

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 1 2023

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the first quarter of 2023. Information is gathered from the Court adoption and Fostering, Community, Child Protection & Family Support Section, Parenting education programme and the Night shelter.

Social Services Division

Court Adoption and Fostering Section

The Court Adoption and Fostering Section’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. The section also coordinates matters of fostering placements and pre-adoption.

Family tribunal referrals

- 79 children related cases of Custody, Access & Maintenance were referred by the Family Tribunal.
- This shows a decrease of 68 cases compared to the same period last year. This is mainly due to a difference in data collection.

Issues	No of cases referred in Q1
Access	19
Custody	31
Maintenance	12
Custody & Maintenance	9
Custody, Access & Maintenance	2
Custody & Access	3
Access & Maintenance	3
Total	79

Supreme court referrals

3 cases were referred by the Supreme Court for investigation, showing a decrease of 11 cases compared to the same period last year.

Issues	No of cases referred in Q1
Adoption	2
Guardianship	1
Total	3

Community, Child Protection & Family Support Section

Child Protection Unit

The Child protection unit undertakes investigation into referrals of cases of alleged abuse. They empower children to protect themselves and protect abused children and those who are at risk of harm through clear intervention plans. As part of the investigating process and intervention plan, the unit works in partnership with stakeholders such as the Police and Ministry of Health. The unit undertakes home and school visits as well as counselling sessions and preparing victims for court

- 93 new cases were reported at the Child protection unit during the first quarter. This represents a decrease of 10 compared to the same period last year. The same number of cases were reported in comparison to the previous quarter

Categories	No of cases reported in Q1
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	24
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	28
Indecent act	1
Other Abuse	
Physical	20
Alleged physical abuse	17
Neglect	3
Total	93

Community Social Work Unit

Community social work promotes the wellbeing of families in 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.

- A total of 64 cases was reported during the first quarter of 2023. Compared to the previous quarter cases reported remained more or else at the same level with a slight increase of 2.
- Whilst on a year on year basis, cases decreased by 30, with the most significant decline observed in cases of neglect reported.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q1
Alleged neglect	14
Neglect	14
Alleged Emotional Abuse	3
Deviancy	6
Emotional abuse	8
Elderly Neglect	1
Drug	3
Elderly emotional	1
Truancy	2
Teenage pregnancy	1
Absenteeism	1
Semi orphan benefit	1
Approved scheme benefit	5
Unemployment	2
Custody	1
Financial	1
Total	64

Family Support Unit

The Family Support Unit also provides services to dysfunctional family and other vulnerable individuals in the society with the aim of restoring social functioning. They cater to cases related to Domestic violence, homelessness, mental health, neglect of adult with disabilities, housing issues, vagrant adult and breach of peace.

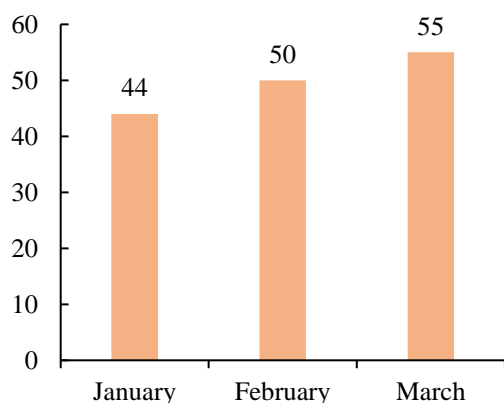
128 cases were reported at Family support unit during the first quarter of 2023. This shows a decrease of 76 compared to the same period last year. With the most significant decrease seen in cases of Spousal and family conflict.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q1
Housing	5
Homeless	7
Mental health	2
Spousal conflict	30
Family Conflict	74
Neglect of adult with Disability	3
Breach of peace	7
Total	128

Children's Helpline

The 3-digit helpline is 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, namely Court, Adoption & Fostering Section and Community, Child Protection & Family Support Section.

Number of calls per months



Top 5 issues reported through helpline

Issue	Total
Neglect	28
Absconding home	18
Behavioral Issue	16
Access/Custody	11
Alleged neglect	7

- A total of 149 calls were received through the Children's helpline during the first quarter. This shows an increase of 38 when compared to the same period last year.
- In total 51 calls were received on the weekends and public holidays. The calls made during week days were mostly within the hours of 4.00pm -8.00pm (40 calls) and 8.00pm- 12.am (25 calls)
- Parents and other adults such as the Police or other relatives remains the main callers on the helpline

Monitoring and Compliance Section

Suitability Check of Childminders and Assistant Childminders

- The Suitability Check Panel conducted 3 working sessions during the first quarter.
- A total of 26 applicants were interviewed consisting of 14 childminders and 12 assistant child minders.
- The panel disbursed a total of 20 suitability check outcome letters during the period. These were issued to 11 childminders and 9 assistant childminders.

Parenting Education programme

The Child Health Care and Parenting Education programme developed by the Department of Social Affairs was introduced in 2013 as a direct response to calls by the public for structures that empower parents to undertake their roles, responsibilities and tasks from conception, pregnancy and early childhood. The Department of Social Affairs works in partnership with the Ministry of Health to deliver the programme.

During the first quarter of 2023, 32 antenatal sessions and 21 post-delivery sessions were conducted. The breakdown of attendance per districts can be seen below.

Antenatal

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		3rd Session		No of sessions conducted	Remarks
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Perseverance	12	35	2	12			5	1 st session:4 2 nd session:1
Anse Royale	2	5	6	19	2	6	5	1 st session:1 2 nd session:3 3 rd session:1
Beau Vallon			1	14			2	2 nd session:2
Anse Boileau			3	8		1	3	2 nd session:2 3 rd session:1
Takamaka	2	2		5			2	1 st session:1 2 nd session:1
GA Praslin	1	5					1	1 st session:1
BSA Praslin	2	8	3	6	1	5	3	1 st session:1 2 nd session:1 3 rd session:1
Beoliere	2	9					2	1 st session:2
Port Glaud			0	2			1	2 nd session:1
La Digue	3	4			2	5	2	1 st session:1 3 rd session:1
Les Mamelles			4	28	0	6	3	2 nd session:2 3 rd session:1

Baie Lazare		3					2	1 st session:2
High risk		4					1	1 st session:1
Total	24	75	19	94	5	23	32	

Post delivery

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		No of sessions conducted	Remarks
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Anse aux Pins	2	5			1	1 st session:1
English River	4	9			2	1 st session:2
Anse Royale		2			1	1 st session:1
Beau Vallon	1	6		1	3	1 st session:2 2 nd session:1
Anse Boileau			2	9	2	2 nd session:2
Takamaka		5			1	1 st session:1
BSA Praslin	3	8		6	3	1 st session:2 2 nd session:1
Beoliere	3	7			2	1 st session:2
La Digue	2	9			2	1 st session:2
Les Mamelles	2	10	2	4	3	1 st session:2 2 nd session:1
Baie Lazare	1	4			1	1 st session:1
Total	18	65	4	20	21	

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 1: Night shelter admissions (Q1 2023)

Months	Admission
January	3
February	2
March	5
Total admission	10

- A total of 10 service users were admitted to the Night Shelter in the first quarter.

- A total of 4 service users were between the age range 30-40, 3 users in the age range 40-60, and 2 users above 60 years old. The age of one service user was unknown and he left shelter shortly after admission.
- There was one re- integration during the quarter