

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 1 2024

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the first quarter of 2024. 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

- The Family Tribunal referred 144 children related cases of Custody, Access & Maintenance in the first quarter of 2024
- This represents an increase of 65 in cases referred compared to the same period last year

Referrals for Q1	
Issues	Total
Access	36
Custody	54
Maintenance	40
Custody & Maintenance	3
Custody, Access & Maintenance	9
Custody & Access	2
Grand Total	144

Supreme Court referrals

- The Supreme Court referred 6 cases for investigation and reports. 5 for adoption and 1 for guardianship. There was a decrease of three cases compared to the same period last year.

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.

- The Child Protection Unit recorded 87 new cases during the first quarter. This represents a decrease of 6 cases compared to the same period last year.
- Compared to the preceding quarter new cases reported declined by 11. The most significant reduction was observed in physical abuse cases reported.

Categories	No of cases reported in Q1
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	25
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	21
Other Abuse	
Physical	31
Alleged physical abuse	8
Alleged neglect	2
Total Q1	87

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 51 cases were recorded at district level during the first quarter. This shows a reduction of 13 compared to the same period last year.

- Whilst compared to the preceding quarter cases reported increased slightly by 3.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q1
Neglect	8
Alleged neglect	9
Delinquency	2
Alleged Emotional abuse	3
Deviancy	13
Alleged physical abuse	1
Sexually active	4
Sexual play	2
Approved scheme benefit	1
Elderly emotional abuse	1
Elderly housing	1
Truancy	1
Maintenance	2
Absenteeism	1
Domestic violence	1
Teenage pregnancy	1
Total	51

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.

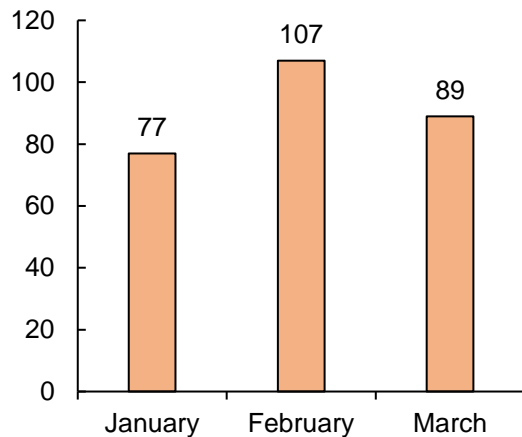
96 cases were reported at the Family Support Unit during the first quarter of 2024. This shows a reduction of 32, compared to the same period last year. Whilst compared to the previous quarter cases increased by 7 with the most significant increase observed in family conflict cases reported.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q1
Housing issue	7
Homeless	4
Mental health	2
Spousal conflict	26
Family Conflict	57
Total	96

Children's Helpline

During the first quarter of 2024, a sum of 273 calls were received through the helpline, with most calls recorded during the month of February. Compared to the same period last year this shows an increase of 124 in calls recorded. It is noted that only four children made use of the helpline during the quarter whilst majority of calls are from adults.

Number of calls per month



Top 5 districts recording the highest number of calls in Q1

Address	Total
Children's Home	18
Grand 'Anse Mahe	11
Anse Etoile	10
Bel Ombre	10
Pointe La Rue	10

- The main issues reported through the helpline during the first quarter were neglect and absconding home.
- 184 calls were made during the weekdays, with a majority of calls being made during the hours of 4.00pm- 8.00pm (72 calls) and between 8.00pm-12.am (42 calls).

Monitoring and Compliance Section

Suitability Check of Childminders and Assistant Childminders

- The Suitability Check Panel conducted 3 working sessions during the first quarter.
- 28 applicants were interviewed consisting of 12 childminders and 16 assistant child minders.
- The panel issued 20 suitability check outcome letters during the quarter. These were to 6 childminders and 14 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 first quarter of 2024, a total of 22 antenatal sessions and 19 post-delivery sessions was conducted. The attendance per region can be seen in the tables below.
- Two hospital visits was also conducted during the quarter, with a total attendance of 41.

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	9	26	5	16	0	2	8	4 session 1 3 session 2 1 session 3
Anse Royale	7	9	0	8			4	2 session 1 2 session 2
Beau Vallon	2	9	3	7			2	1 session 1 1 session 2
Anse Boileau	7	14				1	3	2 session 1 1 session 3
Les Mamelles	11	21	4	4			3	2 session 1 1 session 2
High risk(Victoria)		1	2	2			2	1 session 1 1 session 2
Total	36	80	14	37	0	3	22	

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	3	8	0	1	0	6	4	2 session 1 1 session 2 1 session 3
Anse Royale	3	9	2	4			3	2 session 1 1 session 2
Beau Vallon	1	6	1	3			4	3 session 1 1 session 2

Anse Boileau	0	4	0	4			2	1 session 1 1 session 2
Beoliere	1	4					2	2 session 1
Les Mamelles	3	7	1	5			4	2 session 1 2 session 2
Total	11	38	4	17	0	6	19	

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.

- At the beginning of the quarter, there were 8 service users already at the shelter and;
- 11 new admissions were recorded during the first quarter. The breakdown by age group of new admissions can be seen in the table below

Table 1: Night shelter admissions by age group (Q1 2024)

Age group	No of Admission
30-39	4
40-49	2
50-59	2
60+	3
Total admission	11

- During the quarter, 2 services users reintegrated within their families, 1 moved to the regional homes and there were 3 voluntary discharge.