

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 3 2023

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the third 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 181 children related cases of Custody, Access & Maintenance were referred by the Family Tribunal in the second quarter.
- This represents an increase of 99 cases compared to the same period last year

Supreme Court referrals

- 7 cases were referred by the Supreme Court for investigation, showing an increase of 1 when compared to the same period last year.

Issues	No of cases referred in Q3
Adoption	6
Guardianship	1
Total	7

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 105 new cases were reported in the third quarter of 2023 compared to 104 cases reported in the same period last year. This shows a slight increase of 1 in new cases reported.
- Compared to the preceding quarter new cases reported declined by 12, with the most significant decrease observed in physical abuse case reported.

Categories	No of cases reported in Q3
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	29
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	25
Other Abuse	
Physical	33
Alleged physical abuse	14
Neglect	1
Alleged neglect	3
Total Q3	105

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.

- 82 cases were recorded at district level during the third quarter. This shows a reduction of 6 when compared to the previous quarter.
- Whilst compared to the same period last year the number of cases reported declined by 17, with the most significant decline observed in cases of neglect.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q3
Alleged physical abuse	4
Alleged neglect	6
Neglect	23
Alleged Emotional Abuse	2
Deviancy	16
Emotional abuse	5
Elderly Neglect	2
Elderly Housing	1
Elderly Financial abuse	1
Elderly health issue	2
Elderly emotional abuse	1
Drug related issue	4
Sexual assault	1
Teenage pregnancy	1
Truancy	3
Sexually active	4
Semi orphan benefit	1
Abandon child benefit	1
Alcohol related issue	1
Custody	2
Maintenance	1
Total	82

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.

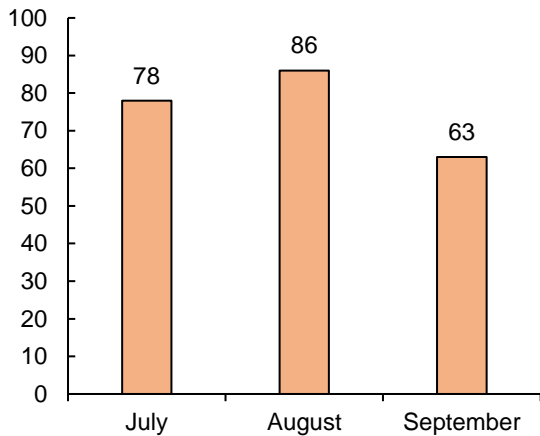
84 cases were reported at the Family support unit during the third quarter of 2023. This shows a decrease of 101 in cases reported, compared to the same period last year. Whilst compared to the previous quarter cases declined by 58.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q3
Homeless	8
Mental health	1
Spousal conflict	23
Family Conflict	49
Breach of peace	3
Total	84

Children’s Helpline

During the third quarter a total of 227 calls was received through the helpline, with most calls recorded during the month of August. Compared to the same period last year this shows an increase of 132 in calls recorded.

Number of calls per months



Districts recording highest number of calls in Q3

Issue	Total
Children's Home	19
Grand'Anse Mahe	13
Anse Aux Pins	11
Anse Royale	10
Perseverance 1	10
Perseverance 2	10

- During the third quarter more calls were recorded on Mondays (45), followed by Sundays (41).
- A total of 154 calls were made during the weekdays, with a majority of calls being made during the hours of 4.00pm- 8.00pm (46 calls) and between 8.00pm-12.am (43 calls).
- The main callers remain parents, other relatives, other adults and the Police. 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 3 working sessions during the third quarter.
- A total of 23 applicants were interviewed consisting of 11 childminders and 12 assistant child minders.
- The panel disbursed a total of 22 suitability check outcome letters during the period. These were issued to 10 childminders and 12 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 third quarter of 2023 a total of 35 antenatal sessions and 27 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 No of sessions conducted
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Perseverance	6	11	15	41	12	16	9	2 session 1 4 session 2 3 session 3
Anse Royale	6	14	8	21			5	2 session 1 3 session 2
Beau Vallon	3	8	3	4	0	3	4	2 session 1 1 session 2 1 session 3
Anse Boileau	5	10	4	8	4	3	5	2 session 1 2 session 2 1 session 3
Takamaka	1	4					1	1 session 1
Praslin		2	1	8			2	1 session 1 1 session 2
La Digue	3	5	1	3			2	1 session 1 1 session 2
Les Mamelles	8	11	9	19	9	11	5	1 session 1 2 session 2 2 session 3
Baie Lazare	0	2					1	1 session 1
DSAPTR	1	2					1	1 session 1
Total	33	69	41	104	25	33	35	

Post delivery

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		3rd Session		Total No of sessions conducted	Breakdown No of sessions conducted
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
English River	5	11	2	5	5	11	5	2 session 1 1 session 2 2 session 3
Anse Royale	5	7			0	4	2	1 session 1 1 session 3
Beau Vallon	3	7			2	3	3	2 session 1 1 session 3
Anse Boileau	6	11	3	4			4	3 session 1 1 session 2
Praslin						6	2	2 session 3
Beoliere				1		1	2	1 session 2 1 session 3
Port Glaud						2	1	1 session 3
La Digue		2		1			2	1 session 1 1 session 2
Les Mamelles	6	12	2	6	3	10	6	3 session 1 1 session 2 2 session 3
Total	25	50	7	17	10	37	27	

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 by age group (Q3 2023)

Age group	No of Admission
20-29	1
40-49	2
50-59	1
60+	1
Total admission	5

- A total of 5 service users were admitted to the Night Shelter during the third quarter.
- There were 4 voluntary discharge
- There were 4 re- integrations during the quarter.