and gender-based violence.	Targets should be monitored and reasons for non-achievement of goals should be analysed.	The “modus operandi” of the Back to Home Programme under the ex-Child Rehabilitation Services has been reviewed. 12 Family Support Services have been set up across the island with the responsibility to ensure that efforts are being made for children to re-integrate their family environment prior to seeking Placement Orders or Long Term Care Orders from the Children’s Court. A FSS (Care/ Rehab) has also been set up to explore other avenues for re-integration for children who are under long term care orders for placement in shelters <u>FOSTER CARE</u> A more accurate indicator, which clearly demonstrates the performance of the Foster Care Division, is the "number of matching exercises conducted".

			The modus operandi of the Foster Care Division has been reviewed/revamped. There has subsequently been a twelvefold increase in the output capacity of the Foster Care Division.
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Part III-Financial Performance

3.1 Financial Highlights

As per the budget Estimates, the Ministry has 2 votes under its control namely:

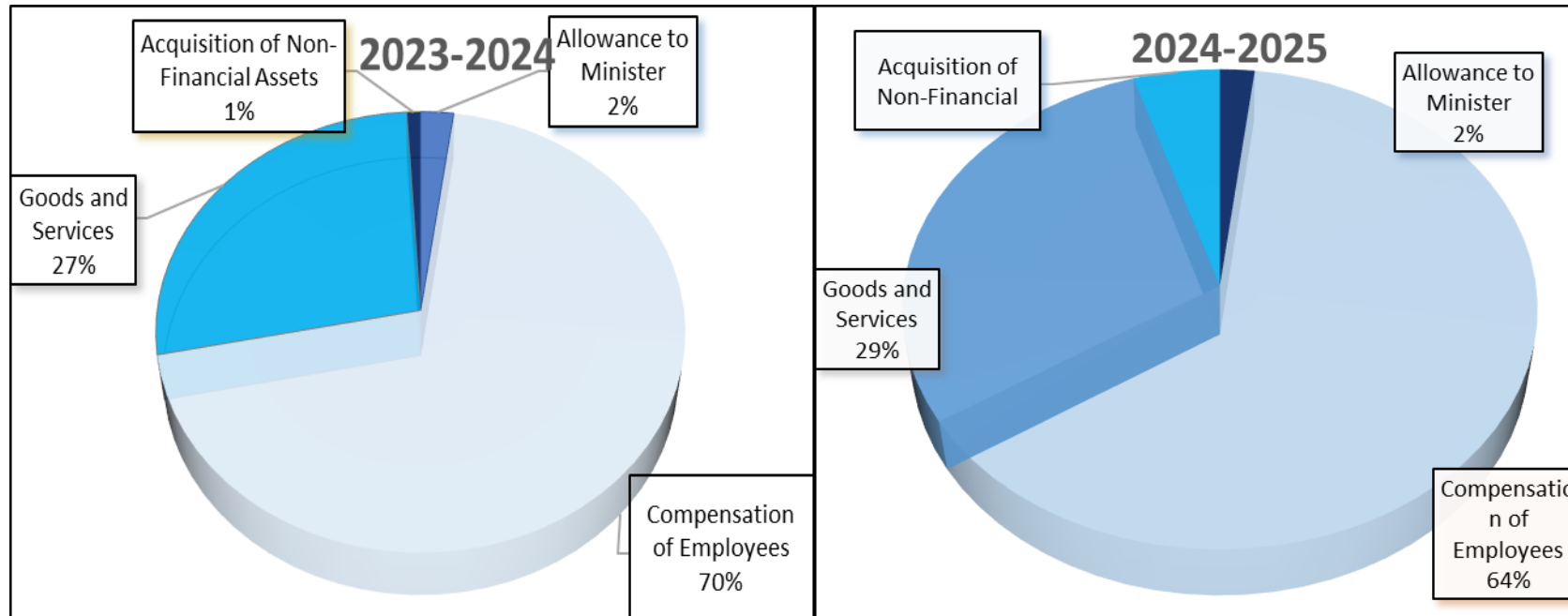
(1) 20-1: Gender Equality and Family welfare under which there are 4 Sub-Heads as below:

- • 20-101: General
- • 20-102: Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming
- • 20-103: Child Protection, Welfare and Development
- • 20-104: Family Welfare and Protection from Gender-Based Violence

(2) 20-2: Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities

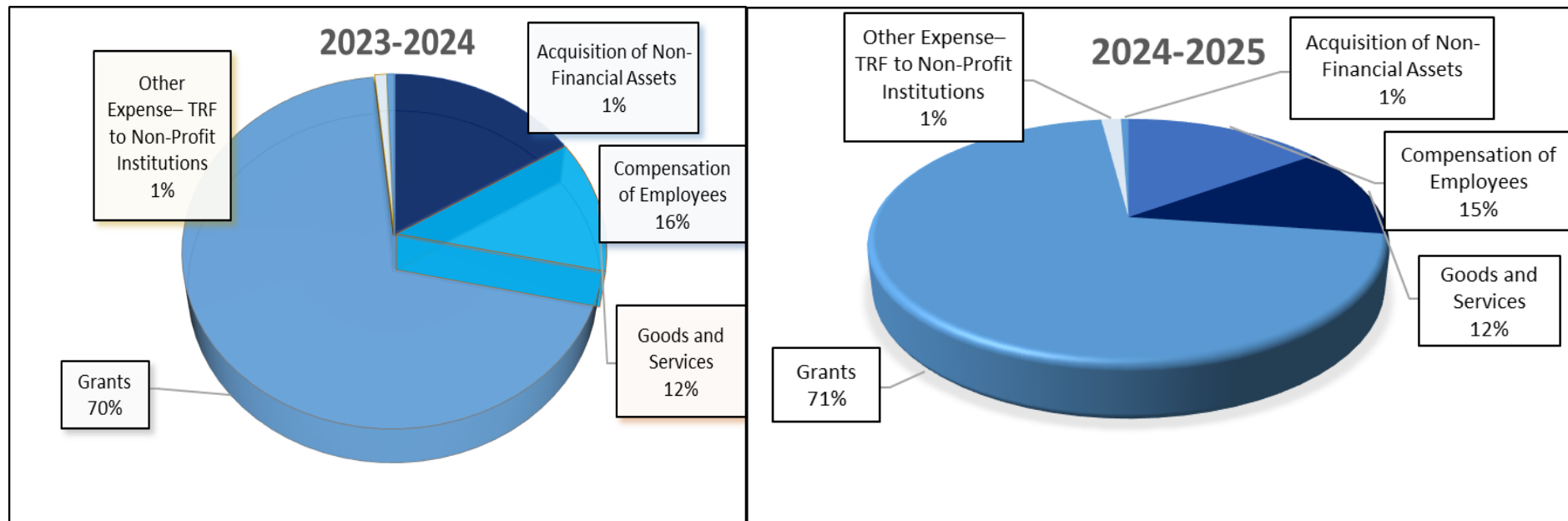
20- 101 – GENERAL

Figure 1 below shows budget proportion under vote item 20-101 (General) for the year 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.



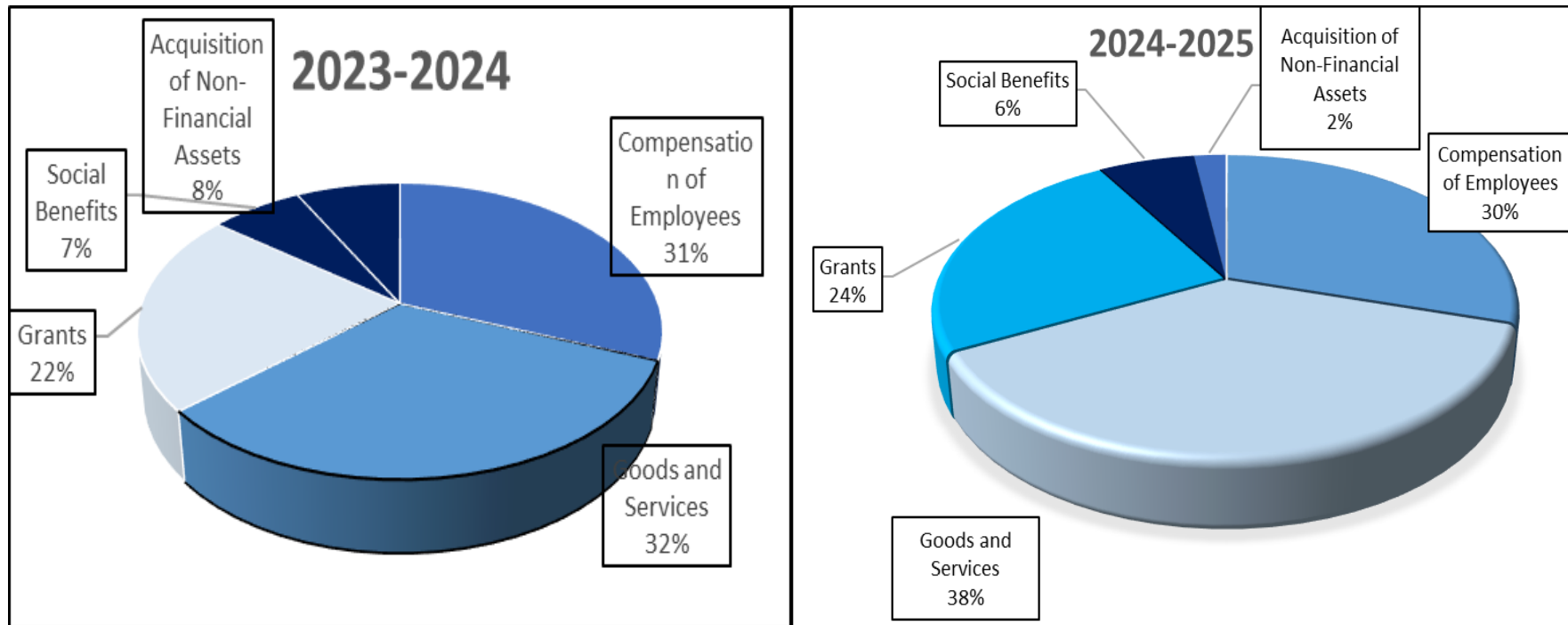
20- 102 – WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Figure 2 below shows budget proportion under vote item 20-102 (Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming) for the year 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.



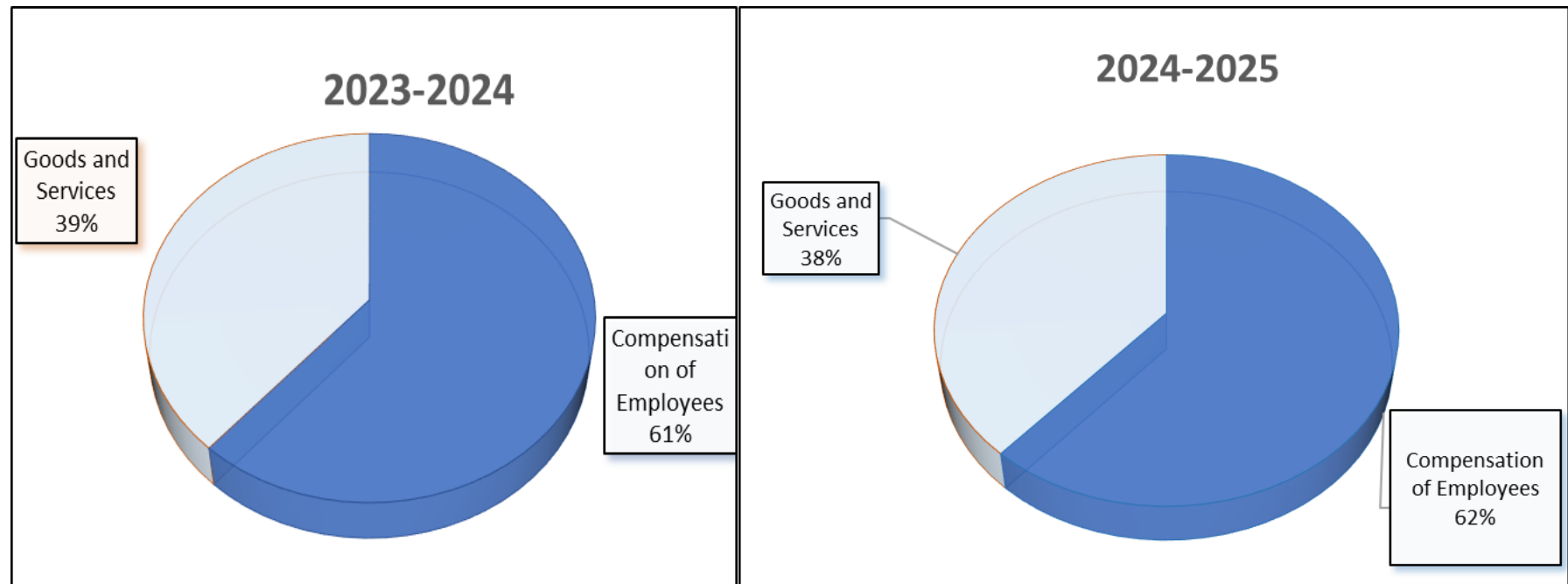
20-103 - CHILD PROTECTION, WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Figure 3 below shows budget proportion under vote item 20-103 (Child Protection, Welfare and Development) for the year 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.



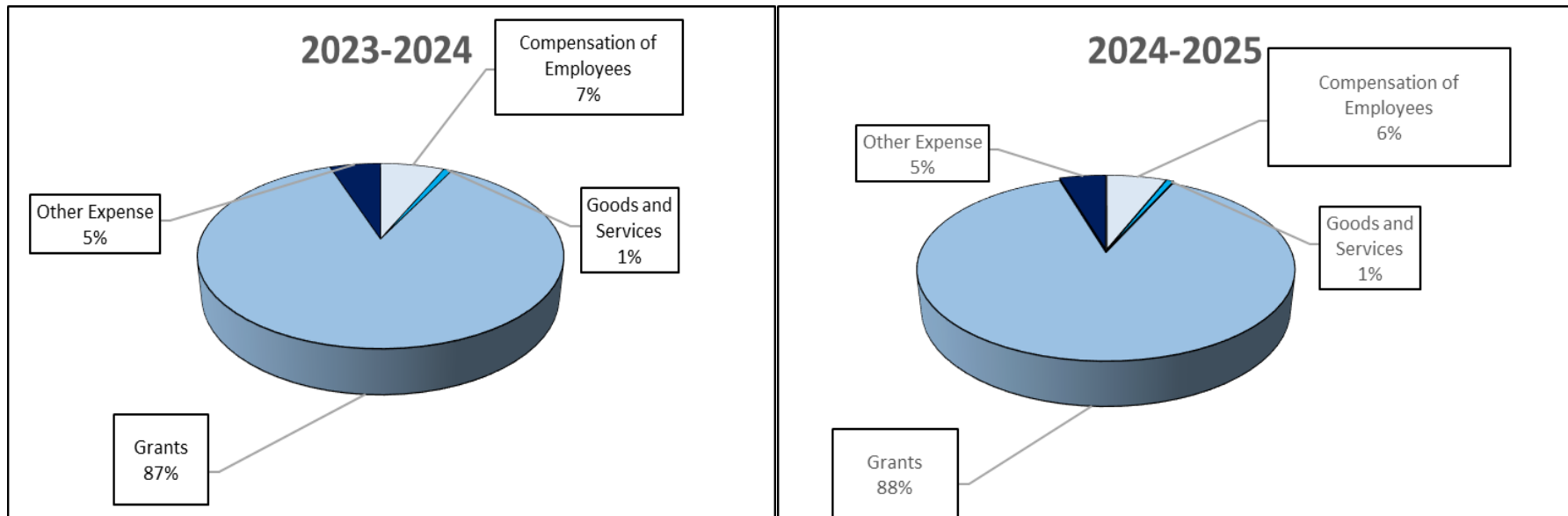
20-104 - FAMILY Welfare and Protection from Gender-Based Violence

Figure 4 below shows budget proportion under vote item 20-104 (Family Welfare and Protection from Gender-Based Violence) for the year 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.



20-2 - SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY BASED-ACTIVITIES

Figure 5 below shows budget proportion under vote item 20-2 (Social Welfare and Community Based- Activities) for the year 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.



3.2 Statement of Revenue and Expenditure

Statement of Expenditure 20- 101 – GENERAL			
HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2023- 2024	2024-2025	2024-2025
	ACTUAL	ESTIMATES	ACTUAL
	(Rs M)	(Rs M)	(Rs M)
Allowance to Minister	2.4	3.42	3.36
Compensation of Employees	69.7	81.5	78.7
Goods and Services	29.3	38.3	30.5
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	0.9	5.8	5.75
Total	102.3	129.02	118.31
20- 102 – WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING			
HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2023- 2024	2024-2025	2024- 2025
	ACTUAL	ESTIMATES	ACTUAL
	(Rs M)	(Rs M)	(Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	20.8	24.6	21.2
Goods and Services	19.0	22.1	15.8
Grants	109.8	124.5	123.7
Other Expense – Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions	2.3	2.6	2.4
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	0.9	1.0	0.8
Total	152.8	174.8	163.9

20-103 - CHILD PROTECTION, WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT			
HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025
	ACTUAL	ESTIMATES	ACTUAL
	(Rs M)	(Rs M)	(Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	62.0	69.6	65.5
Goods and Services	64.3	88.2	64.5
Grants	50.1	57.5	56.0
Social Benefits	14.0	15.0	15.0
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	1.8	5.0	1.3
Total	192.2	235.3	202.3
20-104 – FAMILY WELFARE AND PROTECTION FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE			
HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025
	ACTUAL	ESTIMATES	ACTUAL
	(Rs M)	(Rs M)	(Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	29.6	35.1	31.1
Goods and Services	16.1	22.5	15.8
Total	45.7	57.6	46.9
20-2 - SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY BASED- ACTIVITIES			
HEAD/SUB-HEAD OF EXPENDITURE	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025
	ACTUAL	ESTIMATES	ACTUAL
	(Rs M)	(Rs M)	(Rs M)
Compensation of Employees	24.6	26.13	25.91
Goods and Services	3.0	3.09	2.76
Grants	352.2	414.1	414.1
Other Expense	17.9	21.7	21.64
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	397.70	465.02	464.41
	890.7	1061.74	995.82

Part IV- Way Forward

4.1 Trends and challenges

Gender Equality

The main challenges are:

One of the key challenges faced by the Gender Unit is the shortage of trained professional human resources specializing in gender issues.

Despite ongoing training efforts, there remains a limited pool of experts with advanced knowledge and skills in gender analysis, policy development, and program implementation. This shortage affects the Unit's capacity to effectively mainstream gender across all sectors and to provide sustained technical support to the gender cells of ministries and agencies.

The lack of specialized personnel also hampers data collection, monitoring, and evaluation efforts critical for measuring progress and tailoring interventions.

Means to address challenges:

To strengthen its capacity, there is need to focus on recruiting specialized officers with expertise in areas such as gender policy development, gender-based violence prevention, women's economic empowerment, and data analysis.

These specialized officers will play a crucial role in providing technical guidance, conducting gender-responsive research, and supporting the implementation and monitoring of gender equality initiatives.

By having dedicated experts within the Unit, the Ministry can ensure more effective coordination, targeted interventions, and informed decision-making, ultimately enhancing the impact of its gender mainstreaming efforts across all sectors.

Gender-Based Violence

The main challenges are:

1. Lack of evidence-based programmes
2. Lack of harmonised data collection
3. No legal framework for regulating shelters for victims of GBV, specifically domestic violence

Means to address challenges:

1. Lack of evidence-based programmes

- a) Mapping exercise to be carried out in regions to take note of problems affecting families;
- b) Identify stakeholders and services that can contribute in the prevention strategies;
- c) Explore the coordination across sector that can support each intervention; and
- d) Understand the roles of referral systems in both responding and preventing GBV.

2. Lack of harmonised data collection

- a) Enhancing the existing computerised system (DOVIS) to a more comprehensive and inclusive gender based violence information management system.

3. No legal framework for regulating shelters for victims of GBV, specifically domestic violence

- a) With the proclamation of the Domestic Abuse Bill, regulations for emergency and transitional shelters accommodating women victims of domestic violence and their children will be made.

Child Protection and Welfare

From July 2024 to June 2025, **15, 152** calls were recorded through the Integrated Support Centre of Phoenix. The total number of cases reported at the level of the Child Development Unit were **4, 507** out of which **2, 413** were child protection issue.

The main challenges are:

- Capacity constraints for the implementation of programmes, projects and action plans.
- Complexity and magnitude of cases of child abuse.

Means to address challenges:

To address the challenges encountered, emphasis will be placed on enhancing the capacity of Officers through continuous training to strengthen their skills and competencies. In addition, the recruitment of Family Welfare and Protection Officers is envisaged to reinforce service delivery. Efforts will also be directed towards strengthening multi-agency collaboration to ensure a more coordinated and effective response to child abuse cases.

Social Welfare Division

The main challenges are:

- SWC buildings date more than 50 years and the amenities are unable to properly respond to the emerging social needs of the community.
- Insufficient fund to undertake reconstruction of SWCs with modern infrastructures.
- Attract and bring a greater number and new Service Users at SWCs.
- Chronic shortage of staff.

Means to address challenges:

- Sustain and leverage on collaboration with other Stakeholders involved in the promotion of social welfare to realise modern infrastructural works at SWCs.
- Encourage working group to join evening DIY type courses in demand and health promotion activities at SWCs.
- Filling of vacancies at all levels.

4.2 Strategic Direction 2025-2026

Gender Unit

All ministries having their own Sectoral Gender Policies

Stronger delivery of gender-equitable policies and services which will enable the narrowing of disparities in Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.

Over 60, 000 women empowered and supported annually in the different fields namely, Digital Literacy, leadership skills, women's rights, entrepreneurship development programmes, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Environmental Issues, amongst others through Women Empowerment Centres, National Women's Council, National Women Entrepreneur Council and Home Economics Unit.

Enhance Family Well-being

- Extend the Family Support Services for holistic services to victims of domestic violence, in collaboration with the Brigade Pour la Protection de la Famille.
- Engage with the community, religious leaders, youth and service providers for a shared understanding of gender based violence through sensitisation and awareness raising campaigns.
- Extend programme d'accompagnement des familles in other regions.
- Implementation of Empowerment Programme enabling families to respond to climate change.

Enhance intergenerational relationship and social cohesion

- Consolidate intergenerational activities and competitions.
- Reinforce Edutainment activities involving all age groups and working section of the population.
- DIY courses.

Build Resilience in children and fulfil children's rights

- Sustain the Foster Care Programme to cater for children with special needs and reinforcement of existing programmes.
- Introduce the Adoption Bill in the National Assembly.
- Reform of the Child Service