



# Annual Report 2014 for the year ending 31st December 2014

Parliamentary Paper No: 119 of 2018





### **ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

For the year ending 31st December 2014

### STRATEGIC DIRECTION

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

Empowering the Disadvantaged and Women

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Families and Communities supported through Social Welfare Initiatives and Gender Mainstreaming Programme

#### **VALUES**

We will foster an organization culture that values:

#### **Human Dignity**

We respect the dignity of all we serve.

#### Commitment to Excellence

We will pursue to provide excellent service.

#### Integrity

We are committed to conduct ourselves in a manner consistent with the highest standard of integrity.

#### **Customers**

Efficient and effective customer service and satisfaction

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### MINISTER'S FOREWORD

tepping out of the professional teaching background to the new role as the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation was a challenging yet an interesting experience after taking up office in September 2014.

Into the 3 months as the Minister I gauged the massive empowering and sustainable programmes that were targeted for the women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and the disadvantaged.

I would like to acknowledge my predecessor Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni the First Female Speaker of Parliament of Fiji for the truly encouraging, programmatic and immense contribution in the years of the service as the Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation.

The change in the Ministry name to the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (formerly Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation) proved the sounding effort of the Government to resemble its interest and commitment towards the women and the children. Ladies and Gentlemen, this report encompasses information about the programmes, projects and the achievement for the year 2014. It has been a year of great achievement for the Ministry reflecting on the massive achievements before and after taking up office. This year, the Ministry launched the first ever National Women's Expo showcasing talents and skills of Fijian Women. Further to this, the re-branding of the Boys Centre to Fiji Juvenile Rehabilitation and Development Centre (FJRDC) and the implementation of the Rural Pregnant Mothers Food Voucher Programme was accomplished.

I would like to express my gratitude to the hardworking staff of the Ministry, donor agencies and organization, domestic partners and Non – Governmental organization for contribution to the success of the achievement of the Ministry outcome throughout the year.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to present to you the Annual Report for the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the year 2014.

Honourable Rosy Sofia Akbar

Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation



### PERMANENT SECRETARY'S S T A T E M E N T

historical annual report as this followed Fiji's first democratically elected Government under the 2013 Constitution.

For the first time there is a Ministry for Children and we welcome our new Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation-Hon Rosy Akbar who was given the portfolio on the 24th September 2014.

The Ministry together with the Education and Health Ministries represented the State for interactive dialogue with the UN Conventions on the Right of Children Committee on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th State Report.

The quest to graduate beggars, and create better city image, was made real with the partnership with the Church of

Nazarene. A residential facility (Good Samaritan Inn) by the church pioneered a holistic program where able bodied and challenged clients can be given an avenue to lead a self-reliant livelihood.

The Ministry has changed focus from just provision of social protection programs to a planned programmatic approach towards prevention, new innovation, graduating welfare to workfare, new communication campaigns for child abuse, and community directed programs on violence against women.

I must thank our UN partners, agencies and stakeholders in uniting strongly to make a difference in the lives of children, women, disadvantaged, people with disabilities and older persons in Fiji.

Dr. Josefa Koroivueta

Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation



#### The role of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation is:

- Care and Protection Programmes for Children as stipulated under the relevant legislations
- ▶ Alleviate poverty through Social Protection Programs for the Disadvantaged
- ► Administration of Poverty Alleviation Programmes
- Empowerment of Women and Gender Mainstreaming

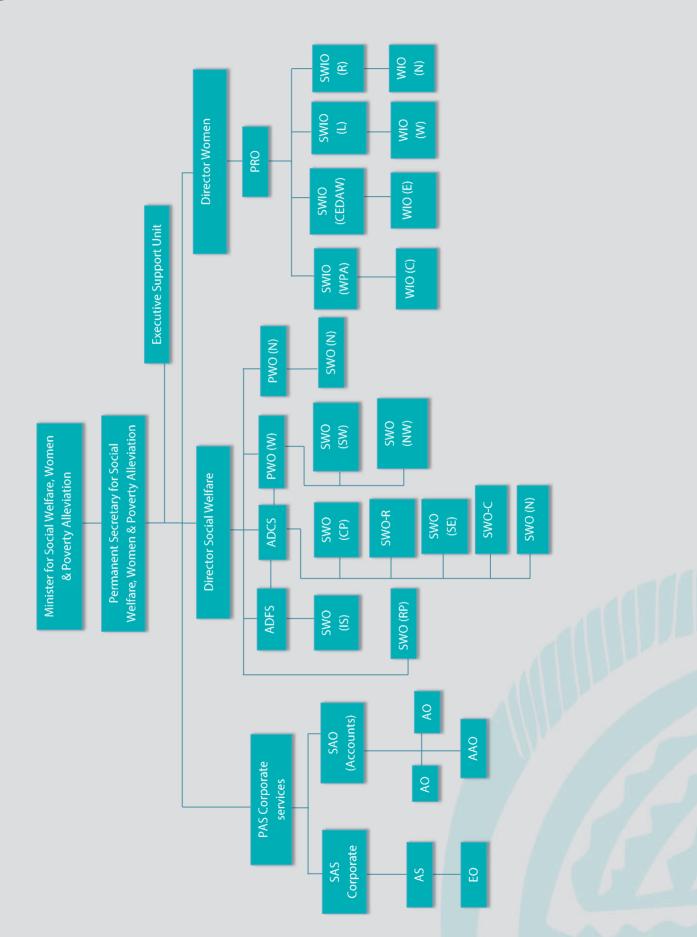
#### Statutory Obligations under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation:

- 1. Adoption of Infants Act (Cap.58) 1978
- 2. Community Work Act 1994
- 3. Family Law Act 2003
- 4. Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons Act 21, 1994
- 5. Juveniles Act (Cap 56)1973
- 6. Probation Act (Cap) 1978
- 7. Domestic Violence Decree 2009
- 8. Child Welfare Decree 2010
- 9. Social Justice Act (1997)

#### **Alignment to International Conventions:**

- 1. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1993)
- 2. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (1995)
- 3. Beijing Platform for Action (1995)
- 4. Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002)
- 5. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### **Organisation Chart**





Executive Support Unit (ESU) was established as a result of the Functional Review that was conducted by the Public Service Commission in 2013. The review was part of the Government's commitment to reform the public sector to enhance efficiency, promote effective performance and service delivery. ESU serves to assist in the coordination and facilitation of the technical, operational and administrative task for the Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation and the Permanent Secretary.

#### **Change of Leadership and Ministry Name**



Dr. Jiko Luveni had officially handed over after serving for 8 years as Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation to the incoming Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Rosy Sofia Akbar.

The staff of the Ministry had farewelled Hon. Madam Dr. Luveni, who was later sworn in as the *first female Speaker of the Parliament of Fiji*.



### **Executive Support Unit**

Another highlight was the change in name of the Ministry formerly known as the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation to the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. The Senior Management briefed Hon. Akbar about the roles and functions of the respective Departments in the Ministry.

#### **Ministerial Engagements**



At the inaugural Fiji's first National Womens' Expo Ms. Bambie Nancy Shen, the author of "The Uncrushable Rose" was invited to be the Key Note Speaker. During her address, she shared her life story and challenges to inspire Fijian women.

#### **Public Consultations**



Senior Officials accompanied the Hon. Minister Rosy Akbar during public consultations in the Western and Northern Divisions. Public consultations was a way of exchanging dialogues for to improve services delivery and provide awareness on the Government's initiatives to empower families and alleviate poverty.



### **Department of Social Welfare**

The core responsibility for the Department is child protection and social protection programs for the poor, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged. The Department has two (2) Units:

#### 1.0 CHILD SERVICES UNIT (CSU)

The Child Services Unit has statutory responsibilities in the Care and Protection of Children. The Unit's responsibilities are divided into three (3) main programs and these are:

- 1. Child Protection Programs / Activities
- 2. Residential Services
- 3. Probation and Juvenile Justice Program

The Unit recorded a total of 705 child welfare cases reported under the Child Welfare Decree. The South-East Division recorded the highest number of reported cases followed by the Northern Division.

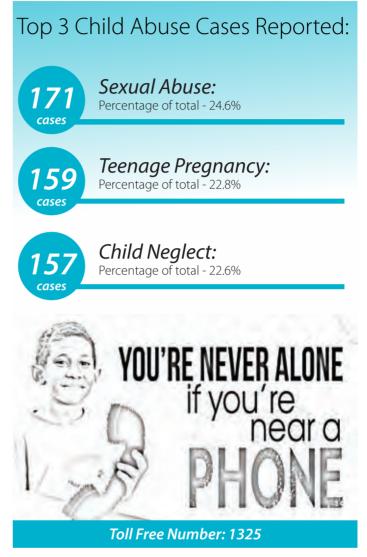
**Graph 1: No. of Child Welfare Cases Reported by Division** 



2014 recorded Sexual Abuse being the most common form of child abuse with a total of 171 reported cases followed by Teenage Pregnancy with 159 reported cases.

**Table 2: Reported Child Abuse Cases** 

Reported Child Abuse Cases	No:
Abduction	11
Abandonment	5
Absenteeism	1
Attempted Suicide	6
Beyond Control	13
Child Labour	1
Child Neglect	157
Damaging Property	2
Drunk and disorderly	1
Emotional Abuse	5
Evicted from home	1
III - treatment	2
Incest Child	1
Indecent exposure	2
Missing	1
Physical Abuse	96
Physically Sick/Injured	14
Sexual Abuse	171
Teenage Pregnancy	159
Theft	18
Truancy	2
Verbal Abuse	4
Victim of Parental Conflict	9
Young Offender	14



#### 1.1 Court Reports

A total of 490 court reports were submitted. These reports include; Guardian-Ad-Litem (Adoption), Residence and Contact, Pre-Sentence, Probation, Community Work, Victim Assessment, Family Assessment, Means, Home Study and Counseling.

#### 1.2 Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (PCAN)

In November, the Ministry in partnership with NGOs, organized fifteen (15) PCAN campaigns in the various divisions to increase community awareness on positive parenting and prevention of child abuse.

#### 1.3 National Child Helpline (Toll Free No. 1325)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ministry, Medical Services Pacific (MSP) and Communications Networks Companies in Fiji including; Telecommunication Fiji Limited, Vodafone Fiji and Digicel to provide efficient communication network to children who need advice or assistance through the Child Helpline service.

The Child Helpline 1325 is a toll-free number to access this service and will assist children around the country for immediate advice



on issues they face. Concerned adults and other community members can also call to seek advice or assistance on child related issues and enquiries.

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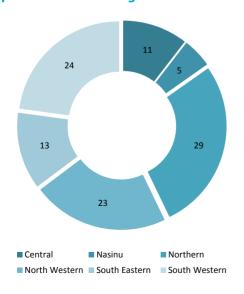
#### 1.4 Training of Community Facilitators

The Unit continues to encourage communities' participation in Child Protection. A total of 24 community facilitators were trained. A significant achievement of the Department in relation to the Children and Women's Summit in August allowed trained community facilitators to convene, learn, share experiences and good practices. This supports community leaders to understand their roles towards Government's commitment in the area of child protection.

#### 1.5 Community Based Facilitation Prevention

Aligned to the Department's mandate on Child Protection, the Welfare Officers across all Districts and Divisions conducted Child Protection awareness using the Child Protection Information kit in partnership with UNICEF.

**Graph 3: Awareness Programs Conducted** 





#### 1.6 Residential Homes

The Department strengthened its partnership with Faith Based Organizations to improve the services and care provided for the children living in the Residential Homes in Fiji. Currently, there are 9 registered Homes as follows:

**Table 4: Children in Registered Homes** 

Residential Home	No. of Children
Fiji Juvenile Rehabilitation & Development Centre	23
Pearly Gates Home	14
Dilkusha Children's Home	25
Saint Christopher's Home	26
Homes of Hope	3
Saint Minas Children's Home	22
Treasure House Children's Home	28
Veilomani Boys Home	18
Lomani Au Children's Home	9





#### 1.7 Fiji Juveniles Rehabilitation and Development Centre

16th September marked the opening of the new site at Samabula by the Hon. Minister, Dr. Jiko Luveni.

#### 1.8 Fun Day for the children in Residential Homes

On 3rd December, the Department hosted the first ever fun day for children under residential care. 136 children and Staff of Residential Homes participated in this event.

#### 1.9 National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC)

Under Article 44 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the NCCC submits periodical progress reports to the CRC Committee. These reports allow Fiji to raise child related concerns and issues across many areas; highlight challenges and areas where assistance is needed. In September, the Permanent Secretary Dr. Josefa Koroivueta with Mr. Rupeni Fatiaki (Director Social Welfare), Dr. Joseph Kado (Ministry of Health) and Mr. Satyendra Singh (Ministry for Education) attended a meeting in Geneva for the review of the Fiji's CRC Reports. The next report is due in 2020.

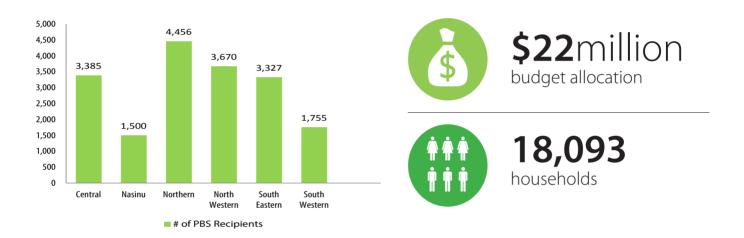
#### 2.0 FAMILY SERVICES UNIT

The Unit is responsible for the implementation of the Social Protection Programs, Income Generating Initiatives and management of Grants to Non-Government Organizations.

#### 2.1 Poverty Benefit Scheme

Poverty Benefit Scheme (PBS) is a recently reformed Social Protection Program under the Department of Social Welfare. This was result of the social protection assessment undertaken by the World Bank in 2011, targeted at reviewing and streamlining the social protection program in Fiji. The PBS is regarded as a poverty household benefit that assesses specific household variables to determine eligibility status of any application for assistance.

A total of 18, 093 households are receiving assistance through the Poverty Benefit Scheme with budget of \$22million allocation for 2014.



#### 2.2 Bus Fare Concession Program

Through the Deed of Agreement between Government and the Fiji Bus Operators signed in 2011, the Unit continues to facilitate identification cards for older persons turning 60 years of age & above and for Persons with Disability.

In 2014, the Department processed a total of 5,512 (Elderly-5076 & Persons with Disablity-436) bus fare concession cards.

Years	Disabled Persons	Older Persons
2011	411	22,417
2012	365	7,043
2013	457	6,829
2014	436	5,076
TOTAL	1,669	41,365



**41,365** older persons



**1,669** disabled persons



#### 2.3 Care and Protection Allowance

Government continues to assist children from single parent households or those that are cared for by guardians who are living in poverty. The program was allocated a total of \$5.9 million and as at 31st December 2014, a total of 2,309 recipients benefited through this assistance. With the continued support of the development partners UNICEF and World Bank, the Department reviewed the Care & Protection Programme.





\$5.9 million budget allocation



**2,309** recipients

#### 2.4 Beggars Rehabilitation Program

In April the Ministry signed an MOU with the Church of the Nazarene (Fiji District) to work together in addressing the plight of the Beggars in Fiji. This was through the establishment of a Home for the beggars with a grant of \$100,000 in Colo-i-Suva.

#### 2.5 Social Pension Scheme (SPS)

The Social Pension Scheme (SPS), targets individuals who do not have access to any superannuation or any source of income. The budget allocated for this Programme was \$3.2million. A total of 11,615 Older Persons were recipients of the Program with monthly allowance of \$30.00. The table below provides the breakdown on the number of SPS recipients:

Divisions	No. of SPS Recipients
Central	996
Nasinu	596
Northern	2,107
North Western	2,169
South Eastern	1,888
South Western	3,859
TOTAL	11,615





## **\$3.2**million budget allocation



**11,615** recipients

#### 2.6 Food Voucher Program (FVP)

The current recipients of the Poverty Benefit Scheme and Care and Protection Allowance receive monthly food voucher of \$30.00 to supplement the cash allowance received under the two programmes.





### 2.7 The Food Voucher Program for Rural Pregnant Mothers

In line with Government's Commitment towards MDG 4: Improving Maternal Health and MDG 5: Reducing Child Immortality, Government through the Ministry and Ministry of Health in partnership with Post Fiji Limited Introduced Food Voucher Programme for Rural Pregnant Mothers to encourage early bookings. Monthly allowance of \$30 is received for maximum of 10 months (9 months of pregnancy and 1 month post-natal).





#### 2.8 Fire Victims Assistance

A \$1000 grant is provided for immediate relief to the families affected by fire. In 2014, 141 cases were assisted.

Divisions	No. of Cases Assisted	Total Funds
Central	20	\$20,000
Nasinu	17	\$17,000
Northern	10	\$10,000
North Western	12	\$12,000
South Eastern	49	\$49,000
South Western	33	\$33,000
TOTAL	141	\$141,000



**\$141,000** funds allocated



**141** families assisted

#### **2.9 Grants to Voluntary Organizations**

The Department continues to support Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) through an yearly grant. Below is the breakdown of NGO's Assisted through the Grants to Voluntary Organizations:

#	Non-Government Organization	Total Grant	Nature of Request
1	The Methodist Veilomani Boys Home	\$20,000	Renovation of facility
2	Lautoka Special School	\$11,440	Furniture and PEMAC Equipment
3	St Christopher's Home	\$20,000	Wages for Caregivers
4	Fiji Vocational Technical Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities	\$17,000	Vocational Training
5	Fiji Society for the Blind	\$10,000	Food Expenses and Admin cost
6	Homes of Hope	\$20,000	Food Expenses
7	Counter Stroke Fiji	\$5,000	Talk shop and Care Givers workshop
8	Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation (FNCDP)	\$5,000	Support Staff
9	Fiji Association for Deaf	\$5,000	Administration, Interpreter services and Sign language
10	Psychiatric Survivors Association	\$5,000	Advocacy program
11	United Blind Persons Of Fiji	\$5,000	Administration costs
12	Spinal Injury Association of Fiji	\$5,000	Wheelchair program and freight
13	Empower Pacific	\$20,000	Counseling & Awareness Programme for Child Protection
14	Sigatoka Special School	\$6,500	Fencing of school compound
15	The New Samaritan Mission International	\$5,000	IGP
16	Dilkusha Home Residential Care	\$20,000	Wages for Caregivers
17	Project Heaven	\$5,000	Screening of children eyes and ears
18	Western Disable	\$5,000	Rehabilitation and Workshop
19	Fiji Cripples Society	\$10,000	Recurrent Expenditures for care of Children
20	Church of Nazareen	\$100,000	Shelter for Beggers
	TOTAL	\$299,940	

#### 2.10 Income Generating Program

The Programme provides options of Income Generating Ventures for the recipients of the Poverty Benefit Scheme and Care and Protection Scheme to graduate from Welfare to Workfare to improve their livelihood.

A total of 86 projects were funded through the Programme and projects ranged from canteens, livestock and poultry farming, fishing, catering, baking and tailoring.



#### 2.11 National Council of Older Persons

The Council serves as the umbrella body of all services and programs of Older Persons as mandated by the NCOP Decree and Organizations that provides services will need to be registered under the Council. The NCOP's objective is to:

- Strengthen the partnership and collaboration between the Government, families, community based organizations, traditional village communities, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, in creating an inclusive, protective, healthy and supportive environment for older persons and
- Represent the rights and interests of older persons in Fiji at all levels. The NCOP Council was allocated with a \$200,000 Budget to spearhead the implementation of the Council's mandate as per the National Ageing Policy of (2011-2015).







### **Department of Women**

Department of Women is the primary policy advisor to Government on women development and gender issues. The functions of Department are categorized under five thematic areas as stimulated in the Women's Plan of Action (WPA).

#### Thematic Area 1: Formal Sector Employment and Livelihood

The goal of this thematic area is to provide awareness to women in formal sector employment on their rights under Labour laws and empower women through livelihood projects. This is aligned to both International and regional commitments that the Department fulfills through Women's Plan of Action 2010 - 2019.

The Department provides a number of livelihood projects for women to venture into small scale business which assists families to walk out of poverty. In 2014, the major highlight of this thematic area was the launch of the First National Women's Expo. This was a new initiative aimed at providing women artisans with a central platform to showcase their talents and market their products. In addition, the Department carried out the following activities:

### Activity 1: Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Employment Relation Promulgation (ERP) Training

This is targeted towards women in the formal sector by creating awareness on their rights under the ERP and the EEO with international and regional commitments. The Ministry of Employment and Industrial Relations facilitated a training attended by 18 female participants.

#### **Activity 2: Livelihood Projects**

The Department for Women provides a number of income generating opportunities to registered women's groups who wish to venture into income generation projects. In 2014, a total number of 49 women's groups were assisted with projects such as Sewing, Poultry, Screen printing, Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO), Mobile Shed Hire, Fishing net, canteen, Market stall, Bee-keeping, Bakery and fuel. Table below summarizes the number of groups assisted in the four divisions:

Division	Number of Women's Groups Assisted	Total Cost
Central	8	\$20,186.37
Eastern	20	\$30,583.81
Western	9	\$20,408.27
Northern	12	\$45,634.33
Total	49	\$116,812.78

#### **Activity 3: Financial Literacy Training**

Together with Livelihood Projects, the Department provides capacity building trainings for Women's groups to ensure project sustainability. Financial literacy training is provided to women to assist with better record keeping. A total of 30 Women's groups were provided with training attended by 879 participants. In addition, three (3) financial literacy training were conducted for women market vendors in Central, Western and Eastern Divisions.

#### **Activity 4: FNCDP Sewing Training**

The Department nominated 11 women from various Women's groups to attend sewing skill trainings. A total of 23 women graduated with certificates, including participants nominated by Department of Social Welfare and Fiji National Council of Disabled Persons (FNCDP).

#### **Activity 5: National Women's Expo**

The first National Women's Expo was held from the 6th to 8th August with the theme "Celebrating Fijian Women's Talent". The expo was the vision of former Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation Dr Jiko Luveni, envisaged to have the biggest gathering of Fijian women in a National Event. The event was Officially opened by the Rear Admiral (Retired) Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama. About 1516 women artisans gathered at the Vodafone arena to show case their products, talents and skills. In addition, side events were organised to up skill in the areas of sewing, fabric art,

financial literacy and rocket stove construction. This initiative was supported by sponsorship from private organisations and Financial Institutions. Total Sales of \$133,152 was recorded during the three-day event. At the closure of the event it was declared that the Women's Expo will become an annual event.



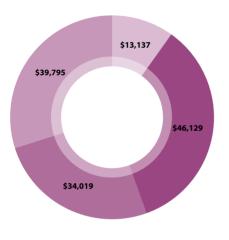
\$133,152 total sales



1516 women artisans

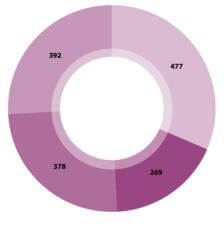


Total Sales by Divisions



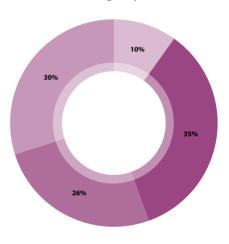
■ Central ■ Eastern ■ Western ■ Northern

No: of Participants by Divisions



■ Central ■ Eastern ■ Western ■ Northern

Sales Percentage by Divisions



■Central ■Eastern ■Western ■Northern



#### **Activity 6: Grants to NGOs**

The grant initially targeted NGOs and later Women's groups were included. The table below highlights the women's group and NGOs assisted:

No	Name of Project	Budget
1.	Doi Women's Resource Center Lau	\$17,046.40
2.	Qarani Women's Resource Center	\$17,283.20
3.	Saqani Women's Resource Center	\$11,250.80
4.	Latter Day Saints Women Ministry Nausori Vanilla Farm project	\$4,253.45
5.	Fiji Girl Guides Association Nakasi HART Sewing Project	\$5,008.20
6.	Methodist Women's Fellowship Kaleli Women's Canteen Project	\$4,359.66
7.	Nadonumai Women's Group BBQ Stall	\$4,950.22
8.	Catholic Women's League Matanisivaro Women's Piggery project	\$4,999.37
9.	Grace Trifam Ministry Trash for cash recycle project	\$5,000.00
10.	Fiji Girl Guides Association	\$2,000.00
11.	Lewa Women's Group Bakery Project	\$1,226.92
12.	Nalawa Women's Group Rest House	\$1,314.00
13.	IGP Hands & Feet Women's Group	\$3,556.75

### Activity 7: Bilateral Cooperation Training for Women's Economic Empowerment

### Training of Trainers for Fiji: Value Addition of Fish Processing Products

Department of Women Staff attended a two weeks training on fish products processing with Department of Fisheries and Ministry of Youth Officials facilitated by Indonesian experts. The training included packaging the products, preservation, marketing and value addition.

#### Activity 8: Women's Resource Centre (WRC)

In 2014, four WRC was approved; two for Western Division while Central and Northern division had one center each.

#### **Activity 9: Women's Extension Centers**

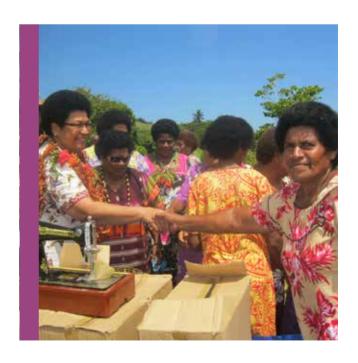
2014, recorded the highest number of Women extension center constructed. A total of 21 extensions were constructed; 7 in Western division, 2 in Northern division, 6 in the Eastern and Central division respectively.

#### **Activity 10: Sewing Machines Distribution**

A total of 399 sewing machines were distributed in the Central, Western and Northern divisions to assist the women in sewing of school uniforms and clothing for their families and as income generation venture. The graph illustrates the number of sewing machines distributed:

Province	No: of Groups Assisted	No: of Sewing Machines
Macuata	23	23
Bua	70	70
Cakaudrove	54	56
Tailevu	21	28
Naitasiri	12	19
Serua / Namosi	2	3
Rewa	13	24
Ва	20	50
Ra	28	62
Nadroga / Navosa	32	64

	TOTAL (Groups)	Total (Sewing Machines)
NORTHERN	147	149
CENTRAL	48	74
EASTERN	80	176
TOTAL	275	399

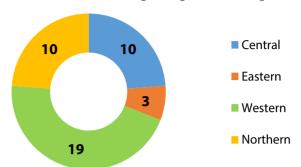


#### Thematic Area 2: Equal Participation in Decision Making

Representation of women in decision making bodies in the public sector continues to be a major challenge. The Department works in collaboration with key stakeholders in enabling women to be visible in decision making through the following trainings:

- Leadership Training
- BRIDGE Training
- Marama ni Yavusa Leadership Training

Through the Marama-ni-Yavusa leadership training in collaboration with the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs trained 42 Marama-ni-Yavusa across the four division as illustrated in the pie chart:





#### Thematic Area 3: Elimination of Violence Against Women (VAW) and Children

Violence against women and children is a violation of fundamental human rights Prevention of Violence against Women is everyone's responsibility. The Ministry in collaboration with Stakeholders ensures that victims and survivors of gender based violence have access to services and are dealt accordingly by respective agencies.

### Activity 1: Zero Tolerance Violence Free Community (ZTVFC)

ZTVFC aims to empower women, men and children through human rights advocacy, media campaign and community training on services for elimination of violence against women and children. It further focuses on improving response to crime against women and children and improved access to justice. A total of 17 communities were declared ZTVFC through coordinated effort between the Ministry and relevant Stakeholders.



#	Division	Date	Community Name/ Location
1	Northern	30/01/2014	Nabouono Village, Macuata
2	Northern	31/01/2014	Nawailevu Village, Macuata
3	Northern	26/06/2014	Yasawa Village, Cakaudrove
4	Northern	27/06/2014	Namoli Village, Macuata
5	Western	25/03/2014	Waikubukubu Village, Tavua
6	Western	25/03/2014	Nadelei Village, Tavua
7	Western	26/03/2014	Nabila Village, Tavua
8	Western	13/05/2014	Koronubu Settlement, Ba
9	Western	05/06/2014	Seniyaya Settlement, Lautoka
10	Western	06/06/2014	Dreketi Community, Lautoka
11	Western	11/06/2014	Tauvegavega Settlement, Ba
12	Western	13/06/2015	Vatukacevaceva Village, Ra
13	Western	21/06/2014	Malake Village, Ra
14	Central	29/04/2014	Naitauvoli Village, Naitasiri
15	Central	29/04/2014	Veniuqa Village, Tailevu
16	Central	17/06/2014	Nakaile Village, Tailevu
17	Central	28/08/2014	Navesi Village, Suva

### Activity 2: Gender Based Violence Training with the Fiji Police Force

The Department facilitated training on Gender Based Violence to Police recruits held at the Fiji Police Academy on 26th November. The Training focused on enabling the Police Officers to have a better understanding of issues arising from gender based violence and how they can be better dealt with.

#### **Activity 3: Legal Literacy Training**

A total of 23 trainings were conducted across the four Division.

#### **Activity 4: Women and Children Summit**

The Women and Children Summit was organized targeting Zero Tolerance Violence Free Communities (ZVTFC). 171 participants from 38 ZVTFC across the 4 divisions (Northern-6, Western-18, Central-10 and Eastern-4) attended the summit. The summit was also attended by Child Protection Officers, Department of Social Welfare and trained Community Facilitators.

#### Thematic Area 4: Access to Services

#### **Activity 1: Sexual Reproductive Health Unit**

The highlights in 2014 were the establishment of the Sexual Reproductive Health Unit funded by UNFPA.

The Sexual Reproductive Health Project reached 62 communities (Central-22, Western- 19, Northern-15 and Eastern-6) providing sexual reproductive health training and health screening in partnership with Medical Services Pacific. 90% of these communities are registered Women's Groups under the Department.

#### **Activity 2: Solar Grandmothers**

The Ministry in partnership with Indian High Commission and FLAMMA identified 10 iTaukei women to undergo training on solar engineering technology at Barefoot College in India.

#### **Activity 3: Rocket Stove**

Through the Climate Change program, 4 communities were identified and trained on Rocket Stove construction which is part of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

#### Activity 4: Rural Women's Day

The Rural Women's Day is celebrated annually to honor the contribution of rural women towards development.



#### Thematic Area 5: Women and the Law

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, commonly known as International Bill of Rights for Women. A wide consultation was conducted in the four divisions towards Fiji's 5th CEDAW State Report. The table below highlights the consultations held;

Division	Name of District	Venue of Consultation	Date of Consultation
Central	Navua District	PA conference Room,Navua	06/05/2014
Central	Naitasiri District	Veitalacagi Conference Room, Vunidawa	07/05/2014
Central	Korovou District	Korovou CMF Hall, Korovou	08/05/2014
Western	Ba District	Tabaiwalu Hall, Nailaga Village	28/05/2014
Western	Ra District	Vatusekiyasawa Village Hall	30/05/2014
Western	Tavua District	Tavualevu Community Hall	29/05/2014
Western	Sigatoka District	Tuibarata Community Hall	27/05/2014
Northern	Labasa District	Commissioner Northern Division Conference Room	19/05/2014
Northern	Savusavu District	Nakama AOG Hall	20/05/2014
Northern	Taveuni District	Provincial Hall	21/05/2014
Eastern	SSVM Lau	Yatu Lau Arcade	15/04/2014
Eastern	Ovalau District	Lomaiviti Provincial Council Meeting House	14/05/2014

A total number of 220 women and 8 men were part of the consultation.



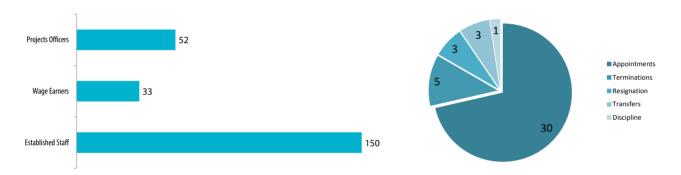


### **Corporate Services Department**

The Corporate Services Department of the Ministry is responsible for the overall human resource management, staff recruitment and development and financial services to ensure the Ministry achieves its day to day operational functions in an effective and efficient manner.

#### 1.0 ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Ministry has a total of 235 Officers (150 Established Staff, 33 Government Wage Earners and 52 Project Officers). During this period, there were 30 appointments, 5 terminations, 3 resignation, 3 transfers and 1 case of Discipline.



The Ministry adheres to the standard HR policies aligned to the recruitment policy of Public Service commission (PSC). The Ministries standard recruitment process sets guidelines to ensure workforce capability and capacity recruiting, selection and promotion. In addition, the Ministry in consultation with PSC developed (draft) Strategic Workforce Plan, Learning & Development Plan and Human Resource Manual.

The Ministry continued to provide training for its staff through available local (33 courses) and international training (20 courses) opportunities to address skills and knowledge gaps. An Officer is required to attend three trainings annually. In addition to training, the Ministry also adopted ongoing capacity building through;

- Deputized for supervisors
- ► Contribute in decision making process
- Sharing of responsibilities
- Rotation of duties
- Acting opportunities

The Administration Section is also responsible for the Registry Section which plays an important role in storing and safe keeping of information. In addition, the Administration section manages the Ministry's assets and logistics. The Annual Board of Survey in 2014 was conducted and reports were submitted to Ministry of Finance. In terms of assets, a Fixed Asset Register is maintained.

The implementation of the Services Excellence Principals and Framework aimed at the continuous improvement and innovation of the Organization. The Visionary leadership style contributes to the successful implementation of Service Excellence Awards (SEA) Initiatives within the Ministry.



The Organization SEA Team took the lead role in ensuring those SEA Initiatives were incorporated in each Department deliverables. The Ministry received a Commitment Level award in 2014.

At the end of the year, the Ministry organized an Annual Awards Night to recognize and reward staff for their achievements.

#### 2.0 ACCOUNTS SECTION

The Account Section carries out its responsibilities through the following task:

#### 1. Management of Payments (Accounting Financial function)

- Payment to Social Welfare beneficiaries and service providers
- Closing of 2014 Accounts and
- Meeting financial requirements of the Ministry

#### 2. Compliance and Monitoring

- Adhering to Financial Regulations through provision of Financial Statement to Ministry of Finance (salary reconciliation, petty cash and bank reconciliation, IDC and Drawings
- Adapting to Ministry of Finance instructions through Finance Circulars and
- Attend to Audit queries



### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORTS**

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

#### SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2014

### MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

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#### OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

#### Scope

I have audited the special purpose financial statements which have been prepared under the cash basis of accounting and notes thereon of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the year ended 31 December 2014, as set out on pages 9 to 12. The special purpose financial statements comprise the following:

- (i) Statement of Receipts and Expenditure:
- (ii) Appropriation Statement; and
- (iii) Statement of Losses.

The Minister for Wonten, Children and Poverty Alleviation is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the special purpose financial statements and the information contained therein.

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these special purpose financial statements based on my audit.

My audit was conducted in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the special purpose financial statements are free of material misstatements. My audit procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the special purpose financial statements and evaluation of government accounting policies. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the special purpose financial statements are fairly stated and in accordance with government accounting policies in Note 2 and the Financial Management Act 2004, so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the financial performance of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the year ended 31 December 2014.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

#### Qualification

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation did not complete the annual Board of Survey for the whole Ministry. In addition, the Ministry did not include in the Statement of Losses the amount of \$113,548.42 written-off by the Ministry of Finance from the Ministry's Drawings account. As a result, the correctness of the Statement of Losses submitted by the Ministry could not be verified.

#### Qualified Audit Opinion

In my opinion

 a) except for the matter referred to in the qualification paragraph, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the accounting policies stated in Note 2, the financial performance of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the year ended 31 December 2014.  the financial statements give the information required by the Financial Management Act 2004 in the manner so required.

Atunaisa Nadakuitavuki for AUDITOR GENERAL

Suva, Fiji 4 June 2015



#### **MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014**

We certify that these special purpose financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and its financial position for the year ended 31 December 2014; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004, the Finance Instructions 2010 and Finance Circular 16/2006.

Dr. Josefa Koroivueta	
<b>Permanent Secretary</b>	

01/06/15

Mr. Umeshwar Ram **Principal Accountant** 

02/06/15

### MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Notes	2014	2013
		\$	\$
RECEIPTS			
State Revenue			
Commission		1,367	1,949
Total State Revenue	3 (a)	1,367	1,949
Agency Revenue			
Miscellaneous Revenue		16,227	5,471
Total Agency Revenue	3 (b)	16,227	5,471
TOTAL RECEIPTS		17,594	7,420
EXPENDITURE			
Operating Expenditure			
Established Staff	3 (c)	3,711,554	2,901,265
Unestablished Staff	3 (d)	603,724	493,431
Travel & Communication	3 (e)	252,441	179,218
Maintenance & Operations	3 (f)	811,647	486,847
Purchase of Goods & Services	3 (g)	629,534	479,576
Operating Grants & Transfers	3 (h)	27,656,516	24,050,035
Special Expenditure	3 (i)	490,396	247,618
Total Operating Expenditure		34,155,812	28,837,990
Capital Expenditure			
Construction	3 (j)	235,520	149,492
Purchases	3 (k)	-	-
Grants & Transfers	3 (l)	902,037	629,335
Total Capital Expenditure		1,137,557	778,847
Value Added Tax	3 (m)	241,463	220,646
Total Expenditure		35,534,832	29,837,483

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

		Budget Estimate	Appropriation Changes	Revised Estimate	Actual Expenditure	Lapsed Appropriation
SEG	ITEM	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1	Established Staff	3,478,881	232,693	3,711,574	3,711,554	20
2	Unestablished Staff	424,442	179,494	603,936	603,724	212
3	Travel & Communication	170,900	86,326	257,226	252,441	4,785
4	Maintenance & Operations	477,826	338,219	816,045	811,647	4,398
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	655,800	(30,482)	625,318	629,534	(4,216)
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	32,441,220	(910,183)	31,531,037	27,656,516	3,874,521
7	Special Expenditure	677,430	(615,864)	615,864	490,396	125,468
	<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	38,326,499	(165,499)	38,161,000	34,155,812	4,005,188
	Capital Expenditure					
8	Capital Construction	180,000	55,566	235,566	235,520	46
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	800,000	106,259	906,259	902,037	4,222
	Total Capital Expenditure	980,000	161,825	1,141,825	1,137,557	4,268
13	Value Added Tax	282,400	3,674	286,074	241,074	44,611
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	39,588,899	-	39,588,899	35,534,832	4,054,067

The net transfer of funds during the year of the Ministry is as follows:

- (a) \$232,693 was net transfer into SEG | Established Staff from other SEGs
- (b) \$179,494 was the net transfer into SEG 2 Unestablished Staff from other SEGs
- (c)  $$86,\!326$  was the net transfer into SEG 3 Travel and Communication from other SEGs
- (d) \$338,219 was the net transfer into SEG 4 Maintenance and Operation from other SEGs
- (e) \$30,482 was the net transfer from SEG 5 Purchase of Goods and Services to other SEGs
- (f) \$910,183 was the net transfer from SEG 6 Operating Grants and Transfers to other SEGs
- (g) \$61,566 was the net transfer from SEG 7 Special Expenditure to other SEGs
- (h) \$55,566 was the net transfer into SEG 8 Capital Construction from other SEGs
- (i)  $$106,\!259$  was the net transfer into SEG 10 Grants and Transfers from other SEGs
- (j) \$3,674 was the net transfer into SEG 13 VAT from other SEGs

STATEMENT OF LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

#### **Loss of Money**

There was no loss of money recorded in 2014.

#### Loss (other than money)

The Board of Survey for 2014 was not completed for the Northern, Western and Central/Eastern Divisions in 2014. In addition, no Board of Survey was carried out for the Social Welfare Department and the Corporate Section of the Ministry for the year 2014.

The Ministry recorded a loss of safe amounting to \$962.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

#### **NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY**

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation is responsible to alleviate poverty through providing welfare support to the underprivileged, Child and Family Services, empowerment of women and gender streaming, administration of poverty Alleviation Programmes through housing assistance grants and seed grants for income Generating Projects to eradicate poverty.

#### **NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### (a) Basis of Accounting

In accordance with Government accounting policies, the special purpose financial statements of the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation is prepared on cash basis of accounting. All payments related to purchases of fixed assets have been expensed.

The special purpose financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and the requirements of Section 71(1) of the Finance Instruction 2010. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current Government accounting policies, except for that of the Trading and Manufacturing Accounts.

#### (b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

All income and expenses are VAT exclusive. The Ministry on a monthly basis takes out VAT output on total money received for expenditure from Ministry of Finance. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to the suppliers and the sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

The VAT payment as per the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures relates to VAT input claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred and VAT payments to FRCA. Actual amount paid to FRCA during the year represent the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.

#### (c) Comparative Figures

Where necessary, amounts relating to prior years have been reclassified to facilitate comparison and achieve consistency in disclosure with current year amounts.

#### (d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognised when actual cash are received by the Ministry.

#### **NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS**

- a) The State Revenue decreased by \$582 or 29.9% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to the deduction of commission at source from insurance premium payable to the relevant companies.
- b) The Miscellaneous Revenue increased by \$10,756 or 196.6% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to lesser stale cheques and refund allowances for Poverty Benefit Scheme (PBS) recipients as a result of closed or invalid bank accounts.
- c) The Established Staff costs increased by \$810,289 or 27.9% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to payment of temporary relieving officers from SEG I.
- d) The Unestablished Staff costs increased by \$110,293 or 22.4% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to the appointment of temporary relieving Officers.
- e) The Travel and Communications costs increased by \$73,223 or 40.9% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to the increase in operational activities of the Ministry such as introduction of paymaster visit to remote areas, Ministerial visits and consultations and Program Managers Meetings.
- f) The Maintenance and Operations costs increased by \$324,800 or 66.7% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to additional vehicles provided to the Ministry.
- g) The Purchase of Goods and Services increased by \$149,958 or 31.3% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to increase in demand for staff training.
- h) The Operating Grants and Transfers increased by \$3,606,481 or 15% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to the introduction of Expanded Food Voucher Program for Pregnant Mothers in rural areas and increase in the number of recipients for the Poverty Benefit Scheme, Social Pension Scheme and Care and Protection Scheme.
- i) The Special Expenditure increased by \$242,778 or 98% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to the implementation of new programs such as Gender Equality and Reproductive Rights and Fiji's first ever Women's Expo.
- j) The Capital Construction expenses increased by \$86,028 or 57.5% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to extension and construction of new Women's Resource Centres in 2014
- k) There was no Capital Purchases budget in 2014.
- 1) The Capital Grants and Transfers increased by \$272,682 or 43.3% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to assisting Church of Nazreen for the Beggars Safe Home and payment for the Fire Victim cases.
- m) The Value Added Tax increased by \$20,817 or 9.4% in 2014 compared to 2013 due to the increase in other expenditure allocations.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

#### **NOTE 4: DETAILS OF APPRORIATION ON CHANGES**

The Ministry of Finance approved the following transfer of funds during the year:

Virement Number	From	То	Amount (\$)
V24001/14	SEG 7	SEG 8	39,566
V24002/14	SEG 6	SEG 10	100,000
V24003/14	SEG 6	Various Allocations	307,170
V24004/14	SEG 6	Various Allocations	420,000
V24005/14	SEG 1	SEG 1	27,692
V24006/14	SEG 1	SEG 2	4,930
V24007/14	Various Allocations	Various Allocations	9,362
V24008/14	Various Allocations	SEG 2	7,302
V24009/14	SEG 1	SEG 1	143,420
V24010/14	Various Allocations	SEG 2	41,657
V24011/14	SEG 1	SEG 2	4,930
V24012/14	SEG 1	SEG 2	24,935
V24013/14	Various Allocations	SEG 2	7,321
V24014/14	SEG 1	SEG 1	9,234
V24015/14	SEG 1	SEG 1	38,741
V24016/14	Various Allocations	SEG 2	18,783

The Permanent Secretary approved the following virements under delegation from the Minister of Finance:

Virement Number	From	То	Amount (\$)
DV2402	SEG 5	SEG 3	4,634
DV2403	SEG 7	SEG 4	6,000
DV2404	SEG 6	SEG 3	5,522
DV2406	SEG 7	SEG 8	6,000
DV2407	SEG 6	SEG 6	49,087
DV2408	SEG 6	SEG 4	18,180
DV2409	SEG 6	SEG 3	4,878
DV2410	SEG 6	SEG 3	6,689
DV2411	SEG 6	SEG 3	10,904
DV2412	SEG 6	SEG 3	812
DV2413	SEG 6	SEG 3	20,832
DV2414	SEG 6	SEG 4	6,100
DV2415	SEG 6	SEG 4	18,780
DV2416	SEG 6	SEG 4	20,000
DV2417	SEG 6	SEG 10	20,000
DV2418	SEG 6	SEG 6	907,814
DV2419	SEG 6	SEG 4	50,000
DV2420	SEG 6	SEG 4	50,000
DV2421	SEG 6	SEG 10	10,000
DV2422	SEG 6	SEG 4	140,000
DV2423	SEG 6	SEG 4	15,000
DV2424	SEG 6	SEG 5	3,762
DV2425	SEG 13	SEG 13	31,796

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

Virement Number	From	То	Amount (\$)
DV2426	SEG 6	SEG 4	31,275
DV2427	SEG 6	SEG 3	10,000
DV2427	SEG 4	SEG 3	15,000
DV2428	SEG 4	Various Allocations	15,000
DV2431	SEG 6	SEG 6	586,542
DV2432	SEG 4	SEG 3	9,134
DV2433	SEG 6	SEG 4	23,952
DV2435	SEG 4	SEG 4	3,300
DV2436	SEG 3	SEG 4	2,600
DV2437	SEG 13	SEG 13	16,457
DV2438	SEG 4	SEG 4	4,300
DV2439	SEG 4	SEG 3	2,800
DV2440	SEG 6	SEG 6	22,600
DV2441	SEG 4	SEG 4	3,100
DV2442	SEG 6	SEG 3	401
DV2443	Various Allocations	SEG 4	3,917
DV2446	Various Allocations	SEG 4	3,310
DV2447	SEG 4	SEG 4	2,157

### **Acronyms**

ADCS Assistant Director Child Services

ADFS Assistant Director Family Services

AO (PPU) Administration officer (Post Processing Unit)

AO (SW) Accounts Officer (Social Welfare)
AO (W) Accounts Officer (Women)

CO Clerical Officer

DSW Director Social Welfare

DW Director Women

EO (T) Executive Officer (Training)

PAS – Corporate/HRM Principal Assistant Secretary – Corporate
PAS – Finance Principal Assistant Secretary – Finance

PRO Principal Research Officer

PS Permanent Secretary

PWO (N) Principal Welfare Officer (Northern)
PWO (W) Principal Welfare Officer (Western)

SAS Senior Assistant Secretary

SWIO (CEDAW) Senior Women Interest Officer (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women)

SWIO (L) Senior Women Interest Officer (Livelihood)
SWIO (R) Senior Women Interest Officer (Research)

SWIO (WPA) Senior Women Interest Officer (Women Plan of Action)

SWO (C) Senior Welfare Officer (Central)

SWO (IS) Senior Welfare Officer

SWO (NW) Senior Welfare Officer (North West)

SWO (P) Senior Welfare Officer

SWO (R) Senior Welfare Officer (Research)
SWO (SE) Senior Welfare Officer (South East)
SWO (SW) Senior Welfare Officer (South West)

