

Hon. Josala V. Bainimarama
Prime Minister (Fiji)



Annual Report

for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2016

2016

Parliamentary Paper No: 121 of 2018



WEBSITE:
www.mwcpa.gov.fj



FACEBOOK: Ministry of Women,
Children & Poverty Alleviation

Strategic Direction

for the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

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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REFERRAL LETTER

Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa

Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation
Level 5, Civic Towers
Victoria Parade
Suva

Dear Madam,

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the fiscal year 1st January to 31st July 2016 for the Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation.

The Report summarizes the Ministry's performance in terms of achievements for this reporting period and includes the Audited Financial Statements prepared in accordance to the Financial Instructions.



Dr. Josefa Koroivueta
Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Women,
Children & Poverty Alleviation



Permanent Secretary's MESSAGE

The year 2016, was a challenging year for the Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation. On February 20th, Fiji was struck by TC Winston, a category five cyclone which was one of the most intense cyclones to be recorded in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Ministry had diverted its resources and funds for the period March to June to assist in the rehabilitation works in the affected areas.

My Ministry was given the key responsibility to implement the Help for Home initiative which was initiated by the Fijian Government to assist families whose homes were partially or completely destroyed by Tropical Cyclone Winston. As part

of the Government rehabilitation programme, the Ministry facilitated cash top for the Welfare recipients under the Poverty Benefit Scheme, Care and Protection Allowance and Social Pension Scheme and this was further boosted with assistance from World Food Programme with Food Voucher Top-up for the 12 priority areas affected.

This report will cover the Ministry's achievement and highlights for 1st January to 31st July.

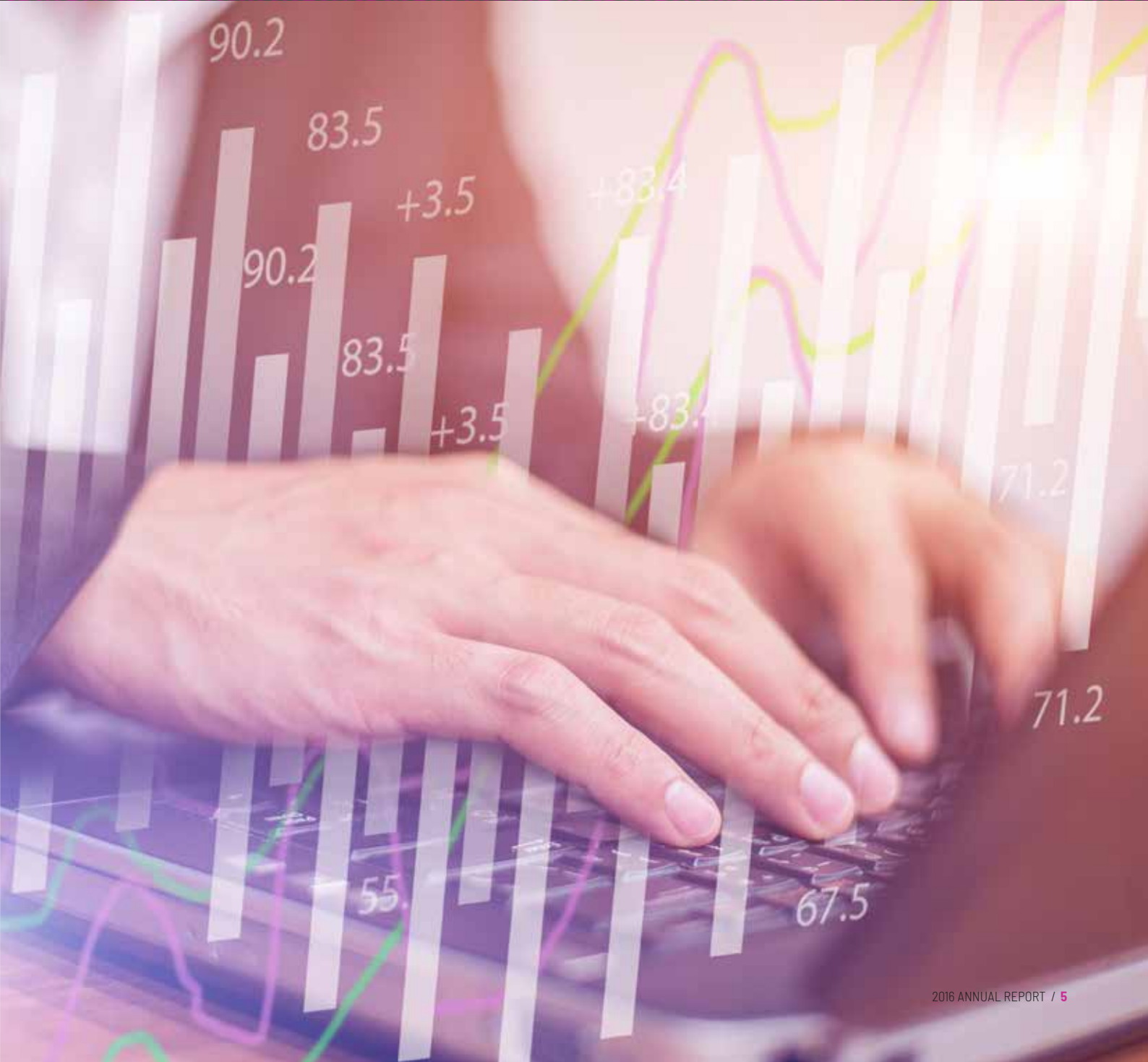
I wish to thank all Government agencies, Non-Government Organizations, Financial Institutions, our Development Partners and staff of the Ministry who have contributed to the achievements of the Ministry during this challenging period.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josefa', with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Dr. Josefa Koroivueta
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation

Audited Financial Statements

for the financial period ended 31 July 2016



OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Excellence in Public Sector Auditing



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File 623

08 June 2017

Hon. Merescini Vuniwaqa
Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
Civic Towers
SUVA

Dear Hon. Vuniwaqa

**AUDITED AGENCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN
AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
FOR THE SEVEN MONTH PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2016**

The audited financial statements for the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the seven month period ended 31 July 2016 together with my audit report on them are enclosed.

Particulars of errors and omissions arising from the audit have been forwarded to the management of the Ministry for its actions.

Yours sincerely

Ajay Nand
AUDITOR-GENERAL

cc. Dr. Josefa Koroivueta, Permanent Secretary, Civic Tower, Suva

Encl.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Audit Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses and Trust Account Statements of Receipts and Payments for the 7 months period ended 31 July 2016, and the notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016 and the Finance Instructions 2010.

Without qualifying the accounts, attention is drawn to the following matters:

Note 7 to the accounts provide disclosure for additional funds of \$19.9 million paid to all social protection program recipients by the Ministry for the Tropical Cyclone Winston Rehabilitation Programs. The funds were sourced from Budgetary Head 50 under the Ministry of Economy.

The Ministry was tasked with the distribution of cash cards (m-paisa) for grant recipients under the Help for Home Initiative after the Tropical Cyclone Winston. The grants are also budgeted under Head 50 for Ministry of Economy.

Internal control weaknesses noted in the implementation of the above programs need to be strengthened by the Ministry.

Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are described in the Auditor's Responsibilities paragraph of my report. I am independent of the Ministry in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Fiji and I have fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Management's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The management of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016 and the Finance Instructions 2010, and for such internal control as the management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error.

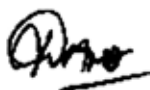
Auditor's Responsibilities

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud and error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ministry's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and related disclosures made by the Ministry.

I communicate with the Ministry regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Ajay Nand
AUDITOR GENERAL



Suva, Fiji
08 June 2017

MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDED 31 JULY 2016

We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and its financial period ended 31 July 2016; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management Amendment (2016) Act and the Finance Instructions 2010.



Dr. Josefa Koroivueta
Permanent Secretary

Date: 07/06/17



Mrs. Venina Duvuduvukula
A/Principal Accounts Officer

Date: 07/06/17

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the financial period ended 31 July 2016

	Notes	2016 (\$)	2015 (\$)
RECEIPTS			
State Revenue			
Operating Revenue	3 (a)	3,405	4,184
Total State Revenue		3,405	4,184
Agency Revenue			
Miscellaneous Revenue	3 (b)	365,677	145,982
Total Agency Revenue		365,677	145,982
Total Revenue		369,082	150,166
EXPENDITURE			
Operating Expenditure			
Established Staff	3 (c)	2,432,201	4,730,371
Government Wage Earners	3 (c)	692,879	858,260
Travel & Communication	3 (e)	208,514	299,153
Maintenance & Operations	3 (c)	473,516	676,022
Purchase of Goods & Services	3 (c)	972,395	536,029
Operating Grants & Transfers	3 (e)	29,760,494	34,430,776
Special Expenditure	3 (e)	809,725	1,332,263
Total Operating Expenditure		35,349,724	42,862,874
Capital Expenditure			
Capital Construction		-	-
Capital Purchase	3 (d)	34,483	-
Grants & Transfers	3 (e)	164,621	848,973
Total Capital Expenditure		199,104	848,973
Value Added Tax	3 (e)	103,863	221,521
Total Expenditure		35,652,691	43,933,368

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
Appropriation Statement for the financial period ended 31 July 2016

		Budget Estimate \$	Appropriation Changes \$	Revised Estimate \$	Actual Expenditure	Lapsed Appropriation \$
SEG	ITEM			a	b	(a-b)
1	Established Staff	5,205,059	(269,736)	4,935,323	2,432,201	2,503,122
2	Unestablished Staff	954,006	269,736	1,223,742	692,879	530,863
3	Travel & Communication	298,000	-	298,000	208,514	89,486
4	Maintenance & Operations	719,200	-	719,200	473,516	245,684
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	1,041,600	123,061	1,164,661	972,395	192,266
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	40,750,000	-	40,750,000	29,760,494	10,989,506
7	Special Expenditure	1,884,620	(160,647)	1,723,973	809,725	914,248
Total Operating Costs		50,852,485	(37,586)	50,814,899	35,349,724	15,465,175

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

9	Capital Purchase	-	37,586	37,586	34,483	3,103
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	950,000	-	950,000	164,621	785,379
Total Capital Expenditure		950,000	37,586	987,586	199,104	788,482
13	Value Added Tax	349,400	-	349,400	103,863	245,537
Total Expenditure		52,151,885	-	52,151,885	35,652,691	16,499,194

Details of Appropriation Changes

There were no redeployments of the Ministry's funds during the year. Other movements were made through Virement as follows:

The Ministry of Economy approved the following transfer of funds during the period.

Virement Number	From	To	Amount (\$)
V24001/16	SEG 1	SEG 2	125,995
	SEG 1	SEG 2	12,599
V24002/16	SEG 1	SEG 2	111,985
	SEG 1	SEG 2	13,110
	SEG 1	SEG 1	4,016
	SEG 1	SEG 2	6,045

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Appropriation Statement for the financial period ended 31 July 2016 (*Continued...*)

Details of Appropriation Changes (Continued...)

The Permanent Secretary approved the following Virement under delegation from the Minister of Economy.

Virement Number	From	To	Amount (\$)
DV2401	SEG 7	SEG 9	37,586
DV2402	SEG 7	SEG 5	10,000
	SEG 10	SEG 5	73,545
	SEG 7	SEG 5	39,515
	SEG 13	SEG 5	900
	SEG 13	SEG 5	6,619
	SEG 13	SEG 5	3,556
DV2403	SEG 3	SEG 3	1,858
	SEG 3	SEG 3	739
	SEG 3	SEG 3	4,397

Loss of Money

There was no loss of money recorded for the financial period ending 31 July 2016.

Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the financial period ending 31 July 2016.

Loss (other than money)

The Board of Survey for 2016 was carried out and it was noted that there was no loss (other than money) for the Ministry.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Notes to And Forming Part of the Financial Statements for the financial period ended 31 July 2016

NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation oversees the three departments: Department of Social Welfare and Department of Women and Children and Poverty Monitoring Unit.

Government is committed to reducing poverty to a negligible level and these Departments further that cause by breaking down barriers erected by gender, age, disability and economic standing.

The Department of Social Welfare administers Fiji's recently-reformed social welfare programs, which include the Poverty Benefit Scheme, the Child Protection Allowance, the Food Voucher Program, the Social Pension Scheme and the Bus Fare Subsidy. In managing these programs, the Department is responsible for ensuring that aid flows to those who need it the most, while stamping out corruption and fraud in the system.

The Department is equally committed to ensuring that these programs do not create a culture of dependency, focusing efforts and energy on graduating individuals and families from "welfare to workfare".

The Department also has the statutory responsibility to ensure the protection and wellbeing of children, which includes managing juvenile centres.

The Department of Women is responsible for providing Fijian women and girls, particularly those in rural communities, with the skills and education they need to participate as equal members in society. It works to provide the necessary support to enable them to bring about positive changes for themselves, for their families and for their communities.

This mission is underscored in the National Women's Plan of Action, which is aimed at boosting women's employment opportunities, increasing women's participation in decision making, eliminating violence against women, improving women's access to basic services, and addressing women's issues in new legislation. The Department works with other Ministries to ensure that gender perspectives are addressed in all Government policies and initiatives and to promote gender equality.

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

In accordance with Government accounting policies, the 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 financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004, Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016 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 policies, except for that of the Trading and Manufacturing Accounts.

(b) Value Added Tax

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.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Notes to And Forming Part of the Financial Statements for the financial period ended 31 July 2016 (*Continued...*)

(c) Comparative Figures

The Ministry changed its reporting period from 1 August to 31 July as per Ministry of Economy circular number 04/16 due to a change in the whole government reporting period.

Hence, the 2016 financial reporting period is for 7 months effective from 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2016. In comparison, the 2015 financial reporting period is for 12 months effective from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015. This was provided for in the Financial Management (Amendment) Act 2016.

(d) Revenue Recognition

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

(e) Change in Fiscal Year

As per the change in the Government Fiscal year from January – December to August to July, the current Annual Financial Statements depicts financials for seven months. The figures of the last seven months are illustrated against December 2015 figures.

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- (a) The State Revenue decreased by \$779 or 19% in 2016 compared to the 2015 due to commission which is deducted at source from insurance premium payable to the relevant companies were only 7 months and not for 12 months compared to previous years.
- (b) The Miscellaneous Revenue increased by \$219,695 or 150% in 2016 compared to 2015 as it was due to refund allowance for Social Protection Program recipients as a result of closed or invalid bank accounts.
- (c) The Purchase of goods and services increased by \$436,366 or 81% in 2016 compared to 2015 was due to purchase of Computers, Printers and other related expenditure.
- (d) The Ministry vired a total of \$37,586 from Special Expenditure to Capital Purchase in 2016.
- (e) Other expenditures declined by \$8,751,526 or 20% due to change in government financial reporting period and hence the 2016 financial period is for 7 months effective from 1 January 2016 to 31 July 2016 in comparison to 2015 which comprised of 12 months period (1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015).

NOTE 4: OPERATING TRUST ACCOUNT

As at 31 July 2016, the Ministry had a credit of \$87,221 in the Operating Trust Fund Account.

NOTE 5: REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNT

At balance date, the Ministry had a balance of \$38,892 in the Revolving Fund Account. The balance was due to Accountable Advance issued to the officers which was not retired on time due to system errors.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Notes to And Forming Part of the Financial Statements for the financial period ended 31 July 2016 (*Continued...*)

NOTE 6: DRAWINGS ACCOUNT

At balance date, the Ministry had a balance of \$4,736,033 in the Drawings Account. These monies relate to cheques written by the Ministry that were yet to be presented to the bank.

NOTE 7: TROPICAL CYCLONE WINSTON REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

In addition to the budget provided to the Ministry, further funding programs were also administered in response to the Tropical Cyclone Devastation. The ministry distributed a sum totaling \$19.9 million as paid to all social protection recipients. The funds were provided by Ministry of Economy and distributed by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation as part of the Tropical Cyclone Winston rehabilitation program. These funds are recorded as expenditure for Head 50 (Ministry of Economy).

General Ledger Account	General Ledger Description	Amount (\$)	Remarks
1-24101-24999-840102	Donor Fund	19,867,714	The Ministry paid \$19.9 million to all social protection recipients as part of government's Tropical Cyclone Winston Rehabilitation programs.

Help for Home Initiative is another Tropical Cyclone Winston rehabilitation program in which the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation only participated in the distribution of Hardware cash (m-paisa) cards for purchase of building materials for repair or construction of homes damaged during the cyclone. The recipients were pre-determined for the Ministry by other responsible stakeholders.

Core Functions

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Roles and Responsibilities of the Ministry

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation is the government agency that administers services and programs aligned to the:

- Care and protection of Children
- Provision of income support to families to address poverty
- Provision of policy intervention for Older Persons
- Provision of policy intervention for Persons with Disabilities
- Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of Women
- Monitor, evaluate and report on the progress and impact of the INPEP

Our Customers | External

1. Cabinet
2. Members of the Public (particularly those in disadvantaged communities)
3. Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)
4. Diplomatic Mission
5. International Organisations
6. Providers of Goods and Services
7. Other Government Ministries and Departments

Our Customers | Internal

1. Minister
2. Senior Management
3. Ministry Staff

International Conventions

1. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
2. Convention on the protection of children and Cooperation in respect to Inter - Country Adoption (HAGUE)
3. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
4. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD)
5. Beijing Platform for Action (BPA)
6. Commonwealth Plan of Action (CPA)

Legislative Framework

1. Constitution of the Republic of Fiji 2013
2. Fiji National Provident Fund Decree 2011
3. Fiji Procurement Act 2010
4. Financial Administration Decree 2009
5. Financial Instructions 2005
6. Financial Management Act 2004
7. Financial Manual 2005
8. Occupational Health and Safety at Work Act 2006
9. Adoption of Infant Act (Cap. 58) 1978
10. Child Welfare Decree 2010
11. Community Work Act 1994
12. Crimes Decree 2010
13. Domestic Violence Decree 2009
14. Family Law Act 2003
15. Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons 1994
16. Juveniles Act (Cap 56) 1973
17. National Council for Older Persons Decree (2012)
18. Probation Act (Cap 22) 1978
19. Social Justice Act (2011)

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Executive Support Unit

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation



- ♦ Minister's Executive Support Rapid Response Fund
- ♦ Ministry Service Excellence Award Night
- ♦ Providing Immediate Relief Response: Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston
- ♦ Hon. Yohana Susana Yembise Ministerial Visit to Fiji for the 2nd Joint Technical Working Group



Minister's Executive Support Rapid Response Fund

In the 2016 financial year, the Executive Support Unit received a budgetary allocation of \$100,000. This fund is to meet the humanitarian needs of the clientele seeking assistance from the Ministry. This fund is managed directly by the Ministry and is managed by the honorable minister's office.

This fund has been used to support initiatives that are noble and of economic and social values of benefit to communities and individuals as well. The Fund is not a scheme to replace the development work of the state or replicate other organizations work to building peace and progress for the nation but to compliment and support such efforts to ensuring a cohesive and sustainable environment for the women, children, the older persons, persons with disabilities and the disadvantaged, poor and vulnerable.

Ministry Service Excellence Award Night

The Ministry's Service Excellence Awards for the calendar year 2015 was held at the Retired Service League (RSL) Hall in Lautoka. The initiative was to reward the officers of the Ministry who have demonstrated an exceptional ability providing services to the customers and also to encourage the staff to pursue excellence during the course of their employment in the Ministry.

Providing Immediate Relief Response: Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston

ON the eve of Friday 19th February the Ministry had set up an Emergency Operation Centre at Civic Towers to track the impending approach of the Tropical Cyclone Winston. A team of officials was also mobilized to obtain the latest updates from the Divisions about the 3 state Senior Citizens Homes, the Children Homes and the safety and protection of the elderly and the children who are under the care of the state.

Considering the plights of the children, women and the elderly, the Minister Hon. Rosy Akbar started operation on the eve of Saturday 20th February in Wailea Settlement by distributing cartons of water bottles donated by Carpenter Group.



A total of **581 families** benefited from the donations

From the 21st – 22nd of March a team led by the Honorable Minister was in the most affected areas in the Western Division providing relief assistance to those affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston.

The Ministry acknowledges Carpenters Fiji Limited for donating 800 cartons of island chill water and Fiji Courts Limited for the tents.

Appreciation is also accorded to the Fiji High Commission in Canberra for coordinating the three 20 – foot containers that were sent in from Australia by Imelda and the Italian Association in Queensland, the Mamma Chris of the Miracle Foundation and Robert Akbar of Brisbane (Fijian) United in Brisbane South.

Over 800 gifted packages including non-perishable food items (canned food, flour, sugar, WeetBix, biscuits, rice, noodles, sardines) clothing items for women, men and children, along with toiletries, kitchen utensils, tents, tables and school stationery items. The third container was from Rev Lorna Magen – Co-Founder & CEO Sydney Care. A Total of 581 families benefited from the donations.

Hon. Yohana Susana Yembise Ministerial Visit to Fiji for the 2nd Joint Technical Working Group

The Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection for the Government of the Republic of Indonesia Hon. Yohana Susana Yembise attended the 2nd Joint Technical Working Group hosted by the Fijian Government from the 17th – 19th of July, 2016. The event was part of an MOU signed between Fiji and Indonesia to collaborate in the areas of women empowerment, gender equality and child protection. The MOU was to strengthen the partnership between the two countries to share information and resource for development opportunities.



Hon. Minister Yembise & Hon. Minister Akbar with Indonesian Military Officers at Queen Victoria School
“Adopt a School Programme”

Minister Yembise visited the Indonesian Military Officers who was deployed by the Government to rebuild the Queen Victoria School under the “Adopt the School Programme”. She also officiated at the Zero Tolerance Violence Free Community (ZTVFC) Navutukia Village in Naitasiri.

Apart from the Minister for Women’s visitation, Fiji also hosted another delegation from the Ministry of Social Affairs in Indonesia to attend the 2nd JTWG from the 20th – 22nd of July, 2016.



2nd Joint Technical Working Group
High Level Delegation from the Ministry of Social Affairs in Indonesian
20 - 22 July 2016

Department of Social Welfare

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation



- ♦ Child Services Unit
- ♦ Family Services Unit
- ♦ Older Persons Unit

The core responsibility for the Department of Social Welfare is child protection and social protection programs for the poor, the vulnerable and the disadvantaged. An additional responsibility was added in 2016 which was the administration of the three (3) Senior Citizens Homes including Samabula Old Peoples Home, Golden Age Home (Lautoka) and Babasiga Ashram in Labasa.

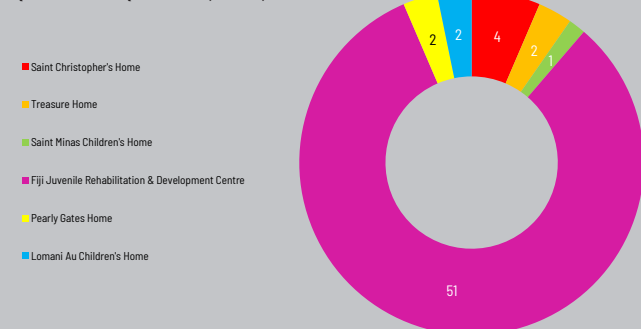
CHILD SERVICES UNIT

The Unit has statutory responsibilities in the Care and Protection of Children.

Ensuring Child Protection through Institutional or Foster Placements

The Department facilitated a total of 62 child placements into residential facilities. Table provides a quarterly breakdown of placements under the residential homes.

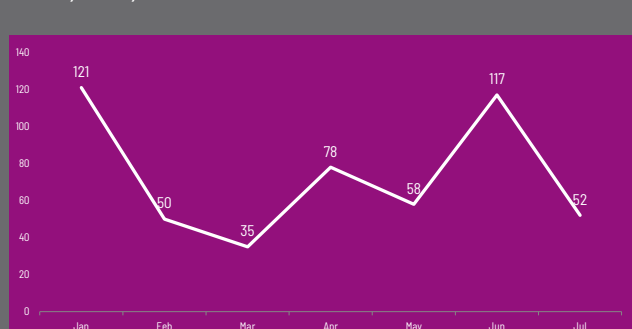
Placements under the Residential Homes
Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 (2016)



Child Welfare Decree Cases

The Department recorded 511 cases of child abuse from January to July 2016.

Number of Reported Cases
January to July 2016



Residential Care

Annual audit is conducted at the 9 residential homes to ensure that they meet the following minimum standards requirements:

Standard 1: Security and protection from abuse

Standard 2: Meeting the needs of the child

Standard 3: Healthy living

Standard 4: Education and Training

Standard 5: Ensuring child development

Standard 6: Preparation for adulthood

Standard 7: Maintenance of family contact

Standard 8: Encouraging children in decision making

Standard 9: Skilled and trained care staff

Monthly Payments

\$80,230 was allocated to the nine residential homes.

#	Residential Home for Children	Total
1	Dilkusha Children's Home	22,560
2	Fiji Crippled Children Society	1,440
3	Homes of Hope	840
4	Lomani Au Children's Home	8,400
5	St. Christopher's Home	12,600
6	St. Minas Children's Home	13,680
7	Treasure House Christian Children's Home	17,760
8	Veilomani Boys Home	8,400
9	Lautoka Special School	600
	Total	80,280

Rehabilitation of Juvenile Offenders

The Department serves as the Government Agency that has statutory responsibilities under the Juveniles Act (Cap 56 1973), towards the care and protection of children via a court decision.

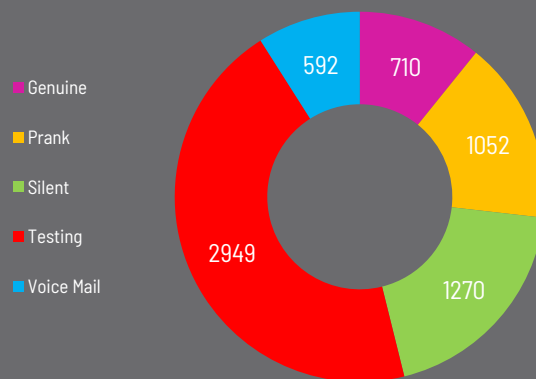
Care Plans

The Department developed 64 care plans for the children in the nine residential homes.



Child Helpline (CHL) Toll Free No: 1325

A Total of 6,573 calls were received through the child helpline.



Training of Trainers

The Department continued to train identified community members as facilitators on Child Protection Programmes. A total of 6 trainings were conducted across the four Divisions (Northern -2, North west-1, South West- 2 and South East -1)

The National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC)

The NCCC is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its role also extends to providing advice, regulating and monitoring the protection and welfare of children in Fiji. A total of 7 Meetings were facilitated by the Department (Secretariat) to inform its committee members on the development towards the implementation of recommendation from the United CRC Secretariat in Geneva.

Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Campaign (PCAN) - Blue Ribbon Campaign

The Department facilitated 2 PCAN campaigns in its efforts to continue to provide awareness on Child

Protection Programmes which requires collaboration between Government, Non-Government Organizations and communities to effectively address the issue at National level.

Court Reports

A total of 313 court reports were submitted across the 6 divisions.



Trainers teaching children at school about **Child Helpline 1325** (Toll Free) Number

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.

Poverty Benefit Scheme

A sum of \$22million has been allocated towards this initiative. The Scheme targets those who are “poorest of the poor” and living in destitution. The Ministry by 31st July 2016 was able to assist a total of 22,571 registered cases. Furthermore, the Department processed a total of 1004 approved cases

PBS Cases Reviewed

The Department reviewed a total of 2,744 cases under the Poverty Benefit Scheme (PBS). The Northern division accumulated the highest review figures with a total of 1783 reviewed cases.

22,571 registered cases assisted
by the Ministry as at 31 July 2016

Care and Protection Allowance (C&P)

The allowance aims to provide FJD30 to FJD60 per month to children, depending on age and disability; families are permitted to receive a maximum of FJD110 per month, plus a food voucher of FJD30. The C&P Allowance is also given as cash grants to residential homes that provide foster care, adoption and residential facilities for orphans. Government continued to assist the program with a budgetary allocation of \$3.2 million and assisted a total of 3,458 families by end of July 2016.

C&P New Approvals

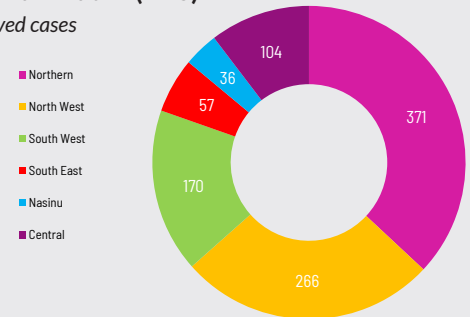
The department approved a total of 321 cases under the Care and Protection Allowance cases with the highest approvals recorded from the Central Division.

C&P Reviews

The Department reviewed a total of 318 cases under the Care and Protection Allowance.

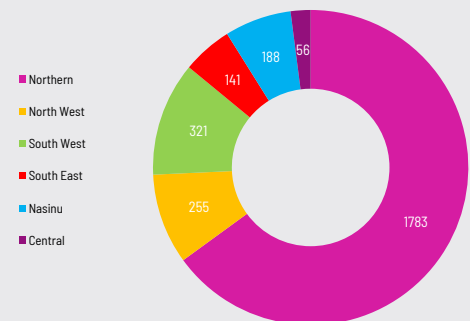
\$22million allocated (PBS)

1,004 approved cases



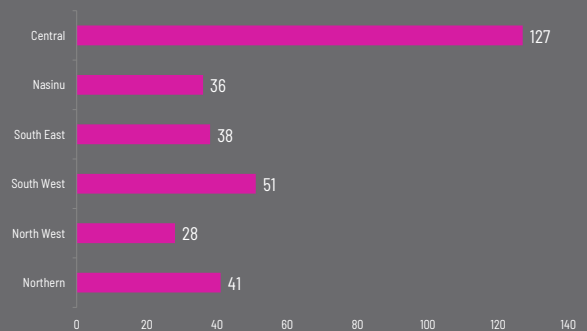
2,744 cases reviewed (PBS)

Highest: Northern Division 1,783 cases



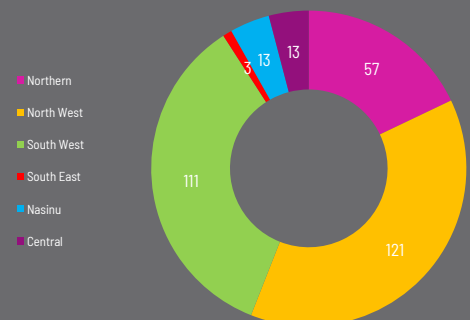
\$3.2million allocated (C&P)

C&P New Approvals: 321 cases (Highest: Central Division - 127)



C&P Reviews

318 cases

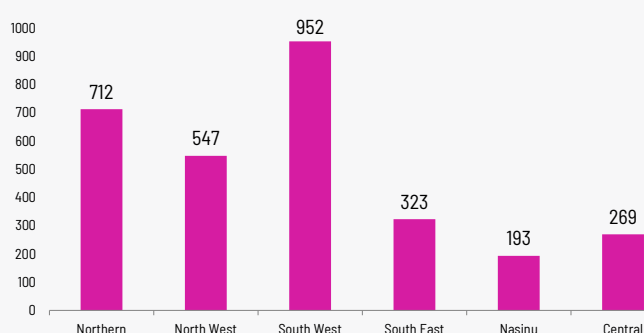


Social Pension Scheme (SPS)

The Programme is targeted for persons aged 68 years and over who do not have any form of income or pension, or who have never been beneficiaries of any superannuation schemes like FNPF and Ex-Servicemen Fund with a monthly allowance of \$50. Through a budgetary allocation of \$13 million, a total of 19,174 individuals were assisted.

SPS New Approvals & Reviews

A total of 2,996 new approvals were processed while a total of 557 cases were reviewed under the Scheme.

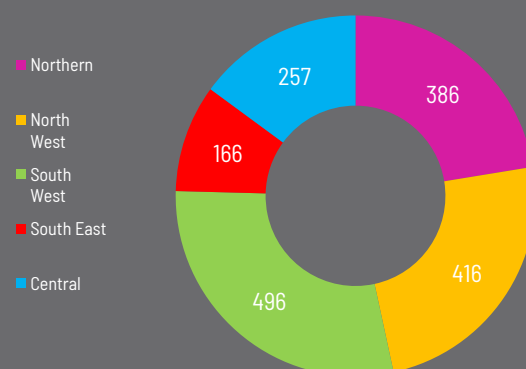


Food Voucher Program for Rural Pregnant Mothers (FVPRPM)

The Program continues to serve as an incentive for rural pregnant mothers to register early in their health facilities as to avoid later complications during later stages of pregnancy or during child birth. With a budget of \$0.5 Million, the Department processed a total of 1,721 approved cases.

\$0.5million allocated (FVPRPM)

1,721 approved cases

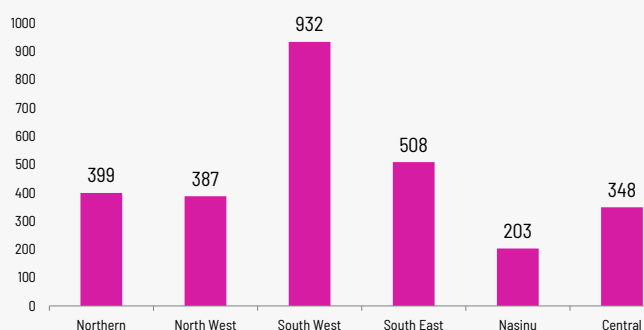


Grants to Voluntary Organizations

The Department in recognition of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) contribution to enhancing service delivery to its target groups, a specific grant to voluntary organizations is allocated accordingly. In 2016 from January to July, there were no grants given to organizations due to the change in financial year.

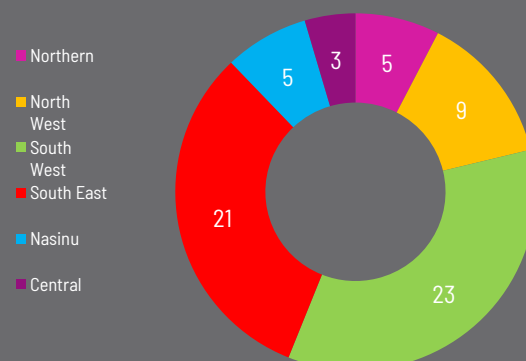
Bus Fare Subsidy

A total of 2777 bus fare cards approved as highlighted in the table.



Fire Victim Assistance

A \$1000 grant is provided for immediate relief to the families affected by fire, a total of 66 cases were approved.



Income Generating Project

In 2016, there were no IGP trainings conducted, due to diversion of funds for rehabilitation Post TC Winston.

Older Persons Unit

Fiji's commitment to address the ageing issue nationally is evident in the endorsement of the National Policy on ageing [2011-2015]. The National Council of Older Persons (NCOP) was officially established as per the NCOP Decree 2012, on 4th July 2013 to provide services and programmes for Older Persons. This will promote inclusive, protective, healthy and supportive environment for Older Persons in Fiji. Below is the list of NCOP registered Organizations.



NCOP Registered Affiliates

1. The Mother Aubert Home of Compassion Trust, Suva
2. Housing Assistance and Relief Trust, Nasinu
3. The Suva Relief Fund Trust Board (Pearce Home, Suva
4. Society of Saint Vincent De Paul, Suva
5. The Golden Age Home, Lautoka
6. Samabula Senior Citizens Home, Suva
7. Father Law Home (Lami, Suva
8. Senior Citizens Association, Nadi
9. Senior Citizens Foundation, Lautoka
10. Sisters of our Lady of Nazareth Retirement Home, Wailoku Suva
11. Banaban Elders and Land Owners Association



Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon Rosy Akbar, and the Participants of the Regional expert Forum on Population Ageing that was held in Bangkok on the 12th and 13th July 2016 at the ESCAP Convention Centre.



The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, through the NCOP organized a 1 day consultation on 17th February 2016, towards the establishment of the National Minimum Standards for Institutional Homes on the Care of Older Persons.

Department of Women

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation



- ♦ Thematic Area 1: Formal Sector Employment and Livelihood
- ♦ Thematic Area 2: Equal Participation in Decision Making
- ♦ Thematic Area 3: Elimination of Violence against Women
- ♦ Thematic Area 4: Access to Services
- ♦ Thematic Area 5: Women and the Law

The Department is the primary policy advisor to Government on women development and gender issues. The role of Department is categorized under Five Thematic Areas as stimulated in the Women's Plan of Action (WPA).

Thematic Area 1: Formal Sector Employment and Livelihood

Activity 1: Women Resource Center

The Department conducted 18 visitations across the four divisions to gauge the effectiveness of Women's Resource Centers

Activity 2: CIPUTRA Institute Business Mentoring Program

The Department in collaboration with the CIPUTRA Institute conducted 2 post evaluation exercises and 1 meeting with the Indonesian delegation to follow up on learning captured from Business Mentoring Program to ensure participants business are sustainable.

Activity 3: Livelihood Project

Three projects were funded with the total budget of \$9,227.82

Thematic Area 2: Equal Participation in Decision Making

Activity 1: Leadership Training and Monitoring of Marama-ni-Yavusa

The Department continued to provide Leadership training to the identified 91 Marama-ni-Yavusa across the four divisions. In addition, monitoring exercise was also conducted to capture the progress, learning and challenges faced by the women that were provided with Marama-ni-Yavusa training in the past years. A total of fourteen (14) Marama ni Yavusa were visited - two (2) in the Central Division and twelve (12) from the Western division.

Activity 2: Gender mainstreaming Workshop

The Department facilitated a five day workshop for 17 Focal Point Officers identified from various Ministries and Department across Civil Service

Thematic Area 3: Elimination of Violence against Women

Activity 1: Zero Tolerance Violence Free Community (ZTVFC)

The Department carried out various activities through the ZTVFC Programme across the four divisions as highlighted below:

Program	Division	Number of Programs
Declarations	Eastern	1
	Central	2
	Western	2
Phase 7 Trainings	Western	1
	Eastern	1
Visits	Northern	2
	Western	10
	Central	3
TOTAL		22

Thematic Area 4: Access to Services

Activity: Rocket Stove Training

The Department facilitated two weeks training of community members in Navala, Ba from 6/06/2016-17/06/16 on how to construct rocket stoves and provide advice on the benefits of rocket stoves in rural communities.

Thematic Area 5: Women and the Law

The Ministry submitted the fifth periodic report of state parties on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Poverty Monitoring Unit

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation



- ◆ Baseline Collation & Programme Implementer Consultations

The Unit is mandated to monitor and report on the effectiveness of Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAP) of Government through:

- *Consultation with PAP implementers and stakeholders*
- *Carry out research and prepare feedback reports*
- *Provide policy briefs to Honourable Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation on progress of PAP*

Baseline Collation & Programme Implementer Consultations

The Unit gathered baseline information to provide a platform towards the INPEP Survey to gauge the impact of the following Poverty Alleviation Programme on the beneficiaries:

- Squatter Upgrading and Resettlement
- Agricultural Marketing Authority
- Upgrading of cane Access roads
- Rural and Outer Islands Agriculture Development
- Rural Housing Assistance
- Agricultural Extension Crops
- Fiji Groundwater Assessment
- Rural Postal Service
- HART
- Drainage and Flood Protection
- Others Existing Scholarship Scheme
- National Toppers
- TELS
- Rural Electrification
- Divisional Development Project

Staff, budget and resources were deployed to assist in TC Winston rehabilitation programmes (Help For Home Initiative), manning the Ministry's Operation centre and the National Emergency Operation centre at Ministry of Rural & Maritime Development and National Disaster Management Office.

Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston Relief

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation



- ◆ Help for Home Initiative
- ◆ Top-up for Welfare Recipients

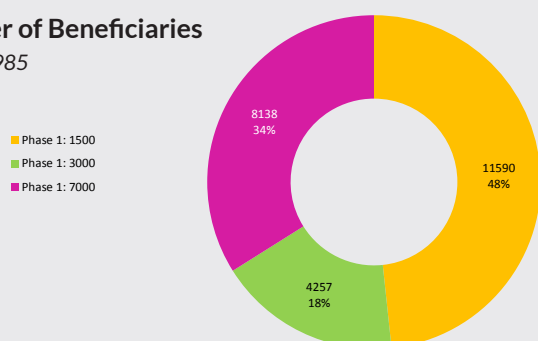
Help for Home Initiative

The Help for Home Initiatives was initiated by Fijian Government to assist families whose houses were partially or completely destroyed by Cyclone Winston. The initiative benefited 37,573 Fijians who met the standard criteria set for the Programme. The assistance is in the form of Pre-paid electronic card developed by Vodafone Fiji. The Cards were distributed with a pin number at \$1500 (Informal Settlement/Partially Damaged Roofing), \$3000 (Fully Damaged Roofing) and \$7000 (Complete destruction of roof and supporting wall).

Recipients were able to procure approved building material from the selected Hardware Companies towards rebuilding of their Houses. Home owners who had repaired or rebuilt their houses were eligible under the Programme criteria to claim for refunds with evidence provided on the amount spent. From May to June 2016, the Ministry conducted the first phase of HFH exercise in the affected areas whereby 23,985 recipients were assisted with a total Government spending of \$87,122,000.00 as tabulated below:

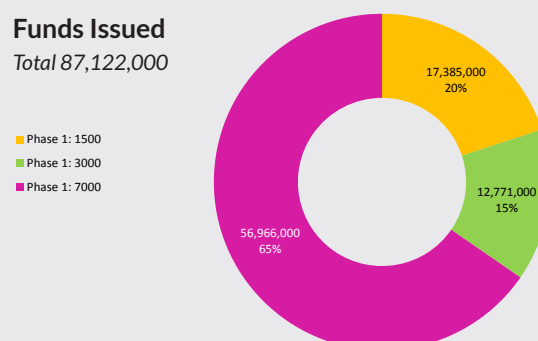
Number of Beneficiaries

Total 23,985



Funds Issued

Total 87,122,000



Top-up (Cash Assistance) for Welfare Recipients

The Fijian Government provided cash assistance to welfare recipients post TC Winston, the disbursement of cash targeting the most vulnerable group. Tabulated below are the various social protection scheme benefits and Post Disaster Payments.

Table: Social Protection TC Winston Top Up

Social Protection Schemes	SP Target Groups	No. of Beneficiaries	Top Up Amount	Total Paid Out
Poverty Benefit Scheme	Households in the 10% poorest of the population	23,035 households	\$600	\$19.9 m
Care & Protection Programme	Disadvantaged households with children (single parents/ foster care)	3,257 households	\$300	
Social Pension Scheme	Elderly (68+ years old) with no alternative means of support	17,232 individuals	\$300	

World Food Programme (WFP) also worked with the Ministry to assist the Social Welfare recipients in the 12 priority affected areas. WFP assisted with top-up of the food voucher programme for two months (May & June). The table below summarizes the number of households assisted:

Program	Top Up Amount for Food Voucher	Total Assisted	Total Amount Paid
Poverty Benefit Scheme & Care & Protection Programme	\$300 (2 months x \$150)	12,761 households	\$4.6m
Social Pension Scheme	\$100 (2 months x \$50)	7,895 Individuals	

Corporate Services Department

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation



- ♦ Administrative Section
- ♦ Accounts Section

The Ministry's Corporate Services comprises of the human resource management, administrative services and financial services for the efficient and effective performance of the Ministry's daily operations.

Administrative Section

The Ministry's standard policies and processes are aligned to the Civil Service Regulations. These guidelines are developed to ensure the Ministry adheres to the standard processes towards;

- Recruitment and selection
- Promotion
- Training & Development
- Disciplinary procedures
- Performance Assessment
- Job Evaluation Exercise

The Unit is also responsible for the administration of the:

- Registry Section
- Asset management (Annual Board of Survey)
- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

1. **Staffing:** The Ministry employs a total 376 staff, 215 were Established Staff while 81 were Government Wager Earners and 80 Project Officers.
2. **Post Processing Unit:** continued to identify vacant positions that exist in the Ministry and facilitate necessary requirements to choose suitable candidates to fill those positions in accordance with the new Open Merit Recruitment & Selection Guideline (OMRS) which was introduced across the Civil Service.
3. **Training Section:** continued to identify Local & Overseas courses/training available in consultation with Ministry of Civil Service, according to the training needs of the Ministry and Staff to address skills and knowledge gaps at individual and organization level. In addition, staff were trained on Open Merit Recruitment & Selection Guideline.
4. **Job Evaluation Exercise (JEE):** through the on-going civil service reform programmes, the Unit undertook two phases of job evaluation exercises to define position based pay & remuneration and provide the policy basis for Permanent Secretaries to implement Job evaluation and remuneration setting:
 - Trench 1: Administrative band
 - Trench 2: Technical Band
5. **Other activities:**
 - Service Excellence Awards Night - the Ministry in its efforts to recognize the work carried out by the various Departments, organized an awards night to highlight the achievements for the year 2015.
 - Social & Welfare Committee organized medical check-up for Civic Tower staff of the Ministry. The Ministry continues to participate in various sports activities as part of Wellness Program.

Accounts Section

The Accounts Section carries out its key responsibilities through the following:

In 2016 (Jan-July), the following financial and accounting functions were achieved:

1. Management of payments through:

- Payment to Social Welfare beneficiaries and service providers (suppliers);
- Closing of 2016 (Jan-July) Accounts;
- Meeting financial requirements of the Ministry in support to its Business Operations

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:
- Addressing audit queries

Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation

Headquarters: 5th Floor, Civic Towers

Victoria Parade, Suva

Republic of Fiji