

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 3 2024

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the third 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 61 children related cases of Custody, Access & Maintenance during the third quarter of 2024
- This represents a reduction of 120 compared to the same period last year,

Referrals for Q3	
Issues	Total
Access	3
Custody	30
Maintenance	28
Grand Total	61

Supreme Court referrals

No cases were referred by the Supreme Court for investigation during the quarter.

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 96 new cases were reported at the Child protection unit from July to September 2024 compared to 105 cases reported during the same period in 2023. This shows a decrease of 9 cases.
- Compared to the previous quarter cases declined by 11, with the most significant reduction observed in the number of alleged sexual abuse cases.

Categories	No of cases reported in Q3
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	31
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	16
Other Abuse	
Physical	29
Alleged physical abuse	14
Neglect	3
Alleged neglect	3
Total	96

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.

- 76 cases were recorded at district level during the quarter, showing a reduction of 6 compared to same period last year.
- In comparison to the previous quarter, cases reported increased by 7, with the most substantial increase observed in cases of neglect reported.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q3
Neglect	17
Delinquency	1
Alleged neglect	10
Emotional abuse	4
Deviancy	10
Semi orphan benefit	2
Elderly neglect	1
Access	3
Domestic violence	1
Approved scheme benefit	2
Drug related issues	1
Custody	8
Elderly emotional abuse	1
Elderly housing	1
Financial abuse of elderly	1
Teenage pregnancy	4
Truancy	4
Elderly health issue	1
Hygiene	2
Sexual assault	1
Incest	1
Total	76

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.

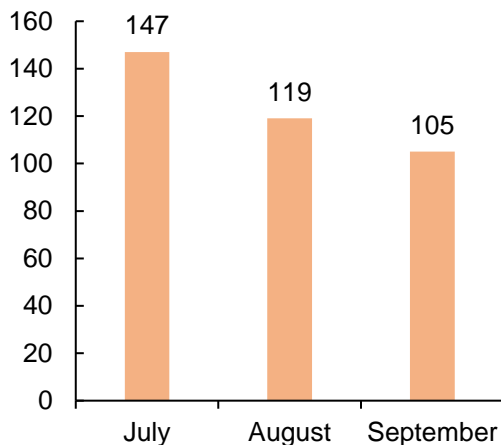
127 cases were reported at the family support unit during the 3rd quarter of 2024. This shows an increase of 43 compared to the same period last year. Whilst compared to the preceding quarter cases declined by 18, with the most significant reduction observed in the number of spousal conflict cases reported.

Categories of cases	No of cases reported in Q3
Housing issue	2
Homeless	9
Mental health	6
Spousal conflict	42
Family Conflict	64
Neglect of adult with Disability	4
Total	127

Children's Helpline

During the third quarter of 2024, a sum of 371 calls were received through the helpline, with most calls recorded during the month of July. Compared to the same period last year this shows an increase of 144 in calls recorded. To note that five 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 Q3

Address	Total
Children's Home	21
Perseverance 1	17
Anse Boileau	15
Plaisance	15
Port Glaud	13

- The main issues reported through the helpline are neglect and absconding home.
- 255 calls were made during the weekdays, with a majority of calls being made during the hours of 4.00pm- 8.00pm (83 calls) and between 8.00pm-11.00pm (65 calls).

Monitoring and Compliance Section

Suitability Check of Childminders and Assistant Childminders

- The Suitability Check Panel conducted three working sessions in the third quarter and a total of 18 child minders and 17 assistant childminders were interviewed.
- The panel issued 25 suitability check outcome letters to 10 childminders and 15 assistant childminders during the quarter.

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 third quarter, a total of 40 antenatal sessions and 24 post-delivery sessions was conducted. The attendance per region can be seen in the tables below.
- Three hospital visits were also conducted during the quarter, with a total attendance of 69.

Antenatal

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		Total No of sessions conducted	Breakdown No of sessions conducted
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		
Perseverance	12	21	13	20	9	5 session 1 4 session 2
Anse Royale	5	7	1	7	5	2 session 1 3 session 2
Beau Vallon	4	18	6	13	6	3 session 1 3 session 2
Anse Boileau	3	4	7	11	4	1 session 1 3 session 2
Les Mamelles	4	8	7	19	4	1 session 1 3 session 2
Takamaka	2	3		2	3	2 session 1 1 session 2
High risk(Victoria)	2	6	1	1	4	3 session 1 1 session 2
Praslin		1			1	1 session 1
La Digue	1	4			1	1 session 1
Teenagers		3	2	6	3	1 session 1 2 session 2
Total	33	75	37	79	40	

Post delivery

Regions	1st Session		2nd Session		Total No of sessions conducted	Breakdown No of sessions conducted
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>		
English River	5	15		1	6	5 session 1 1 session 2
Anse Royale	2	10	1	2	4	3 session 1 1 session 2
Beau Vallon	5	11	2	10	6	3 session 1 3 session 2
Anse Boileau			3	3	1	1 session 2

Beoliere		3	2	3	4	2 session 1 2 session 2
Les Mamelles		3			1	1 session 1
Takamaka	1	2			2	2 session 1
Total	13	44	8	19	24	

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 third quarter, there were 10 service users at the Night Shelter and;
- 12 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 (Q3 2024)

Age group	No of Admission
20-29	4
30-39	6
40-49	2
Total admission	12

- 12 service users moved out the shelter during the quarter

	Total
Reintegrated	3
Voluntary discharge	8
Involuntary discharge	1
Total	12