

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 3 2022

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the third quarter of 2022. 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)	42
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	15
Other Abuse	
Physical	41
Alleged physical abuse	2
Neglect	2
Alleged neglect	2
Total Q3	104

Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- A total of 104 cases were reported during the third quarter of 2022. In comparison to the previous quarter cases reported increased by 7, with the most significant increase observed in physical and sexual abuse cases.

- Compared to the same period last year cases increased by 5, primarily because of the increase in physical and sexual abuse cases reported.
- A total of 49 cases were closed for this quarter.
- In terms of the court cases, 1 male was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for sexual offence.

Table 2: Number of referral cases in Q3

	Total Q3
Family tribunal referrals	
Custody, access & maintenance	82
Supreme court	
Adoption	5
Interdiction & Guardianship	2

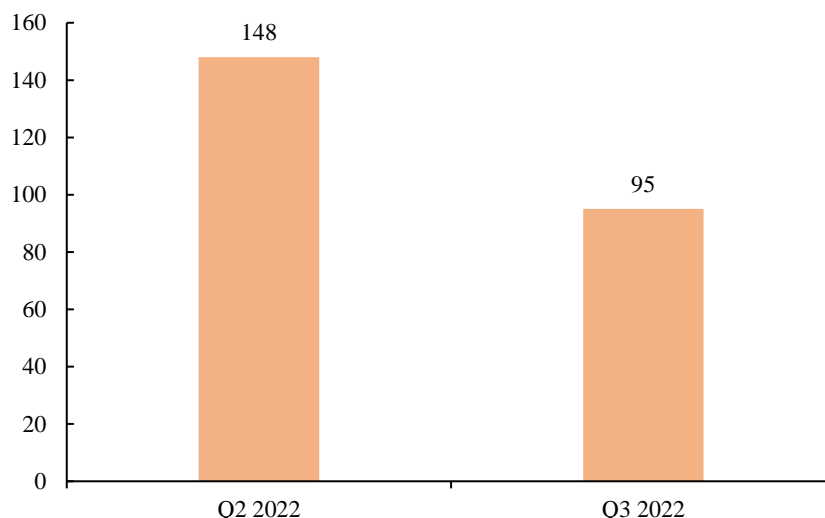
Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- Cases from the family tribunal increased by 14 when compared to the quarter 2. Whereas cases referred by the Supreme court increased by 5.
- Compared to the same period last year cases from the family tribunal increased by 18 whilst cases from the supreme court increase by 6.

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 2022 and Q3 2022



Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- 95 cases were referred on Children’s Helpline in the third quarter. An increase of 54 compared to the same period last year.
- When compared to the previous quarter cases referred through the helpline declined by 53.

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	36
Alleged physical Abuse	1
Emotional Abuse	2
Deviancy	8
Neighbour dispute	1
Alleged Neglect	8
Separation agreement	1

Housing issues	8
Teenage Pregnancy	1
Mental Health	4
Alcohol	1
Sexual Play	5
Alleged Emotional Abuse	4
Financial Issues	5
Elderly Hygiene	1
Homeless	21
Access	4
Breach of peace	9
Spousal Conflict	57
Family Conflict	86
Sexual behaviour	1
Elderly Abuse	9
Truancy	1
Sexual Harassment	1
Alleged Abuse	6
Elderly Health issue	3
Total Q3	284

- 284 new cases were reported during the 3rd quarter of 2022. This shows an increase of 156 compared to the same period in 2021
- In comparison to the previous quarter cases reported declined by 44 with the most significant reduction observed in housing issues.
- 87 cases were closed during this quarter, including 23 cases closed at the Family Support unit

Monitoring and Compliance Section

Suitability Check of Childminders and Assistant Childminders

- The Suitability Check Panel conducted 4 working sessions in the third quarter.
- A total of 20 applicants were interviewed consisting of 11 childminders and 9 assistant childminders.
- The panel has disbursed a total of 11 suitability check outcome letters during the period. These were issued to 7 childminders and 4 assistant childminders.

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 2022)

Months	Admission
July	3
August	3
September	3
Total admission	9

- Most of the admission in the third quarter were in the age range 40-50 years.
- Compared to the previous quarter admissions declined by 2.
- A total of 3 services users were reintegrated during the third quarter, and 3 were transferred to elderly homes.