

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 4 2021

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the fourth 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 Q4

Categories	Total Q4
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	33
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	18
Sexual play	1
Alleged sexual play	1
Sexual exposure	1
Attempted sexual abuse	1
Other Abuse	
Physical	21
Alleged physical abuse	22
Neglect	1
Alleged neglect	4
Total Q4	103

Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

Reported abuse cases increased by 4 in the fourth quarter, with the most substantial increase observed in cases of alleged physical abuse.

Table 2: Number of referral cases in Q4

	Total Q4
Family tribunal referrals	
Custody, access & maintenance	146
Supreme court	
Adoption	5
Attempted reconciliation	4
Interdicted person	1

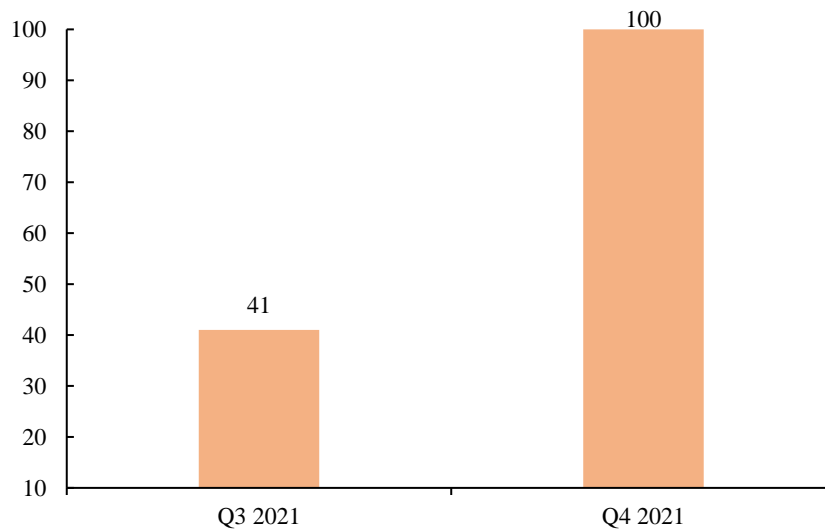
Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

Cases from the family tribunal increased significantly by 82 in the fourth quarter compared to the third quarter. Case referrals from the supreme court also increased by 9 with four cases of attempted reconciliation recorded and one case of interdicted person.

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 Q3 2021 and Q4 2021



Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

The number of cases referred through the helpline increased by 59 in the fourth quarter when compared to the third 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 Q4

Categories	Total Q4
Neglect	42
Alleged neglect	30
Emotional abuse	1
Alleged emotional abuse	2
Deviancy	7
Alcohol	1
Alleged physical abuse	1
Elderly neglect	2
Homeless	13
Access	5
Spousal conflict	74
Family conflict	110
Approved scheme benefit	2
Drug related issues	6
Maintenance	2
Custody	1
Financial abuse of elderly	1
Sexually active	4
Financial issues	2
Physical Assault	3
Teenage pregnancy	3
Truancy	1
Sexual harassment	1
Absenteeism	2
Alleged sexual abuse	1
Total Q4	317

A total of 317 cases were reported during the last quarter of 2021. The most substantial increase were observed in spousal conflict cases and family conflict cases.

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 (Q4 2021)

Months	Admission
October	1
November	2
December	2
Total admission	5

The total number of new admissions in the last quarter declined by 5 when compared to the third quarter.