

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 3 2021

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the third quarter of 2021. Information is gathered from the Legal Services and Child Protection section, Community Social Work section and the Night shelter.

Social Services

Legal Services & Child Protection Section

The Child protection unit deals with any cases related to children aged between 0-14 years old. As part of the investigating process and intervention plan, the unit undertakes home and school visits as well as counselling sessions.

The Legal Services Unit's main responsibility is to handle cases referred by the Supreme Court and Family Tribunal for investigation and submission of reports to address children related issues of custody, access, maintenance, adoption, guardianship and mediation for reconciliation in divorce matters.

Table 1: Number of abuse cases reported in Q3

Categories	Total Q3
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	32
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	20
Sexual play	2
Sexual exposure	2
Alleged Sexual exposure	1
Other Abuse	
Physical	27
Alleged physical abuse	12
Threatening violence	3
Total Q3	99

Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

Compared to the 2nd quarter an increase of 21 was recorded in the number of abuse cases reported. The most significant increase was seen in physical abuse cases and alleged sexual abuse cases.

Table 2: Number of referral cases in Q3

	Total Q3
Family tribunal referrals	
Custody, access & maintenance	64
Supreme court	
Guardianship	1

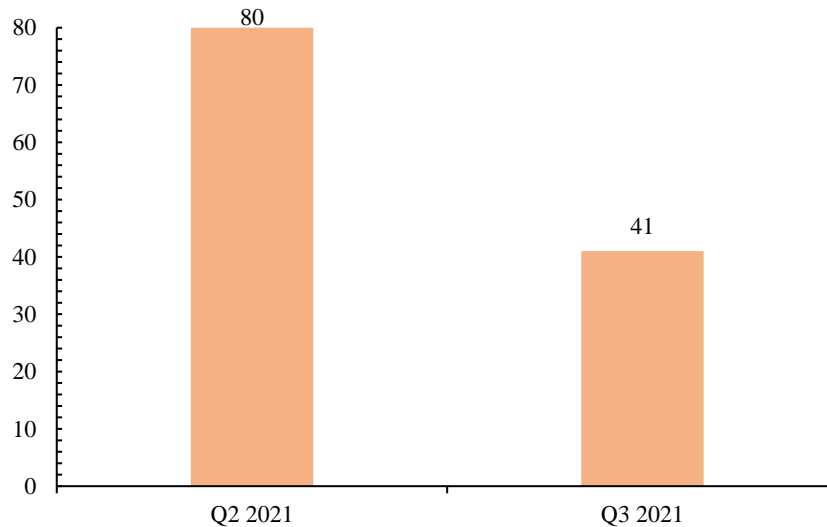
Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

Cases from the family tribunal increased by 12 in the third quarter compared to the second quarter. Whilst only one case of guardianship was referred by the Supreme court.

Children’s Helpline

Social Services introduced the 3-digit helpline operated on a daily basis up to 11.00pm. The helpline is manned on a rotational basis by social workers of the two main sections, Community Social Work Section and Legal and Child Protection Section.

Figure 1: Number of cases referred through helpline in Q2 2021 and Q3 2021



Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

The number of cases referred through the helpline declined by 39 in the third quarter when compared to the second quarter.

Community Social Work Section

Community social work promotes the wellbeing of the community. It encompasses a variety of components focusing on economic needs, educational concerns, family challenges, collaborative and creative solutions at community level. It further emphasizes on advocacy, analysis planning and implementation of activities to support families and alleviate the difficult situation they are going through.

Table 3: Number of cases reported at the Community Social Work section in Q3

Categories	Total Q3
Neglect	37
Delinquency	1
Alleged neglect	1
Emotional abuse	5
Alleged emotional abuse	1
Deviancy	9
Semi orphan benefit	4
Housing issue	5
Alleged physical abuse	2
Elderly neglect	1
Homeless	9
Access	3
Family conflict	15
Approved scheme benefit	1
Mental health	1
Drug related issues	2
Elderly physical abuse	1
Elderly emotional abuse	1
Sexually active	5
Financial issues	1
Physical Assault	1
Teenage pregnancy	2
Domestic conflict	16
Truancy	1
Attempted sexual assault	1
Sexual play	2
Total Q3	128

In the third quarter a total of 128 cases were reported, this represents an increase of 25 in cases reported at the Community Social Work section. The most significant increase was observed in cases of neglect and domestic conflict.

Night Shelter

The mission of the night shelter is to cater for those individuals identified as being homeless due to their dysfunctionalities. The main aim is to provide psychosocial support and skills thus promote reintegration within their families and society.

Table 4: Night shelter admissions (Q3 2021)

Months	Admission
July	3
August	3
September	4
Total admission	10

When compared to the second quarter admissions increased by 2. The majority of clients were between the age range 30-49.