

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 2 2023

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the second quarter of 2023. Information is gathered from the Court adoption and Fostering Section, 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

- A total of 141 children related cases of Custody, Access & Maintenance were referred by the Family Tribunal in the second quarter.
- This represents an increase of 73 cases compared to the same period last year

Supreme court referrals

- 6 cases were referred by the Supreme Court for investigation, showing an increase of 5 cases compared to the same period last year.

Issues	No of cases referred in Q2
Adoption	3
Guardianship	2
Interdicted person	1
Grand total	6

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

- A total of 117 new cases were reported from April to June 2023 compared to 97 cases reported for the same period in 2022. Showing an increase of 20 in cases recorded.
- Compared to the preceding quarter cases increased by 24, with the most significant increase seen in physical abuse cases by 25.

Categories	No of cases reported in Q2
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	39
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	17
Other Abuse	
Physical	45
Alleged physical abuse	12
Neglect	1
Alleged neglect	2
Alleged neglect(deceased)	1
Total Q2	117

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.

- 88 cases were recorded at district level during the 2nd quarter. This shows an increase of 24 when compared to the previous quarter.
- Whilst compared to the same period last year the number of cases reported declined by 77, with the most significant declines seen in cases of neglect and elderly neglect.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q2
Alleged physical abuse	6
Alleged neglect	11
Neglect	12
Alleged Emotional Abuse	5
Deviancy	10
Emotional abuse	10
Elderly Neglect	2
Delinquency	2
Elderly Housing	5
Elderly Financial abuse	3
Drug	6
Elderly mental	1
Alleged sexual	2
Truancy	1
Sexually active	1
Semi orphan benefit	1
Access	5
Custody	2
Financial	3
Total	88

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.

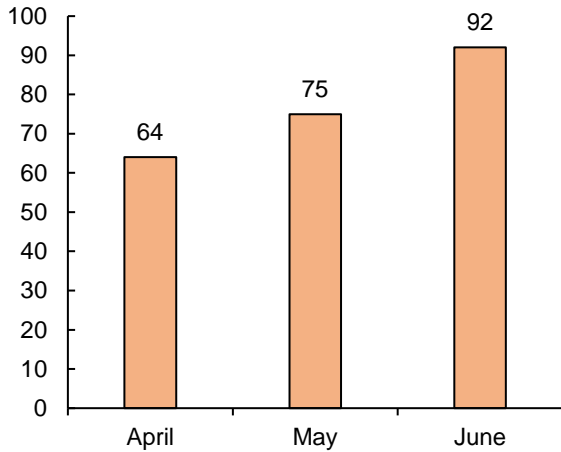
142 cases were reported at the Family support unit during the second quarter of 2023. This shows a decrease of 21 in cases reported, compared to the same period last year. Whilst compared to the previous quarter cases increased by 14.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q2
Housing	2
Homeless	7
Mental health	5
Spousal conflict	37
Family Conflict	84
Breach of peace	7
Total	142

Children's Helpline

During the second quarter a total of 231 calls was received through the helpline, with most calls recorded during the month of June. Compared to the same period last year this shows an increase of 74 in calls recorded.

Number of calls per months



Top 10 issues reported through helpline during Q2

Issue	Total
Absconding home	39
Others(missed calls, hang-ups, wrong number)	25
Neglect	21
Behavioral Issue	18
Advice/information	14
Physical abuse	13
Access/Custody	9
Deviancy	8
Housing issue	6
Alleged Sexual abuse	5

For the quarter, 93 calls or 40% of total calls received were placed during the weekend and Public holidays.

Whereas calls made during week days amounted to 138, with a majority of the calls being made between 4.00pm to 8.pm (62 calls) and 8.00pm to 12am (30 calls).

Parents, other relatives, other adults and the Police remains the main callers on the helpline. For the quarter 12 calls received were from children.

Monitoring and Compliance Section

Suitability Check of Childminders and Assistant Childminders

- The Suitability Check Panel conducted 5 working sessions during the second quarter.
- A total of 30 applicants were interviewed consisting of 17 childminders and 13 assistant child minders.

- The panel disbursed a total of 28 suitability check outcome letters during the period. These were issued to 9 childminders and 19 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 second quarter of 2023 a total of 35 antenatal sessions and 30 post-delivery sessions was conducted. The attendance per region can be seen in the tables below.

Antenatal

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		3rd Session		Total No of sessions conducted	Breakdown of No of sessions conducted
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Perseverance	4	11	4	29	6	17	7	1st sessions:2 2nd session:3 3rd session:2
Anse Royale	5	14			4	6	4	1st sessions:2 3rd session:2
Beau Vallon	7	13	2	3	1	4	5	1st sessions:3 2nd session:1 3rd session:1
Anse Boileau	1	7			1	3	2	1st sessions:1 3rd session:1
Takamaka				3		5	3	2nd session:1 3rd session:2
Praslin	1	10	1	8			2	1st sessions:1 2nd session:1
La Digue		1		6			3	1st session:1 2nd session:2
Les Mamelles	3	12			3	8	3	1st sessions:2 3rd session:1
Baie Lazare	1	3		2			2	1st sessions:1 2nd session:1
High risk	2	11		4		4	4	1st sessions:2 2nd session:1 3rd session:1
Total	24	82	7	55	15	47	35	

Post delivery

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		3rd Session		Total No of sessions conducted	Breakdown of No of sessions conducted
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Anse aux Pins					1	3	1	3rd session:1
English River	3	7	4	8	5	13	4	1st sessions:1 2nd session:1 3rd session:2
Anse Royale		2	1	2	1	2	3	1st sessions:1 2nd session:1 3rd session:1
Beau Vallon	3	11	2	3	1	3	3	1st sessions:1 2nd session:1 3rd session:1
Anse Boileau			2	5			1	2nd session:1
Takamaka		1			1	2	2	1st sessions:1 3rd session:1
Praslin	4	8		2	1	5	3	1st session:1 2nd sessions:1 3rd session:1
Beoliere	2	2				1	2	1st session:1 3rd session: 1
Port Glaud		3				2	2	1st session:1 3rd session: 1
La Digue	2	2		1		3	3	1st sessions:1 2nd session:1 3rd session:1
Les Mamelles	5	9	2	5		1	4	1st sessions:2 2nd session:1 3rd session:1
Baie Lazare	2	4					2	1st session:2
Total	21	49	11	26	10	35	30	

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 (Q2 2023)

Months	Admission
April	1
May	5
June	4
Total admission	10

- A total of 10 service users were admitted to the Night Shelter in the second quarter.
- 8 Service users left the Night shelter during the quarter.
- There were 3 re- integrations during the quarter.