



MINISTRY OF WOMEN,
CHILDREN & POVERTY ALLEVIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 – 2020

For the Financial Period 1st August 2019 - 31st July 2020





MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN &
POVERTY ALLEVIATION



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ACRONYMS

CPiE	Child Protection in Emergencies
CS	Corporate Services
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CWA	Child Welfare Act
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
EVAW	Elimination of Violence Against Women
FCGA	Fiji Country Gender Assessment
FNPF	Fiji National Provident Fund
FRCS	Fiji Revenue and Customs Service
GBViE	Gender Based Violence in Emergencies
HR	Human Resources
INPEP	Integrated National Poverty Eradication Programme
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MSP	Medical Services Pacific
MWCPA	Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
NDMO	Fiji National Disaster Management Office
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PAP	Poverty Alleviation Programmes
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PMU	Poverty Monitoring Unit
RPA	Remotely Piloted Aircraft
RWD	Rural Women's Day
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDP	Service Delivery Protocol
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	The United Nations Population Fund
VAT	Value Added Tax

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	03
REFERRAL LETTER	05
PERMANENT SECRETARY'S REMARKS	06
CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY	07
ORGANIZATION CHART	08
MINISTRY'S ACHIEVEMENTS	09
BY DEPARTMENTS, UNITS AND PROGRAMMES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ REACH Programme○ Department of Social Welfare○ Department of Women○ Poverty Monitoring Unit○ Corporate Services	
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Independent Auditors Report○ Management Certificate○ Statement of Receipts and Expenditure○ Appropriation Statement○ Statement of Losses○ Trust Fund Account Statement of Receipts and Payments○ Notes to and Forming Part of Financial Statements	



REFERRAL LETTER

Hon. Rosy Akbar
Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation
Level 5, Civic Tower
Suva

Dear Madam,

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the financial year 1st August, 2019 to 31st July, 2020 for the Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation.

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

Jennifer Poole (Ms.)
Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation



PERMANENT SECRETARY'S REMARKS

Greetings. It is with great pleasure that I present the 2019 - 2020 Annual Report for the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation.

This report documents the many ways in which the Ministry supported the interests and growth of the most disadvantaged segments of the Fijian population, and the achievements of the Ministry in this fiscal year within the budget allocated to the Ministry. I must thank my team of Directors, field workers, thematic managers, officers and support staff without whom we would not succeed, especially given the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic and natural disasters.

I also wish to thank our bilateral, donor, technical and stakeholder partners who collaborated with us to ensure that the commitments we had undertaken for this fiscal year not knowing the turn the second half of the fiscal year would take, continued to take effect.

Our planned activities may not have been fully implemented, but we did our best to adapt to new methods of carrying out the work within the restrictions. We are also happy to share the introduction of the massive Recertification exercise that has helped review and strengthen the social welfare databases and renew allowances for those who deserve it.

In this fiscal year, the Ministry was allocated a total of \$144 million with planned activities aligned to the Ministry's 5 year National Strategic Plan. This budget was our highest budget till date and we were able to better provide for the welfare of the neediest Fijians. We did get a few cuts with the COVID Response budget but we managed to adequately continue allowances for our welfare recipients as Social Protection Allowances remained unaltered. Challenges for our recipi-

ents were doubled with TC Harold and we are glad to report that the Ministry in partnership with our donor partners could provide the necessary support.

Aligned to the SDG commitments and the 5 - 20 year National Development Plan which calls on inclusive and sustainable development including women's empowerment and the empowerment of the disadvantaged and to re-align our focus in accordance, the Ministry continued to achieve the vision, *'Transformed Communities with empowered women, children, older persons and the disadvantaged'*, and our specific objectives and activities were aimed to achieve just this. We also took on additional activities to support other government agencies in ensuring the easiest possible crisis mitigation.

We have reviewed areas that needed improvement from our end for better service delivery and aim to continue our efforts in helping every single Fijian access services of the Fijian Government to lead a better life.

Together with our many partners, the Ministry will continue to deliver on the National Development Plan goals for the disadvantaged Fijians based on the foundation of the 2030 Agenda and the vision of the Fijian Government, seeking equality for all in the upcoming years.

MS. JENNIFER POOLE
Permanent Secretary for Women, Children
and Poverty Alleviation

CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

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

1. Care and protection of children

2. Community based correction

3. Provision of income support to families to address poverty

4. Provision of policy intervention for older persons

5. Provision of policy intervention for persons with disabilities

6. Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women; and

7. Monitor, evaluate and report on the progress and impact of Governments Poverty Alleviation Programme



Statutory Obligations under the Ministry

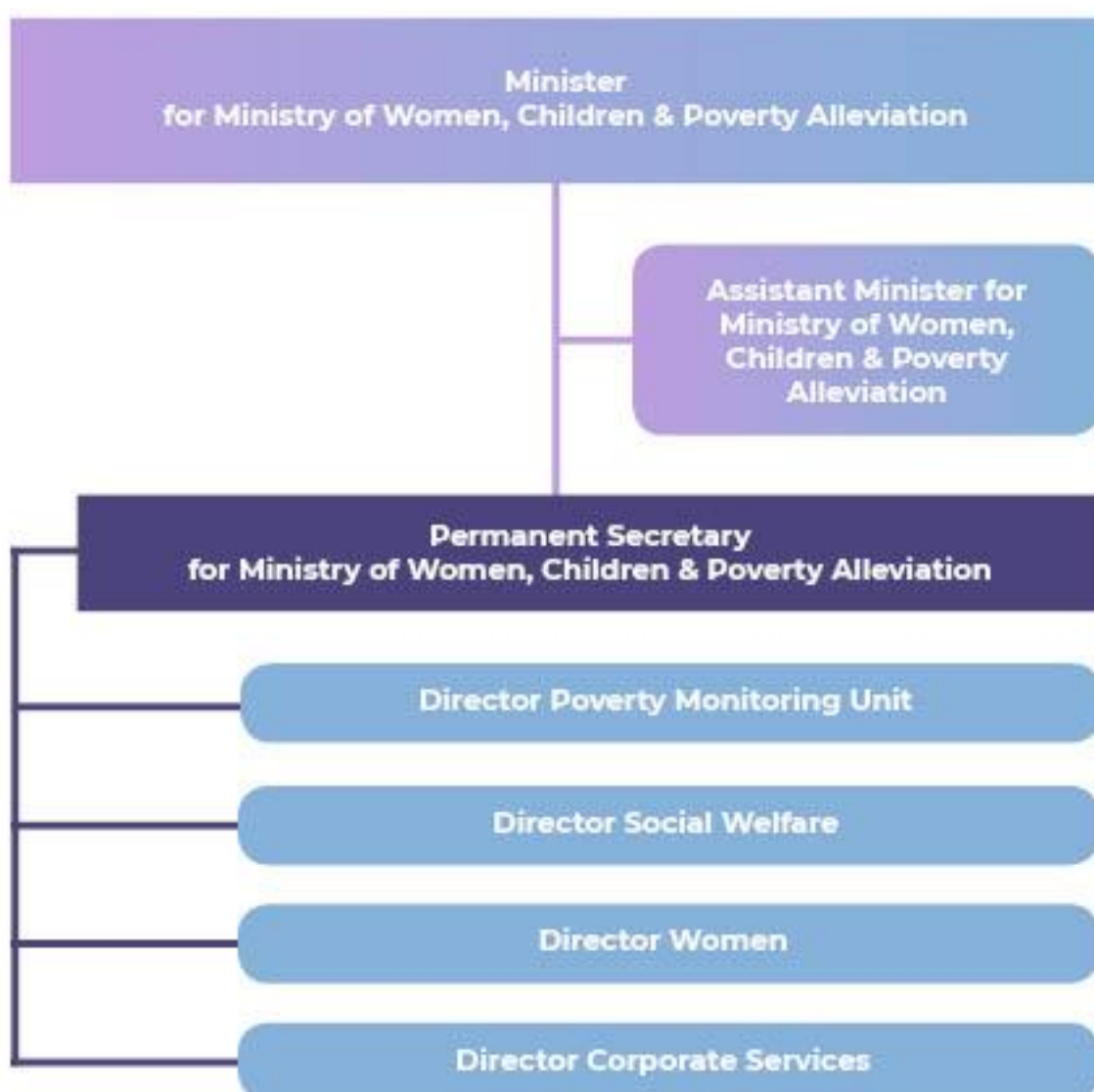
1. Juveniles Act (cap 56) 1973
2. Adoption of Infants Act (Cap.58) 1978
3. Community Work Act 1994
4. Social Justice Act 1997
5. Family Law Act 2003
6. Domestic Violence Act 2009
7. Child Welfare Act 2010
8. National Council of Older Persons Act 2012
9. Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018
10. Community Based Corrections Act 2018



Alignment to International Conventions

1. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1993)
2. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of
3. Discrimination against Women (1995)
Beijing Platform for Action (1995)
4. Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing
(2002)
5. Convention on the Rights of Persons with
Disabilities
6. Convention on Protection of Children and
Co-Operation in Respect of Inter-Country
Adoption

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY



MINISTRY'S ACHIEVEMENTS BY DEPARTMENTS, UNITS AND PROGRAMME(S)



- ▶ REACH Programme
- ▶ Department of Social Welfare
- ▶ Department of Women
- ▶ Poverty Monitoring Unit
- ▶ Corporate Services Department



1.0 REACH PROGRAMME

"Fijian Government Demonstration of Care, Humility and Hope for all Fijians"

The REACH project aims to promote peace building, social cohesion and inclusiveness. The project conducts awareness on social, economic and legal rights enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji and provides access to the services associated with these rights, while strengthening institutional capacity to deliver these services. This Financial year, marked the formal inclusion of REACH into the Ministry following cabinet approval (Cabinet vide decision 97/2019), furthermore Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA) replaced United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the reporting authority for the Fijian Government.

1.1 MACUATA REACH MISSION

The "First Ever" Back to Back 3 weeks community outreach was held in the Province of Macuata, covering the districts of Dogotuki, Namuka and Udu, from the 2nd to 18th of December, 2019. Altogether 15 officials with representations from the Government, Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations were part of the mission. During the awareness raising and services delivery session, a total of 691 people whereby 284 were women, 243 men and 164 children received the awareness raising by the REACH team. Of the mentioned amounts, 41% were women, 35% men and 24% children. However, a total of 2,492 services delivered by the respective agencies, whereby 1,415 [57%] were accessed by women and 1,077 [43%] by men.

1.2 FIRST MINISTER (& FEMALE MINISTER) TO STAY OVER IN ALL THE COMMUNITIES IN DISTRICT OF UDU

Minister expressed her interest on the 14th of November to be part of the REACH Mission to the District of Udu. Her participation came as a boost for the programme in terms of its visibility and at the same time visiting the community members, having face to face conversations with them and most importantly creating an inclusive space for women to raise their concerns on matters that will boost their socio-economic involvement in the communities.



The Women of Vunikodi, Udu District in Macuata with Hon. Minister

Throughout the journey, the Minister was praised for being the First Minister yet a Female Minister to have stayed over in all the communities in the District, and this however, is a reflection that she has the passion to serve and provides an ample time for all the community members especially women to directly converse with Hon. Minister on their needs.

1.3 COVID-19 OUTREACH

Following the Hon. Prime Minister's address on COVID-19 on the 29th of March, and operationalizing the key messages by the Hon. Minister, indicating that women and girls are to be protected and that COVID-19 should not be used by perpetrators as an excuse to limit women from seeking assistance, the Ministry suggested for the revision of the content of REACH.

MWCPA aligned the package to be focused on *Gender Based Violence in Emergencies (GBViE)* and *Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE)*.



Counselling Services by Empower Pacific

Providing a more conducive approach, the Ministry undertook a community awareness in partnership with selected Gender Based Violence Service Delivery Protocol (SDP) Signatories (Agencies) who were key to providing service delivery in line with the new cohort. The target for the outreach was the informal settlements that suffered the overall challenging socio-economic conditions, high population density which prevents physical distancing and lacks access to clean water and sanitation. Additionally, villages along the major thoroughfares and travel routes, particularly those along Kings and Queens road which ring the island of Viti Levu (Nadi and Suva in each direction), where hotel employees are returning jobless as hotels go out of operation. The partnership with UNDP through the DFAT funding enabled the implementation from Jittu Estates, Informal Settlements in Suva before completing the outreach in the Western Division.

The Ministry acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fiji Police Force, Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Medical Services Pacific (MSP), Empower Pacific, Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission, Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation for collaborating with the Ministry to succeed the objective during COVID-19.



Medical Services Pacific (MSP) Sexual Reproductive Health Awareness with Young Mothers & Youths

1.4 COMMUNITIES REACHED 2019 / 2020

During the COVID-19 REACH missions and the normal REACH missions' pre-COVID, Government budget enabled reach to:



Total Participants:
2,340



Total Services Delivered:
7,198



Male Participants
969 (41%)



Female Participants
1,037 (44%)



Child Participants
334 (14%)

- REACHED 2,340** [1,037 Women, 969 Men and 334 Children] and delivered 7,198 services to [3,546 Women and 3,652 Men]. Achieved 239.93% Above Baseline.
- REACH OUT TO 3 OUT OF 4** [75%] Divisions except the Eastern Division.
- COMBINING 18 OUT OF 189 DISTRICTS** [9.52%] in 5 Provinces across Fiji.
- 98 OUT OF 1,193** [8.21%] I-Taukei Communities.
- PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS** – 44% Women, 41% Men and 14% Children benefited from the awareness whereas 49% of women and 51% of men benefited from the overall services.

TABLE 1.1: Total Participants (Communities Reached 2019 - 2020)

PROVINCE	DIVISION	DISTRICTS	WOMEN	MEN	CHILD	TOTAL	% PER
NAITASIRI	Central	Muaira, Noimalu & Naboubuco	234	260	73	567	100%
REWA		Vutia & Rewa					
BUA	Northern	Kubulau, Lekutu, Vuya & Navakasiga	273	194	14	481	100%
RA	Western	Burewai, Kavula, Nakorotubu, Rakiraki, Nailuva & Nasau	246	272	83	601	100%
MACUATA	Northern	Dogotuki	88	92	47	227	100%
		Namuka	79	68	70	217	
		Udu	117	83	47	247	
TOTAL			1,037	969	334	2,340	
TOTAL PERCENTAGE			44%	41%	14%	100%	

TABLE 1.2: Total Services Delivered (Communities Reached 2019 - 2020)

PROVINCE	DIVISION	DISTRICTS	WOMEN	MEN	CHILD	TOTAL	% PER
NAITASIRI	Central	Muaira, Noimalu & Naboubuco	983	1,416	0	2,399	100%
REWA		Vutia & Rewa					
BUA	Northern	Kubulau, Lekutu, Vuya & Navakasiga	394	186	0	580	100%
RA	Western	Burewai, Kavula, Nakorotubu, Rakiraki, Nailuva & Nasau	754	973	0	1,727	100%
MACUATA	Northern	Dogotuki	684	550	0	1,234	100%
		Namuka	548	366	0	914	
		Udu	183	161	0	344	
TOTAL			3,546	3,652	0	7,198	
TOTAL PERCENTAGE			49%	51%	0%	100%	

2.0 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The core responsibility for the Social Welfare Department is child protection and social protection programs for the poor, vulnerable and the disadvantaged. The Department has four units, namely:

1. FAMILY SERVICES UNIT

2. CHILD SERVICES UNIT

3. OLDER PERSONS UNIT

4. DISABILITY UNIT

2.1 FAMILY SERVICES UNIT

The unit is the arm of the Department that administers several social transfer schemes for low income or vulnerable individuals and families.

2.1.1 POVERTY BENEFIT SCHEME

Poverty Benefit Scheme has been introduced by Government to provide financial support to destitute and poor households. The ministry was allocated an annual budget of \$36 million to cater for the Poverty Benefit Scheme program. The following table shows the current number of households benefitting from the Poverty Benefit Scheme (21,429), including the total number of cases approved (2,143), new applications received (3,012), terminated cases (3,919), applications pending processing (1,316), those cases that were declined because it does not meet the threshold (886) and the number of cases reviewed (9,296).

TABLE 2.1: Number of Households Benefitting from the Poverty Benefit Scheme

Division	Current Number	New Approvals	Terminations	New Applications	Pending	Declined	Reviews
Northern	4,713	870	868	691	219	192	2,020
North West	5,674	327	900	564	521	126	1,805
South West	2,807	252	468	565	166	294	1,770
South East	3,525	282	577	407	33	52	1,410
Nasinu	1,251	52	238	264	0	138	719
Central	3,459	360	868	521	377	84	1,572
Total	21,429	2,143	3,919	3,012	1,316	886	9,296

Poverty Benefit Scheme 2019 - 2020:



Total Households
21,429



New Approvals
2,143

Terminations
3,919

2.1.2 CARE AND PROTECTION ALLOWANCE

The Care and Protection Allowance is an assistance to children in vulnerable situations such as children of single parent, prisoner's dependents, children living with grand-parents, deserted spouse and children whose parents are widowed. The ministry was allocated an annual budget of \$8 million to cater for the Care and Protection allowance. The *table* below shows the current number of households benefitting from the Care and Protection Allowance (6,834), including the total number of cases approved (1,140), new applications received (1,186), terminated cases (1,232), applications pending processing (657), those case that were declined (110) and the number of cases reviewed (3,636).

TABLE 2.2: Number of Households Benefitting from the Care & Protection Allowance

Division	Current Number	New Approvals	Terminations	New Applications	Pending	Declined	Reviews
Northern	1,114	349	205	293	110	44	468
North West	1,116	228	369	148	115	2	554
South West	1,235	279	95	192	32	9	693
South East	1,416	132	127	212	72	10	591
Nasinu	529	45	59	115	0	23	404
Central	1,424	107	377	226	328	22	926
Total	6,834	1,140	1,232	1,186	657	110	3,636

Care & Protection Allowance 2019 - 2020:



Total Households
6,834



New Approvals
1,140

Terminations
1,232

2.1.3 SOCIAL PENSION SCHEME

The Social Pension Scheme is for elderly persons in Fiji who have attained the age of 65 years with no source of income, and not receiving Government Pension, Ex-Serviceman Funds or FNPf pension or any other superannuation. The Ministry was allocated a total of \$46 million budget for the Social Pension Scheme program for the financial year.

Table 2.3 shows the current number of individuals benefitting from the Social Pension Scheme (39,089), including the total number of cases approved (3,982), new applications received (4,133), terminated cases (3,526), applications pending processing (550), those cases that were declined (67) and the number of cases reviewed (17,790).

TABLE 2.3: Current Number of Individuals Benefitting from the Social Pension Scheme

Division	Current Number	New Approvals	Terminations	New Applications	Pending	Declined	Reviews
Northern	6,746	738	774	639	51	14	3,036
North West	5,672	778	602	617	149	4	1,931
South West	10,951	939	973	874	0	14	6,037
South East	8,134	622	602	671	7	27	3,691
Nasinu	2,538	252	176	323	0	4	1,213
Central	5,048	653	399	1,009	343	4	1,882
Total	39,089	3,982	3,526	4,133	550	67	17,790

Social Pension Scheme 2019 - 2020:



Total Individuals
39,089



New Approvals
3,982

Terminations
3,526

2.1.4 BUS FARE CONCESSION SCHEME

The Bus Fare Scheme was introduced by Government to assist Senior citizens and Disabled Persons in their travelling when using the bus as their mode of transport. The Ministry was allocated a budget of \$10 million to cater for the Bus Fare Concession Scheme. During the COVID period, the bus fare allowance was reduced within the financial year from \$40 to \$20 in alignment to the travel restrictions. For this financial year, a total of 4,850 cards were issued which included 4,484 cards for Senior Citizens whilst 366 cards for persons with disabilities. A total of 46,247 e-transport active cards were assisted within this financial year.



Total Cards Issued
4,850

Total Active Cards
46,247

2.1.5 FIRE VICTIM ASSISTANCE

The ministry was allocated a budget of \$100,000 for the Fire Victim assistance which is an assistance provided to households who have had their property and belongings destroyed in the cause of an accidental fire. Such a disaster is unforeseen and considered as a crisis, thus the aftermath of such an incident can be detrimental physically and psychologically to the household members. The assistance is therefore given to help provide for their immediate basic necessities that have been lost in the fire. The Ministry through the department had utilized \$82,000 to assist 82 families (Fire Victims) with \$1,000 each to support them to meet their basic necessity.



Fire Victims Assisted
82

Total Amount
\$82,000

2.1.6 RURAL PREGNANT MOTHERS FOOD VOUCHER SCHEME

The Programme continues to aim at improving the maternal health and basic nutrition needs required during pregnancies. The Ministry was allocated a budget of \$900,000 for the financial year for the Rural Pregnant Mothers Food Voucher Scheme. The Department approved 3,279 cases to be assisted under the Food Voucher Program in this Fiscal Year.



Mothers Assisted
3,279



Food Voucher Program for Rural Pregnant Mothers

2.1.7 DISABILITY ALLOWANCE

The Disability Allowance Scheme was introduced in 2017 to support Persons with Disability with a monthly allowance of \$90. The budget allocation for the Disability Allowance Scheme was \$5 million. The Disability Allowance (DA) is awarded after an assessment is done by the Disability Officers. The *table below* shows the current number of individuals benefitting from the Disability Allowance (8,195), including the total number of cases approved (1,388), new applications received (1,441), terminated cases (411), applications pending processing (178), those case that were declined (109) and the number of cases reviewed (475).

TABLE 2.4: Number of Individuals Benefitting from the Disability Allowance Scheme

Division	Current Number	New Approvals	Terminations	New Applications	Pending	Declined	Reviews
Northern	1,343	274	76	247	64	4	83
North West	743	141	45	191	25	16	50
South West	2,036	351	135	393	33	22	137
South East	1,144	324	60	290	7	18	93
Nasinu	633	122	42	139	0	36	58
Central	976	176	53	181	49	13	54
PO	1,302	0	0	0	0	0	475
Paymaster	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8,195	1,388	411	1,441	178	109	475

Disability Allowance 2019 - 2020:



Total Individuals
8,195



New Approvals
1,388

Terminations
411

2.2 CHILD SERVICES UNIT

The Unit oversees the administration and operation of the mandated responsibility of the care and protection of children in Fiji. There are four (4) main key areas of operation and this includes the following:

1. Child Protection
2. Residential Services
3. Community Based Corrections
4. National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC)

2.2.1 COURT REPORTS

The Unit had received 955 report request received of which 565 reports submitted and 165 reports pending submission.

Court Reports 2019 - 2020:



Total Report Requests
955



Reports Submitted
565

Reports Pending
165

FIGURE 2.5: Court Reports Summary



2.2.2 CHILD WELFARE CASES

The Child Welfare Act 2020 mandates five professionals to notify the Ministry on child cases. The mandated professionals include the Health Professional, Welfare Officer, Police Officer, Teacher, and legal practitioner. There were 1,470 CWA cases registered by the Child Services Unit.

FIGURE 2.6: Child Welfare Act Notifications 2019 - 2020



2.2.3 CHILD PLACEMENTS

There were a total of 102 children placed, 45 at residential homes, 32 with kinship and 25 with foster families.

Child Placements Data 2019 - 2020:



Total Children Placed
102



At Residential Homes
45

With Kinship / Foster Families
57

2.2.4 COMMUNITY BASED CORRECTIONS

There were a total of 129 children placed under probation for the last 12 months.

FIGURE 2.7: Child Placements 2019 - 2020



2.3 OLDER PERSONS UNIT

2.3.1 NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR OLDER PERSONS

The National Council for Older Persons Grant is targeted at complementing Government service provisions for Older Persons in either community or institutional settings since 2014. With the \$400,000 allocated in the 2019 - 2020 financial year, only \$303,000 was approved. Due to the COVID re-adjustment in the budget it was further slashed to \$200,000. A balance of \$77,000 was vired from the balance to be as a buffer to the operational cost of the 3 State Homes in the last quarter.

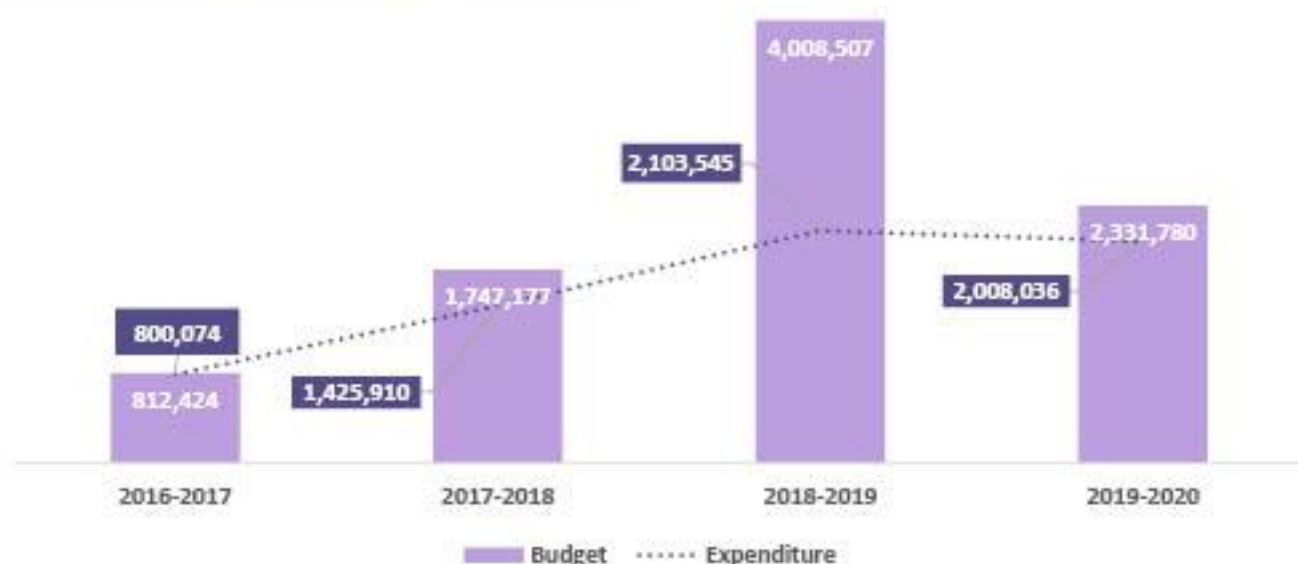
TABLE 2.8: NCOP Grants Recipients (August 2019 – June 2020)

No:	Grant Recipients	Total Grants Approved	Total Disbursed	Pending Disbursements
1	HART	33,650.00	16,825.00	16,825.00
2	Channel Home of Compassion	24,175.00	12,087.50	12,087.50
3	Suva Relief Trust and Pearce Home	21,500.00	10,750.00	10,750.00
4	Society of Saint Vincent De Paul	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
5	Senior Citizens Charitable Trust of Nadi	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00
6	Senior Citizens Foundation (Fiji) Lautoka Branch	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00
7	Senior Citizens Ba Community Centre	21,530.00	21,530.00	0.00
TOTAL		\$138,855.00	\$99,192.50	\$39,662.50

2.3.2 STATE HOMES FOR OLDER PERSONS

Since 2016 at the initial handing over for the three (3) Homes, the Ministry had lobbied for significant increases to its budget allocation. Operational Budget is mostly exhausted at the end of every year with the exception of the Capital Project which had a slow consultation on concept and design phases.

FIGURE 2.9: Senior Citizens Home Budget (2016 - 2020)



Since 2016 the trended number of residents peaked in 2018 and has generally decreased to date having a current total of 131 residents as at July 2020.

FIGURE 2.10: Total Residents in the 3 State Homes (2016 - 2020)



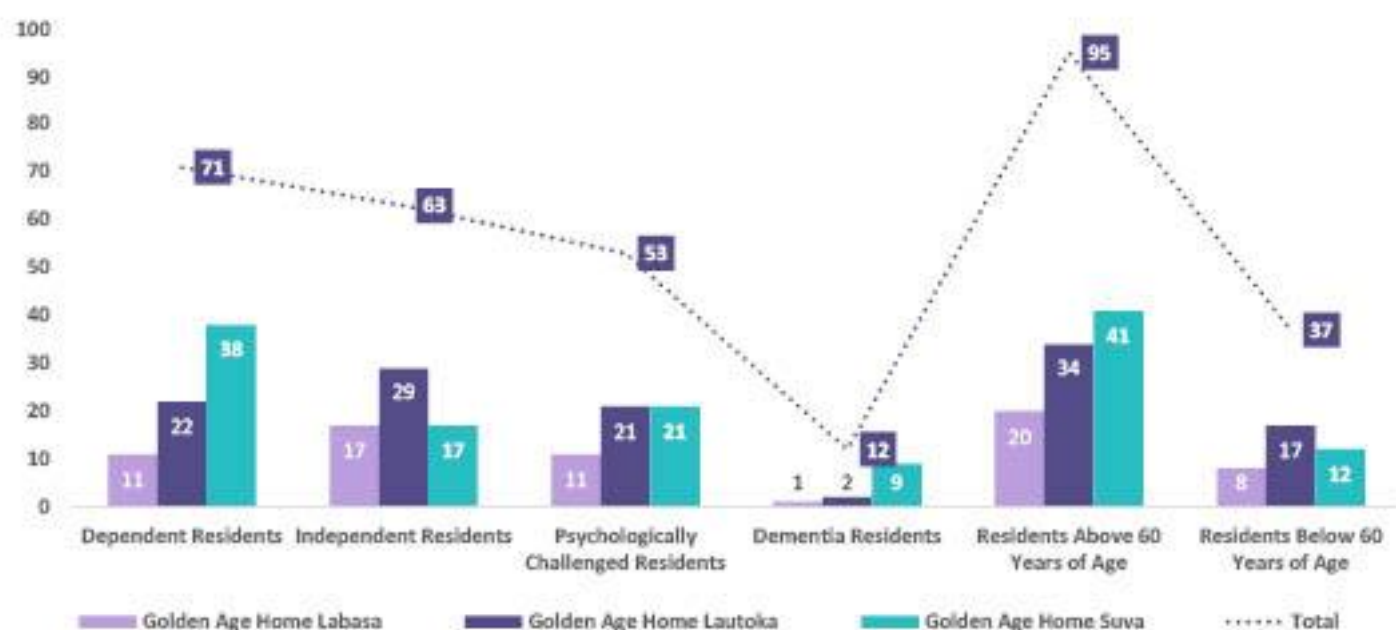
The Ministry since 2016 has reviewed admission criteria of admission, with a thorough assessment procedure at Headquarters. For the last 6 years the admissions ranged between 8 to 20 new residents per year. There were no new admissions in July 2020.

FIGURE 2.11: Resident Admissions to the 3 State Homes (2016 - 2020)



The Care Management validation in the 3 Homes, confirm that 53% of the residents in the 3 Homes are dependent residents. In relation to Ageing 71% of the residents are in aged 60 plus category. On the risk aspect, 43% of residents are psychologically challenged.

FIGURE 2.12: Category of Care of Residents (2019 - 2020)





3.0 DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN

Department of Women is the primary policy advisor to the Government on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality. The Department continues to work towards the implementation of programmes administered through the Women's Plan of Action and National Gender Policy.

The Department aligns its activities and programmes to the following strategic priorities:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Elimination of Violence against Women | 4. Gender Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management |
| 2. Women Economic Empowerment | 5. Access to Services |
| 3. Women in Leadership | 6. Gender Data & Research Policy |

3.1 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Ministry is committed to achieving the goal of having a safer community through the 'Elimination of Violence against Women and Children' working with service providers, communities and development agencies. The Department under the strategic priorities had achieved the following:

3.1.1 ACTIVITY 1: ADVISORY GROUP MEETING ON FIJI NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS: 4TH – 5TH DECEMBER AT WARWICK FIJI

The Advisory Group Meeting on the Fiji National Plan of Action to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls convened by the Ministry was held at the Warwick from 4 - 5 December. The meeting was attended by representatives from government, non-government organizations and faith based organizations.

The outcome of the meeting noted the following key areas and shared language for the National Women's Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls:

- The Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence will focus on all women and girls.
- The scope of the Plan will be on domestic violence/intimate partner violence and sexual violence.
- Contributing factors that increase women's risk of experiencing violence.

- Contributing factors that increase men's likelihood of perpetrating violence.
- Contributing factors that create broader risk in the social environment.
- Contributing factors in the areas that require more attention in the data mapping and validation as the way forward.
- Root Causes of Violence Against Key Setting and Sectors for efforts to prevent violence against women and girls Women and Girls; and
- Role of the Advisory Group.

3.1.2 ACTIVITY 2: ROLL-OUT OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY PROTOCOL FOR RESPONDING TO CASES OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Two (2) SDP Training Roll-Out were undertaken with the aim of ensuring that service providers are aware of the existing SDP response. This is to ensure the provisions of appropriate, timely and quality service for survivors of gender based violence. In addition the guiding principles and minimum standards, place the survivors at the center of the service.

Forty three (43) participants attended the 2 roll-out and awareness which was firstly, for the Northern Division Service Providers from 26th - 31st August representing the Department of Women, Department of Social Welfare, Fiji Police Force, iTaukei Affairs Board, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Judicial Department, Medical Services Pacific, Labasa Women's' Crisis Center, Empower Pacific, Homes of Hope, and Persons with Disability Organisation. The second session was for the House of Sara Carer in Suva. The Roll Out was made possible with funding from UNFPA and with UN Women technical Assistance.

3.1.3 ACTIVITY 3: NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE

The National Domestic Violence 24-hour toll-free helpline provides quick and direct access to support and help with counseling and referral services, for sexual and gender-based violence committed against anyone. The helpline is administered by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre and is accessible to anyone who has access to any telephone network. The Ministry provided \$90,000.00 to the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre to administer the helpline Since its establishment in March 2017, the helpline has recorded a total of 4,818 calls. In the 2019 - 2020 financial year, 2,322 genuine calls were received at the helpline. Of these, 1,690 (73%) are female and 631 (27%) are male. Of the total calls, (1,423) 61% were domestic violence related. 23% of the total calls received at the helpline were in May. The highest for the year and after the beginning of the 2nd wave of COVID-19. The helpline received a 150% increase in calls in 2019 - 2020 compared to 2018 - 2019 (927).

FIGURE 3.1: Total Genuine Calls: 2019 - 2020



3.1.4 ACTIVITY 4: MEETINGS AND OTHER GBV RELATED WORK

- National EVAW Taskforce Meeting.
- Consultations with GBV Working Group and UN Women and developed the COVID-19 GBV Resource Kit working with GBV Service Providers.
- Initial Consultation with UN Women on the development of the GHBV Shelter Guideline.
- Service Mapping and consultation with GBV Service Providers working with UN Women.

3.2 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Under this thematic area a number of activities were undertaken such as Income Generating Projects, Skills Training, IGP Planning and Reviewing, Divisional Craft Shows, Handing over of Sewing Machines, Value Chain Analysis, Sewing Training, Monitoring of Women Centres, Gathering Data, and the Compilation of Profiles of License Women. *Tabulated below* are the Department's Achievement under the Strategic area:

TABLE 3.2: Summary of Activities - Strategic Priority 2

Planned Activities	Divisional Planned Activities				Organizational Achievements
	Western	Eastern	Northern	Central	
Income Generating Project Monitoring	9	1	16	11	37
Skills Training Tie & Dye	2	0	0	0	2
IGP - Planning / Review and Coordination	2	0	4	0	6
Divisional Craft Shows	0	1	1	3	5
Handing over of Sewing Machines	0	0	0	1	1
Value Chain Analysis	0	0	2	2	4
Sewing Training	1	0	1	0	2
Monitoring of Women Centres / WRC & Women's Extension Centre	3	0	0	5	8
Gathered Data for the status of women particularly on Women's Economic Empowerment	0	1	0	0	1
Compilation of profiles of Licence Women-Central	0	0	0	1	1

3.3 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

The two major activities in this sector are (i) BRIDGE training and (ii) Leadership training. During this financial period, the department had achieved the following:

- Development of the Leadership Training Manual.
- Consultation on the Ketekete ni Maram Leadership Training Manual.
- Ongoing consultation with civil societies on the implementation of the Leadership and BRIDGE Training.
- Consultation (Planning) on the preparation for Young Women's Leadership Training.
- Five (5) Leadership Trainings were conducted in the Eastern Division.

3.4 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: GENDER & CLIMATE CHANGE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

The Department under Strategic Priority 4 had assisted NDMO in relief distribution of Hygiene Kits provided by UN-FPA through the Safety and Protection Cluster and furthermore attended the WASH Cluster meeting on response to COVID-19. Additionally, one (1) India Brazil South Africa (IBSA) Funding for Rocket Stove Rocket Stove Training was conducted in the Western Division.

3.5 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: GENDER DATA & RESEARCH POLICY

The Ministry through the department had contributed to the agriculture census and furthermore had coordinated the research and data collation for Rapid Assessment on COVID-19 impacts on women's economic participation:

- Manufacturing & Industry Sector
- Social Protection Systems & Programmes – DSW/FNPF
- Agriculture Sector
- Trade Statistics
- Women Entrepreneurs – Formal/Informal Economy
- Health/Care Economy/Sector

Additionally, the Department had carried out a Gender Analysis on COVID-19 Budget and had discussions on Fiji Country Gender Assessment (FCGA) with UN Women on confirming the revised timelines with the identified International Researchers due to COVID-19.

3.6 RURAL WOMEN'S DAY

The Ministry for this year's celebration had partnered with UNWomen Market for Change (M4C) program to focus on women living in a very remote rural community. The Rural Women's Day platform was used to share women's success stories and seek support and acknowledgement in regards to their participation at home and their contribution to community and national development. The Department for Women and UN-Women had organized side events which included skills training such as floral arrangements, tie and dye, women's forum where women openly discussed issues that had been faced in the local markets. More than 100 women across the Ba province were present in the Rural Women's Day (RWD) held in Ba.

3.7 GRANTS

Through the Grants to Women's Institution, 4 Organizations were assisted whose work complement the service delivery of the Department providing services to women in general. The figure below provides recipient of the grants for the fiscal year.

FIGURE 3.3: Grants Allocation 2019 - 2020





4.0 POVERTY MONITORING UNIT

The core responsibility of Poverty Monitoring Unit is to monitor, evaluate and report on the progress of Governments Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAP) and gauge its effectiveness in contributing towards Poverty reduction and addressing socio-economic development needs of Fijians. The role of the Unit is achieved through:

- 1 Managing the timely implementation of the Integrated National Poverty Eradication Programme (INPEP)
- 2 Consultation with relevant Government Ministries, Development Partners, Statutory Bodies; Private Sectors and Non-Government Organizations
- 3 Identifying possible way forward on PAP through research; and
- 4 Recommending policy changes to the Honorable Minister for Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation on PAP.

4.1 RESEARCH AND FEEDBACK REPORT ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

In the fiscal year 2019/2020, the Unit monitored 21 Poverty Alleviation Programs from 13 agencies, with the aim to gauge the impact of the programme and identify gaps which will be a way forward for effective programme delivery. All monitoring reports were submitted to the respective implementing agencies and the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, informing them of the programmes performance and contribution to poverty reduction. The following were the list of programmes monitored:

TABLE 4.1: The Unit Monitored the 12 Poverty Alleviation Programmes from 8 Agencies

No:	Name of Implementing Ministry	Name of Programme
1	Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts	Purchase Of Boat And Outboard Motor Engine Early Childhood Care And Education Library Scheme
2	Ministry of Health and Medical Services	Community Health Workers
3	Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation	Welfare Graduation Program Livelihood Project
4	Ministry of Youth and Sports	Youth Capacity Building And Training Programme

No:	Name of Implementing Ministry	Name of Programme
5	Ministry of Fisheries	Food Security Programme Freshwater Aquaculture Small Holder Farmer
6	Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism	Northern Development Program Micro And Small Business Grant
7	Ministry of Sugar Industry	Sugar Individual Small Grants Scheme New Farmers Assistance
8	Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport	Solar Homes Systems



Mr. Anuragh Narayan of PMU interviewing a Solar Home System Recipient



Poverty Monitoring Unit having focus group discussions with Sugarcane farmers

4.2 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

In view of strengthening its Monitoring and Evaluation, the Ministry had established a GIS position within the Poverty Monitoring Unit (PMU). The Officer is responsible for capturing and mapping the Ministry's Projects and Government's Poverty Alleviation Programme. For this financial year, the officer was able to complete plotting and mapping of the following:

TABLE 4.2: List of Programmes Mapped

Name of Programme
○ 629 Livelihood projects
○ 47 Women Extension Centre
○ 13 Women Resource Centre
○ 67 District Offices
○ 203 Health Facilities
○ 19 Fire Stations
○ 1845 Evacuation Centres
○ 92 Zero Tolerance Violence Free Community
○ 441 Welfare Graduation Programme recipients
○ 23 office locations for the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation around the Country
○ 358 Fiji safety & protection cluster locations
○ WAF projects 2000 - 2015

After the completion of plotting and mapping, all the information was posted to the Vanua GIS hosted by Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Geospatial Department.



4.3 REMOTE PILOT LICENSING TRAINING

To further strengthen data collection and mapping, Mr. Meli Loki and Mr. Neumi Tabuyaqona of Poverty Monitoring Unit had attended a one week training on the basics of the general aircraft systems, energy management, risk assessments and safely operating a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA).

The training has equipped the nominated staffs with the basic knowledge needed to safely operate a Remotely Piloted Aircraft to further assist the Unit and the Ministry with its work output.



4.4 PARTICIPATORY LEARNING AND ACTION WORKSHOP (PLA)

The PLA is a nine (9) method tool which is adopted by the Unit as a Poverty Reduction Strategy. The workshop involves community (men, women, youths, persons living with disability, Elderly, Church Members) to participate and identify the problems they are facing with respect to their groups/individuals and communities. Furthermore, the participatory concept encourages participants and the communities to identify solutions to their problems and develop a Community Development Plan. There were two (2) Participatory Learning and Action Workshops conducted:

- **NORTHERN DIVISION:** PLA Workshop was organized in the Tikina of Namuka, Macuata Province. A total of 50 participants attended the 2 day PLA Workshop which was held on 21st to 22nd November, 2019 at Visoqo Village; and
- **CENTRAL DIVISION:** PLA Workshop was organized for 4 Villages in the District of Deuba. A total of 45 participants attended the 2 day PLA Workshop which was held on 29th and 30th October 2019 at Sadro Village



Total Participants:
50



Total Participants:
45



PLA Workshop at Visoqa Village, Namuka



PLA Workshop at Visoqa Village, Namuka

4.5 COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY (IDEP)

The observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17th October 1987. October 17th provides an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and struggle of people living in poverty, a chance for them to make their concerns heard, and a moment to recognize that poor people are the first ones to fight against poverty. The Ministry through the Poverty Monitoring Unit had marked the 2019 IDEP commemoration through a publicity campaign centered on the use of mass media to create awareness on the significance of the day and also highlight Poverty Alleviation Programme being implemented by the Fijian Government in its effort to reduce poverty to a negligible level.

In addition, the Ministry staff based at Naibati commemorated an in-house 2019 IDEP through a morning tea with the presence of the Indonesian counterparts who provided technical assistance to the Ministry through Gender Responsive Budgeting and Planning training to acknowledge the struggles and the efforts of those living in poverty.



5.0 CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Corporate Services (CS) is responsible to the Permanent Secretary with the following functions:

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

HR Unit enables the implementation of the Constitutional functions of the Permanent Secretary in an efficient and effective manner with due diligence including appointments, terminations and disciplinary action. Through the HR Unit, CS also ensures compliance with the terms and conditions of employment, enabling staff development through training programs as well as being responsible for staff welfare including staff health and well-being.

- New Appointments 100
- Training Local - 17 [attended by 102 Officers] / Overseas - 7 [attended by 11 Officers]
- Discipline Suspension - 2 / Termination - 10
- Advertisement 37 Established and 27 Government Wage Earners Positions



ADMINISTRATION

Through the Administration department, CS enables proper management, maintenance and security of assets including vehicles, buildings, equipment, fixed and expandable assets. This is important as it ensures a comfortable and conducive working environment. The department, in consultation with heads of Departments develops the annual procurement plan and facilitates the annual board of survey within the ambit of the Fiji Procurement Regulation. CS facilitates the sending and receiving of correspondences either through postal services or courier mail.

FINANCE MANAGEMENT

Finance Unit arm of the Corporate Services is responsible for the prudent management of budgetary allocations through the compilation of the Ministry's Budget proposal. In compliance with the Financial Management Act and Regulations, the Department ensures adherence and observance of the reporting requirements. There was a total of 12 reports in relation to monitoring and compliance submitted to Ministry of Economy for the period 2019/2020.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2019 - 2020

For the Year Ended 31 July 2020

- 
- ▶ Independent Auditors Report
 - ▶ Management Certificate
 - ▶ Statement of Receipts and Expenditure
 - ▶ Appropriation Statement
 - ▶ Statement of Losses
 - ▶ Trust Fund Account Statement of Receipts and Payments
 - ▶ Notes to and Forming Part of Financial Statements

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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File No: 623

06 June 2022

The Honourable Rosy Sofla Akbar
Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
Civic Towers
SUVA

Dear Honourable Akbar

MINISTRY OF WOMEN CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 JULY 2020 AND 31 JULY 2021

The audited financial statements for the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the years ended 31 July 2020 and 2021 together with my audit reports on them are enclosed.

Particulars of any errors and omissions arising from the audit have been forwarded to the Management of the Ministry for their necessary actions.

Yours sincerely

Sairusi Dukuno
ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL

Cc: Ms. Jennifer Poole - The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Encl.

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION FOR THE ENDED 31 JULY 2020

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses and Trust Fund Account - Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31 July 2020, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, except for the effects on the matters discussed in the Basis for Qualified Opinion paragraphs, the accompanying financial statements of the Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The statements of Receipts and Expenditure includes Operating Grants and Transfers amount of \$125,054,372. Included in this amount are the various Social Welfare Scheme payments totalling \$110,954,990. An unreconciled variance of \$4,203,130 exists between the General Ledger balance of \$110,954,990 and the actual payment amount made through the banks and other modes of payment totalling \$106,751,860 for the year ended 31 July 2020. Consequently, I cannot establish the accuracy and completeness of Operating Grant and Transfers of \$125,054,372 reflected in the financial statements. The Ministry has reduced these variance in the 2021 financial year.

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

Emphasis of Matter

I draw attention to Established Staff and Government Wage Earners costs in the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure. Unreconciled variances of \$193,109 and \$198,724 existed between the FMIS general ledger and the Ministry's payroll report for Established Staff and Government Wage Earners respectively.

My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Management and those charged with governance for financial statements

The Management are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and 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 misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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 of 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 or 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 for 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 accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Management of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation.

I communicate with those charged with governance 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.



Sairusi Dukuno
ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL



Suva, Fiji
06 June 2022

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
Management Certificate
for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

Management Certificate

We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the year ended 31 July 2020; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instruction 2010.



Ms. Jennifer Poole
Permanent Secretary



Mrs. Venina Duvuduvukula
A/Principal Accounts Officer

Date: 27 / 05 / 2022

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
Statement of Receipts and Expenditure
for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

	Note	31 July 2020 (\$)	31 July 2019 (\$)
REVENUE			
STATE REVENUE:			
Operating Revenue	3(a)	18,268	13,519
Total State Revenue		18,268	13,519
TOTAL REVENUE		18,268	13,519
EXPENDITURE			
OPERATING EXPENDITURE:			
Established Staff	3(b)	7,888,506	8,230,732
Government Wage Earners	3(c)	2,369,610	3,190,110
Travel & Communication	3(d)	349,049	626,365
Maintenance & Operations	3(e)	893,006	1,227,896
Purchase of Good & Services	3(f)	2,551,938	2,538,006
Operating Grants & Transfers	3(g)	125,054,372	120,492,360
Special Expenditure	3(h)	869,155	3,033,407
Total Operating Expenditure		139,975,636	139,338,876
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:			
Capital Construction	3(i)	508,443	217,953
Capital Grants & Transfers	3(j)	1,455,545	686,523
Total Capital Expenditure		1,963,988	904,476
Value Added Tax	3(k)	227,836	339,730
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		142,167,460	140,583,082

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Appropriation Statement

for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

SEG	ITEM	Budget Estimate	Appropriation Changes	Revised Estimate (a)	Actual Expenditure (b)	Lapsed Appropriation (a-b) Note 4
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
OPERATIONS COSTS						
1	Established Staff	7,912,501	(23,979)	7,888,522	7,888,506	16
2	Unestablished Staff	2,075,346	294,287	2,369,633	2,369,610	23
3	Travel & Communication	288,025	67,274	355,299	349,049	6,250
4	Maintenance & Operations	760,500	165,007	925,507	893,006	32,501
5	Purchase of Good & Services	2,521,768	81,963	2,603,731	2,551,938	51,793
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	128,160,132	(950,124)	127,210,008	125,054,372	2,155,636
7	Special Expenditure	992,000	(45,145)	946,855	869,155	77,700
	Total Operating Costs	142,710,272	(410,717)	142,299,555	139,975,636	2,323,919
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
8	Capital Construction	500,000	8,444	508,444	508,443	1
9	Capital Purchase	---	---	---	---	---
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	910,000	545,547	1,455,547	1,455,545	2
	Total Capital Expenditure	5,650,000	553,991	1,963,991	1,963,988	3
13	Value Added Tax	455,660	---	455,660	227,836	227,824
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	132,997,238	143,274	144,719,206	142,167,460	2,551,746

Statement of Losses

for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

Loss of Money

There was loss of money at a value of \$6,546 recorded in the financial year ended 31st July, 2020 which is under internal investigation.

Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the year ended 31st July, 2020.

Loss (other than money)

The Board of Survey for 2020 was not carried out for the financial year ended 31st July, 2020.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
Trust Fund Account Statement of Receipts and Payments
 for the Year Ended 31 July 2020

	Note	31 July 2020 (\$)	31 July 2019 (\$)
OPENING BALANCE		190,047	190,107
RECEIPTS:			
Revenue		---	---
Total Receipts		190,107	---
PAYMENTS:			
Bank Fees		60	60
Total Payments		60	60
CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31 JULY 2020	9	189,987	190,047

NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation oversees national policies and programmes that works to ensure that Fiji's most vulnerable groups are cared for and included in our ongoing national prosperity.

The Ministry's work provides a social safety net that empowers disadvantaged Fijians by creating a more level playing field. It aims to break down barriers of gender, disability, age, and economic standing, allowing all Fijians to fully participate in society. The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation is responsible for providing services and administering programmes that protect those who are most vulnerable, and works to reduce poverty in Fiji to negligible levels. The Ministry's work provides a social safety net that uplifts groups that are disadvantaged on the basis of gender, age, disability and economic standing.

The Ministry has authority over the Department of Social Welfare, Department of Women and the Poverty Monitoring Unit. The Department of Social Welfare administers Fiji's basket of social welfare programmes, which include the Poverty Benefit Scheme, the Child Protection Allowance, the Food Voucher Program, the Social Pension Scheme and the Bus Fare for the elderly and people living with disabilities.

The Department will undertake a review on the social protection programmes systems and processes to ensure that this assistance is well-targeted and administered in a transparent and accountable manner. The Department is equally committed to ensuring that these programmes do not create a culture of dependency, focusing efforts and energy on graduating individuals and families from "welfare to workfare".

The Ministry also works to promote gender equality and women's empowerment by mainstreaming the participation of women and girls in Fiji's socioeconomic development; a mission that is driven by the implementation of the National Gender Policy and the Women's Plan of Action. To better promote gender equality, the Department of Women works with other ministries and various local, regional and international NGOs to ensure that gender perspectives are addressed in all Government policies and initiatives.

The Ministry also works to ensure the protection care and empowerment of older persons by providing safer, more respectful, and more inclusive service and protection of the rights of older persons. This will include the development of legislation and review of the National Aging Policy.

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 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) 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 Economy. 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 FRCS. Actual amount paid to FRCS 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 increased by \$4,749 or 35% in 2020 compared to 2019 due to two additions to the list of insurance premium payable and other credit institutions for commissions deducted by source.
- (b) The Established Staff cost decreased by \$342,225 or 4% in 2020 compared to 2019 as 2019 increases was due to Implementation of JEE and reduction of FNPF contribution to 5%.
- (c) The Government Wage Earners cost decreased by \$820,500 or 26% in 2020 compared to 2019 as 2019 decrease was due to Implementation of JEE and reduction of employees FNPF contribution to 5%.
- (d) The Travel and Communication cost decreased by \$277,316 or 44 % in 2020 compared to 2019. The decrease was due to the less travelling undertaken by the Ministry's staff and also a reduction in tele-communication cost.
- (e) The Maintenance and Operations costs decreased by \$334,890 or 27% in 2020 compared to 2019. The decrease was due to reduction of payment in expenditure for maintenance of the Ministry vehicle and fuel cost.
- (f) The Purchasing of Goods and Services increased by \$13,932 or 1 % in 2020 compared to 2019 as this was based on increase of purchasing and services done and commission charges for fees paid to Banks for monthly Social Protection programme Pay out and increase of most programme budget towards this financial year.
- (g) The Operating Grants and Transfers increased by \$4,562,012 or 4% in 2020 compared to 2019, this increase is due to increase in payment for Social Protection Programmes, monthly payout to the recipients and inclusion of E-Ticketing Bus Fare Concession for Senior Citizen and Person living with Disability.
- (h) Special Expenditure decreased by \$2,164,252 or 71 % in 2020 compared to 2019. This decrease was due to the reduction in programme funding provided towards this financial year.
- (i) Capital Construction increased by \$290,491 or 133% in 2020 compared to 2019. This decrease was due to payment of expenditure payout for Construction of Barefoot College.
- (j) The Capital Grants and Transfer increased by \$769,022 or 112% in 2020 compared to 2019. This was due to slow implementation of Welfare Graduation Programme and new inclusion of Western Disability Centre, funding to Fire Victims recipients is based on and as and when fire occurs and also construction of aged care facilities at Labasa.
- (k) The Value Added Tax decreased by \$111,894 or 33% compared to 2019. This is mainly due to decrease in VAT charge activities.

NOTE 4: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

No.	Expenditure	Revised Budget (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Savings (\$)	Percentage Savings (\$)
(a)	Operating Grants & Transfers	127,210,008	125,054,372	2,155,636	1.69%
(b)	Special Expenditure	946,855	869,155	77,700	8.20%

- a) The savings under Operating Grant & Transfers (SEG 6) was due to the followings:
- (i) Bus fare Prog - \$780k was due to reduction of monthly top up value from \$40 to \$20.
 - (ii) Savings in Child protection allowance - \$438k is due to recertification and review exercises for all Social Protection programmes.
 - (iii) Social Pension Scheme savings of \$614k is due to the recertification and review exercises for all Social Protection programmes.
 - (iv) Savings in Poverty Benefit programmes - \$245k is due to the recertification and review exercises for all Social Protection programmes.
 - (v) Savings in Women Plan of Action - \$67k due to unreleased of RIE.
- b) The savings under Special Expenditure (SEG 7) was due to the followings:
- (i) Savings of \$30k for Domestic Violence Support Fund is due to internal processing that needs to be reviewed for in the cabinet paper.
 - (ii) Savings of \$13k for Child Protection Programme is due to reduction in the revised budget programmes plus the payment of Child Helpline Mascott which was pending completion and delivery from Overseas Supplier.
 - (iii) Savings of \$10k for Domestic Violence Helpline is due to meeting other commitments towards the end of this financial year plus also the issue in the delay of the MOA.

NOTE 5: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION CHANGES

The Cabinet approved the re-deployment of funds from Head 50 via Cabinet Decision CP(19)19 and Head 50 - Miscellaneous Services via Cabinet Decision CP(19)248.

Redeployment No.	From	To	Amount (\$)	Reason for re-deployment
REDY01	Head 50	SEG 06	82,874	To meet the shortfall in Grant for National Council for Persons with Disabilities
REDY03	Head 50	SEG 06	7,399,374	To meet the shortfall in Capital Grants to Voluntary Organizations

The Minister for Economy approved the following transfer of funds during the period:

Virement No.	From	To	Amount (\$)
V24002	SEG 06	SEG 02	270,308

The Permanent Secretary for Economy approved the following transfer of funds during the period:

Virement No.	From	To	Amount (\$)
V24001	SEG 01	SEG 01	200,584
	SEG 02	SEG 02	34,638

The Permanent Secretary for the Ministry approved the following Virements under delegation from the Minister for Economy.

Virement No.	From	To	Amount (\$)
DV2411	SEG 05	SEG 04	2,446
DV2412	SEG 03	SEG 03	3,674
	SEG 04	SEG 04	48,820
	SEG 06	SEG 05	33,353
	SEG 07		
DV2413	SEG 06	SEG 03	10,860
		SEG 04	29,095
		SEG 05	1,045
	SEG 07	SEG 08	8,444
DV2414	SEG 07	SEG 06	25,000
DV2415	SEG 04	SEG 03	25,000
	SEG 06	SEG 04	28,024
	SEG 07	SEG 05	1,630
		SEG 07	31,000
		SEG 10	407,184
DV2416	SEG 03	SEG 03	10,244
	SEG 04	SEG 04	72,705
	SEG 06	SEG 05	4,020
	SEG 07	SEG 07	50,000
DV2417	SEG 06	SEG 03	20,000
		SEG 05	27,000
		SEG 10	77,363
DV2418	SEG 03	SEG 03	3,500
	SEG 04	SEG 04	3,982
	SEG 06	SEG 05	25,119
DV2419	SEG 06	SEG 05	19,242
		SEG 06	294,451
		SEG 07	5,961

NOTE 6: OPERATING TRUST ACCOUNT

As at 31 July 2020, the Ministry had a credit balance of \$112,688 in the Operating Trust Account.

NOTE 7: REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNT

As at 31 July 2020, the Ministry had a balance of \$51,249 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.

NOTE 8: DRAWINGS ACCOUNT

At balance date, the Ministry had a balance of \$276,044 in the Drawings Account. These monies were related to cheques written by the Ministry that were yet to be presented to the bank.

NOTE 9: MAIN TRUST ACCOUNT - HELP FOR HOME TRUST

As at 31st July, 2020 the Ministry had a credit balance of \$189,987 in the True Trust Account named MWCPA T/ A Help for Home Trust. This main trust account had been set up to cater for the refunds to the affected victim of TC Winston who had been claiming for purchases of goods and services from the grants scheme assistance.

OUR VISION

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with Empowered Women, Children, Older Persons
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