

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 2 2024

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the second 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 141 children related cases of Custody, Access & Maintenance during the second quarter of 2024
- Compared to the same period last year, the number of cases remained unchanged

Referrals for Q2	
Issues	Total
Access	28
Custody	66
Maintenance	47
Grand Total	141

Supreme Court referrals

- The Supreme Court referred two adoption cases for investigation and reports. A decrease of 4 cases was observed 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.

- 107 new cases were reported at the Child protection unit from April to June 2024 compared to 116 cases reported during the same period in 2023. This shows a decrease of 9 cases.
- In comparison to the previous quarter cases reported increased by 20. The most significant increase was observed in the number of sexual abuse cases reported.

Categories	No of cases reported in Q2
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	38
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	26
Other Abuse	
Physical	26
Alleged physical abuse	10
Neglect	5
Alleged neglect	2
Total Q2	107

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.

- 69 cases were recorded at district level during the second quarter. This shows a reduction of 19 compared to the same period last year.
- Compared to the previous quarter, cases reported increased by 18, with the most substantial increase observed in cases of semi orphan benefit.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q2
Neglect	8
Alleged neglect	13
Emotional abuse	2
Alleged Emotional abuse	2
Deviancy	12
Sexually active	1
Semi Orphan benefit	5
Approved scheme benefit	2
Elderly emotional abuse	2
Elderly neglect	2
Elderly hygiene issues	1
Financial issues	1
Truancy	1
Maintenance	2
Access	1
Custody	1
Hygiene issue	5
Domestic violence	2
Teenage pregnancy	1
Alcohol related issues	3
Drug related issues	2
Total	69

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.

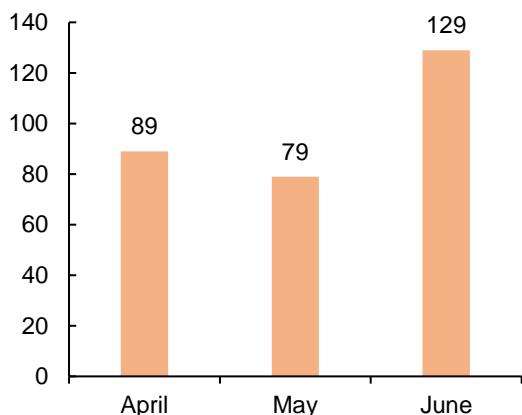
145 cases were reported at the Family Support Unit during the second quarter of 2024. This shows a slight increase of 3 compared to the same period last year. Whilst compared to the preceding quarter cases increased by 49 with the most significant increase observed in spousal conflict cases reported.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q2
Housing issue	7
Homeless	4
Mental health	2
Spousal conflict	26
Family Conflict	57
Total	96

Children's Helpline

During the second quarter of 2024, a sum of 297 calls were 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 66 in calls recorded. To note that eight 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 Q2

Address	Total
Port Glaud	17
Perseverance 1	14
Children's Home	12
Anse Boileau	11
Grand 'Anse Mahe	10

- The main issues reported through the helpline are neglect and absconding home.
- 211 calls were made during the weekdays, with a majority of calls being made during the hours of 4.00pm- 8.00pm (84 calls) and between 8.00pm-11.00pm (47 calls).

Monitoring and Compliance Section

Suitability Check of Childminders and Assistant Childminders

- The Suitability Check Panel conducted 5 working sessions during the second quarter.
- 47 applicants were interviewed consisting of 22 childminders and 25 assistant child minders.
- The panel issued 41 suitability check outcome letters during the quarter. These were to 16 childminders and 25 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 second quarter, a total of 34 antenatal sessions and 31 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 31.

Antenatal

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		Total No of sessions conducted	Breakdown No of sessions conducted
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
Perseverance	18	31	5	20	8	4 session 1 4 session 2
Anse Royale	4	9	6	13	5	2 session 1 3 session 2
Beau Vallon	7	17	5	8	4	2 session 1 2 session 2
Anse Boileau	2	9	5	6	4	2 session 1 2 session 2
Les Mamelles	14	25	6	13	4	2 session 1 2 session 2
High risk(Victoria)		5			3	3 session 1
Praslin	1	8			2	2 session 1
La Digue	0	4			1	1 session 1
Men's class		1			1	1 session 1
Teenagers	3	4	1	3	2	1 session 1 1 session 2
Total	49	113	28	63	34	

Post delivery

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		Total No of sessions conducted	Breakdown No of sessions conducted
	Male	Female	Male	Female		
English River	5	12	3	8	8	4 session 1 4 session 2

Anse Royale	1	7	2	11	6	3 session 1 3 session 2
Beau Vallon	2	2	1	3	3	1 session 1 2 session 2
Anse Boileau	2	6			4	4 session 1
Beoliere	1	2		1	2	1 session 1 1 session 2
Les Mamelles	1	2	3	6	4	2 session 1 2 session 2
Takamaka	2	3	2	2	2	1 session 1 1 session 2
La Digue	1	5			2	2 session 1
Total	15	39	11	31	31	

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 second quarter, there were 12 service users already at the shelter and;
- 8 new admissions were recorded during the quarter. The breakdown by age group of new admissions can be seen in the table below

Table 1: Night shelter admissions by age group (Q2 2024)

Age group	No of Admission
20-29	1
30-39	2
40-49	2
50-59	1
60+	2
Total admission	8

- 11 service users moved out the shelter during the quarter

	Total
Reintegrated	3
Voluntary discharge	3
Involuntary discharge	2
Termination of service	2
Hospitalized	1
Total	11