

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 4 2023

Introduction

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

- 163 children related cases of Custody, Access & Maintenance were referred by the Family Tribunal in the fourth quarter.
- This represents an increase of 91 cases compared to the same period last year

Supreme Court referrals

- 5 adoption cases were referred by the Supreme Court for investigation, showing a reduction of 1 when compared to the same period last year.

Issues	No of cases referred in Q4
Adoption	5
Total	5

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.

- 98 new cases were reported in the fourth quarter of 2023 compared to 93 cases reported in the same period last year.
- Compared to the preceding quarter new cases reported declined by 7, with the most significant decrease observed in alleged sexual abuse cases reported.

Categories	No of cases reported in Q4
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	27
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	17
Other Abuse	
Physical	40
Alleged physical abuse	12
Alleged neglect	2
Total Q4	98

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.

- 48 cases were recorded at district level during the fourth quarter. This shows a significant reduction of 34 in comparison to the preceding quarter.
- Whilst compared to the same period last year the number of cases reported declined by 14, with the most significant reduction observed in financial cases.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q4
Alleged physical abuse	1
Alleged neglect	8
Neglect	10
Alleged sexual abuse	2
Deviancy	12
Delinquency	1
Domestic violence	1
Elderly Housing	1
Elderly Financial abuse	1
Financial issue	2
Hygiene	1
Sexual assault	1
Teenage pregnancy	1
Absenteeism	2
Seperation agreement	1
Semi orphan benefit	2
Approved scheme benefit	1
Total	48

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.

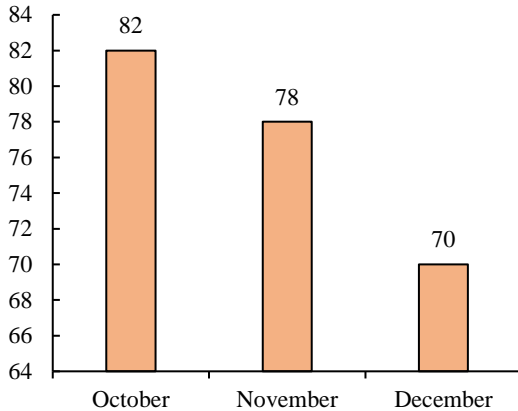
89 cases were reported at the Family support unit during the fourth quarter of 2023. This shows a decrease of 107 in cases reported, compared to the same period last year. Whilst compared to the previous quarter cases increased by 5 with the most significant increase observed in spousal conflict cases reported.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q4
Housing issue	3
Homeless	4
Mental health	5
Spousal conflict	35
Family Conflict	39
Neglect of adult with Disability	3
Total	89

Children's Helpline

During the fourth quarter of 2023 a total of 230 calls were received through the helpline, with most calls recorded during the month of October. Compared to the same period last year this shows an increase of 83 in calls recorded.

Number of calls per months



Top 5 districts recording the highest number of calls in Q4

Address	Total
Children's Home	24
Les Mamelles	17
Bel Ombre	13
Cascade	13
Pointe La Rue	13

- The main issues reported through the helpline during the fourth quarter were absconding home and neglect.
- A total of 143 calls were made during the weekdays, with a majority of calls being made during the hours of 4.00pm- 8.00pm (62 calls) and between 8.00pm-12.am (35 calls).
- The main callers were parents, other adults and the Police. For the quarter, only 3 calls were received from children.

Monitoring and Compliance Section

Suitability Check of Childminders and Assistant Childminders

- The Suitability Check Panel conducted 4 working sessions during the fourth quarter.
- 30 applicants were interviewed consisting of 14 childminders and 16 assistant child minders.
- The panel disbursed 26 suitability check outcome letters during the period. These were issued to 13 childminders and 13 assistant childminders.

Parenting Education programme

The 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 fourth quarter of 2023, a total of 20 antenatal sessions and 14 post-delivery sessions was conducted. The attendance per region can be seen in the tables below.
- In October a session was conducted with 8 teenage mothers.
- Two hospital visits was also conducted during the quarter, with a total attendance of 42.

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	3	11	5	15	5	10	7	2 session 1 3 session 2 2 session 3
Anse Royale			0	5	3	10	3	1 session 2 2 session 3
Beau Vallon	1	7	2	4	2	5	3	1 session 1 1 session 2 1 session 3
Anse Boileau	2	5			1	3	2	1 session 1 1 session 3
Takamaka	1	3					1	1 session 1
Les Mamelles	1	6	12	17	4	7	3	1 session 1 1 session 2 1 session 3
High risk(Victoria)			2	3			1	1 session 2
Total	8	32	21	44	15	35	20	

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	0	3			1	5	2	1 session 1 1 session 3
Anse Royale	0	2			0	6	4	2 session 1 2 session 3
Beau Vallon					2	5	2	2 session 3
Anse Boileau	2	3					1	1 session 1
Beoliere	2	4			1	2	2	1 session 1 1 session 3
Les Mamelles	1	6	2	7	1	1	3	1 session 1 1 session 2 1 session 3
Total	5	18	2	7	5	19	14	

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 (Q4 2023)

Age group	No of Admission
<20	1
20-29	1
30-39	2
50-59	1
Total admission	5

- A total of 5 service users were admitted to the Night Shelter during the fourth quarter.
- There were 2 voluntary discharge during the quarter and;
- 6 service users re- integrated.