

MINISTRY OF WOMEN,
CHILDREN &
POVERTY ALLEVIATION



ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

For the Financial Period 1st August 2020 - 31st July 2021





MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN & POVERTY ALLEVIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

HEADQUARTERS

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© Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

VISION STATEMENT

Transformed Communities with Empowered Women, Children, Older Persons and the Disadvantaged.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VALUES

We foster an Organization culture that values:

- ▶ **PROFESSIONALISM** | We commit to excellence and impartiality in our service and to provide evidence based advice, derived from rigorous analysis.
- ▶ **INTEGRITY** | We commit to practicing the highest ethical standards and to demonstrate honesty and fairness in our actions.
- ▶ **EXCELLENCE** | We demonstrate pride, enthusiasm and dedication in everything that we do and we commit to delivering the best outcomes for all Fijians.
- ▶ **COLLABORATION** | We practice a highly consultative, professional and participative approach in all our customer and stakeholder engagement interactions.
- ▶ **ACCOUNTABILITY** | We accept responsibility for our actions and we make business decisions based on experience and sound judgment.
- ▶ **TEAMWORK** | We treat our colleagues with respect and value all contributions.

ACRONYMS

ATS	Access to Services
BRIDGE	Bridging Recruitment to Reintegration in Migration Governance Programme
CFS	Child Friendly Spaces
CHL	National Child Helpline
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSD	Corporate Services Department
CWA	Child Welfare Act
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
ECC	Early Childhood Care
FCOSS	Fiji Council of Social Services
FNPF	Fiji National Provident Fund
GGP	Grassroots Human Security Projects
IAC	Inter-Agency Committee
ICD	Gender Transformative Institution Capacity Development
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IHRDP	Integrated Human Development Programme
INPEP	Integrated National Poverty Eradication Programme
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MSP	Medical Services Pacific
MWCPA	Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
NCCC	National Child Coordinating Committee on Children
NCOP	National Council of Older Persons
NFNC	National Food and Nutrition Centre
PAP	Poverty Alleviation Programmes
PCAN	Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Campaign
PIC	Poverty Information Centre
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PMU	Poverty Monitoring Unit
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
REACH	Rights, Empowerment and Cohesion Programme
SG	Solicitor General
TOR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USAID	The United States Agency for International Development
VAT	Value Added Tax
WFP	World Food Programme

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REFERRAL LETTER

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

Dear Madam,

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the financial year 1st August, 2020 to 31st July, 2021 for the Ministry of Women, Children and 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



Greetings from the Office of the Permanent Secretary.

The Financial Year 2020/2021 was a year of change and innovation. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to change the way we carry out our daily work and the Officers of the Ministry had to adapt and respond quickly, to ensure our critical operations continued to provide support to the most vulnerable persons in the society. The Directors rose to the challenge and continued to provide services to the most marginalized, deploying staff to the lock down borders to facilitate services to clients.

During this period, the Ministry activated and led the Safety and Protection Cluster to ensure coordination of essential services to the most vulnerable and to support the work of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS). The Ministry provided three REACH buses and staff to strengthen the health outreach as part of the vaccination campaign. I take this opportunity to thank all the hard working staff from across the ministry who sacrificed their time and endured the risks, to provide our services and to support the MHMS to ensure Fiji was safe for everyone.

In order to cushion the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the social welfare recipients, the Ministry in partnership with Development Partners, the Australian Government (DFAT), the New Zealand Government (MFAT) and the World Food Programme (WFP) provided Social Welfare recipients with cash transfers which aimed to increase their purchasing power during these challenging times.

In terms of the Gender equality and empowerment of Women, we were proud as a Nation to have launched the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against all Women and Girls and commenced the consultation process with a High Level Consultation on November 25th, 2020 officiated by the Hon. Prime Minister. The National Action Plan to prevent VAWG is a whole of government, whole of population, evidence-based,

PERMANENT SECRETARY'S REMARKS

measurable, inclusive, and funded five-year plan with an emphasis on stopping violence before it starts. The National Action Plan further strengthens the work of Ministry through the Department of Women that will spearhead strategies and mechanisms to help eliminate and prevent any form of violence against women, girls, and children. Other key initiatives were designed in this period, including the country gender assessment and the gender transformative instructional capacity building programme.

The Annual Report for Financial Year 2020/2021 will comprise of the Ministry's work and achievements following key areas of services:

- ▶ *Care and Protection of Children;*
- ▶ *Social Protection;*
- ▶ *Policy intervention for Older persons and persons with disability;*
- ▶ *Gender equality and the Empowerment of Women; and*
- ▶ *Poverty Monitoring*

I thank our development partners, the United Nations agencies such as UN Women, UNICEF and UNDP, international agencies, Non-Government Agencies and stakeholders for all their support to the ministry during this challenging time which enabled the Ministry to continue providing services to a make difference in the lives of children, women, disadvantaged, persons with disabilities and older persons across Fiji.

It is my honor to present this Annual Report.

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.

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

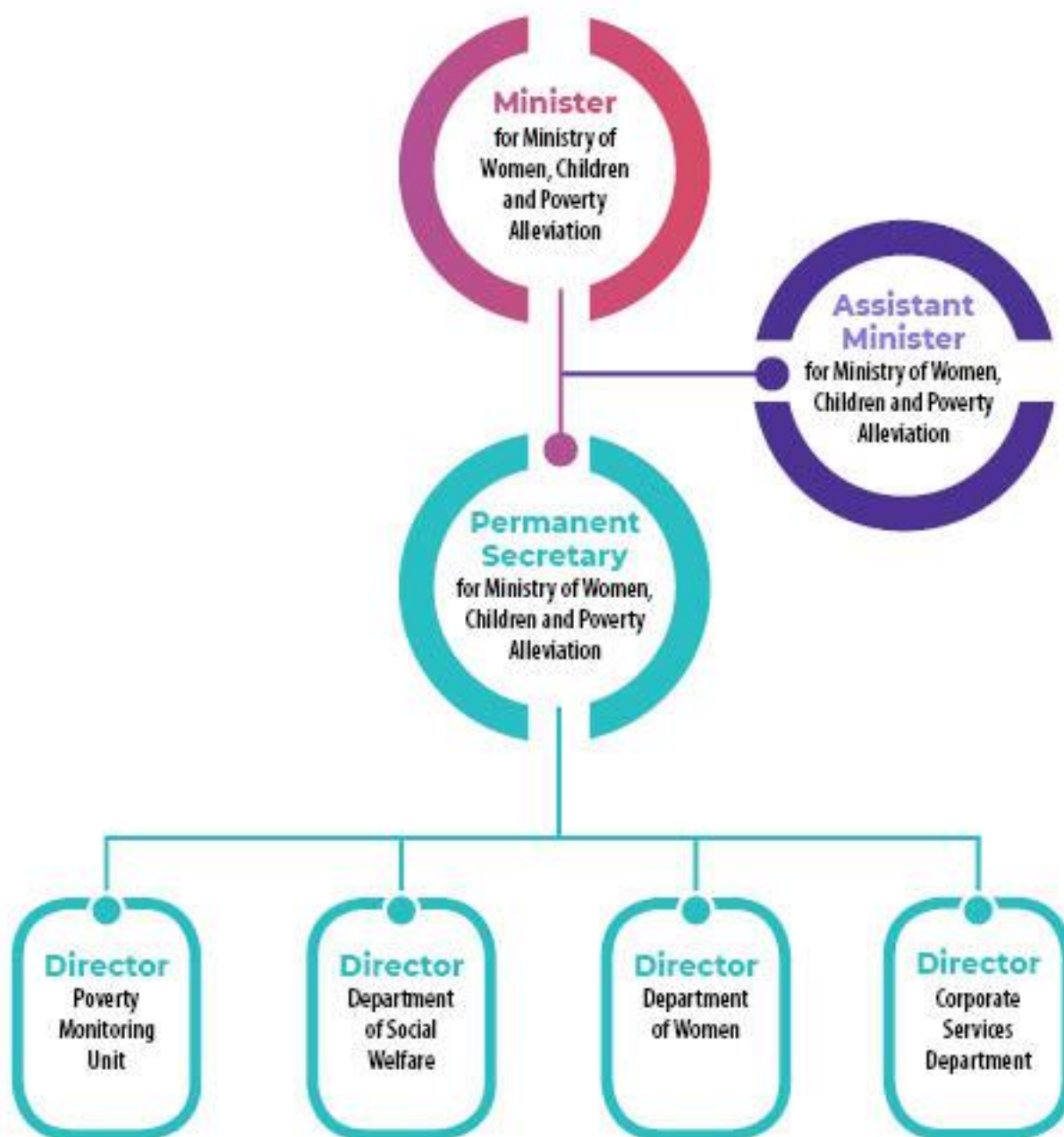


Alignment to International Conventions

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

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation





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

Department of Social Welfare

Department of Women

Poverty Monitoring Unit

Corporate Services Department

REACH Programme

1 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 five units, namely:



1.1 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. The Ministry was allocated 138.8m for eight social protection programs that entail, monthly cash base transfers including monthly top-up and grants to non-governmental organizations and individual victims of fire.

Total Allocation

\$138.8m

Total Social Protection

8 Programs

1.1.1 Poverty Benefit Scheme

The Poverty Benefit Scheme is a Social protection assistance that was introduced by the government to assist households who are living in poverty. The ministry was provided a budget of \$38.3 million for the administration of the Poverty Benefit Scheme program. The Poverty Benefit Scheme assisted 23,808 households within this financial period. During this period the Ministry received 4,354 new applications for assistance. From the completed assessments 1,495 new families were entered into the scheme. The Ministry conducted 3,337 reviews with current beneficiaries of the scheme to determine their continuing eligibility under the programs criteria.

FIGURE 1.1: Poverty Benefit Scheme Recipients 2020 - 2021



1.1.2 Care and Protection Allowance

The Care and Protection Allowance is an assistance provided by the Ministry especially to assist under privileged children so that they can be given the proper care and protection. The ministry was provided a budget of \$12.3 million for the administration of the Care and Protection allowance. The Care and Protection Allowance assisted 8,881 households with children in need of care and protection within this financial period. During this period, the Ministry received 1,444 new applications for assistance. From the completed assessments, 876 new families were entered into the scheme. The Ministry conducted 1,322 reviews with current beneficiaries of the scheme to determine their continuing eligibility under the programs criteria. The Care and Protection allowance was allocated a budget of \$12.4m of which 90% was utilized by the end of the financial year.

FIGURE 1.2: Care and Protection Allowance Recipients 2020 - 2021





8,881
Households
Assisted

1,444
New
Applications

1,322
Reviews of Current
Beneficiaries

1.1.3 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 budget of \$55.3 million for the administration of the Social Pension Scheme. The Social Pension Scheme allowance assisted 45,134 senior citizens. During this period, the Ministry received 4,487 new applications for assistance. From the completed assessments, 3,256 new recipients were entered into the scheme. The Ministry conducted 5,538 reviews with current beneficiaries of the scheme to determine their continuing eligibility under the programs criteria. The Social Pension Scheme was allocated an initial budget of \$55.3m for the financial period. The program utilized 94% of its funds that was determined by the number of active recipients for the month.

FIGURE 1.3: Social Pension Scheme Recipients 2020 - 2021



1.1.4 Disability Allowance Scheme

The Disability Allowance Scheme was introduced in 2017 to assist Persons living with Permanent Disabilities. The eligibility of allowance is determined through the Functional Independence Measure (FIM) tool which is a universally accepted tool that is reliable and is able to determine ones disability. The assistance is provided for all age groups and gender throughout the country with a monthly allowance of \$90.00. The ministry was allocated a budget of \$9.36 million for the administration of the Disability Allowance Scheme. The Disability Allowance Scheme assisted 9,182 persons living with disabilities. The Scheme received 1,241 new applications for assistance. From the completed assessments, 1,002 new recipients joined the scheme. The program was allocated \$9.3m of which 100% of the budget was utilized within the financial period.

FIGURE 1.4: Disability Allowance Scheme Recipients 2020 - 2021



1.1.5 Rural Pregnant Mothers Food Voucher Program

The Rural Pregnant Mother's Food Voucher is aimed at providing the maternal health and basic nutrition needs required during pregnancies. The ministry was allocated a budget of \$1.2 million for the administration of the Rural Pregnant Mother's Food Voucher Program. The program facilitated all applications received from which 2,980 pregnant mothers were assisted. The program utilized 54% of its budget at the end of the financial period.



1.1.6 Bus Fare Subsidies

The Ministry was allocated a budget of \$6.50 million for the administration of the Bus Fare Concession Program. The Bus fare program monthly top up was further reduced to \$10 per month at the beginning of the financial year at the height of the second COVID-19 wave. The Ministry received 2,896 new applications for bus fare assistance. In the revised budget of 2020 - 2021, the monthly bus fare allowance was increased to \$25 per month on a quarterly \$75 payment schedule. There were 2,896 cards issued in total, of which 2,719 were for elderly and 177 for persons with disability. At the end of the financial year the program had 28,476 active e-transport cards.



1.1.7 Grants to Non-Government Organizations and Victims

The ministry was allocated a budget of \$100,000 for the Fire Victim Assistance.

Fire Victim Grants

The Fire Victim Grants held a budget of \$100K for the financial year. There have been a total of 78 fire victims assisted under the Fire Victim Program. The program utilization was 78% at the end of the year.

Non-governmental Organizations Grants

The Non-governmental Grants budget of \$300,000 was awarded to Organizations that extend and complement the Ministry's Service delivery particularly in providing Residential Homes, Temporary Shelters and reaching out with advocacy and counseling to children in schools.

TABLE 1.5: Non-governmental Organizations Assisted in 2020 - 2021

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTED	
1. Empower Pacific	Social Work and Counseling Services (2018-19 - 400 Children, 8 Schools - 4,000 Children)
2. St. Christopher's Home	Residential Home for 35 Children
3. St. Tabhita Orphanage	Residential Home for 10 Children
4. Salvation Army	Providing Immediate Shelter
5. Homes of Hope	Residential Home for 8 Children

1.1.8 Review of Social Protection Programs

The Re-certification, a pioneer exercise is an additional strategy to complement the current ongoing review of Social Protection Program recipients. The exercise was targeted at obtaining declared updated information on current recipients for the purpose of reviewing their eligibility to continue to be assisted from the Social Protection Programs. The recertification exercise targeted 77,512 recipients of the Social Pension Scheme, Poverty Benefit Scheme and Care and Protection program recipients.

1.2 CHILD SERVICES UNIT

The unit is the Child Protection arm of the Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. The unit provides the following services:

- ▶ Child Protection Legal Framework
- ▶ Residential Care
- ▶ Child Protection Mainstreaming
- ▶ National Child Helpline
- ▶ Adoption

1.2.1 Child Protection Legal Framework

Adoption Regulations

The Child Services Unit with the support from UNICEF, continues to work on firming up the processes and procedures on the Inter-Country adoption. A technical working group worked on revising the exiting forms and aligning it to the Adoption Act. For this financial year (2020 - 2021) the Unit has had the assistance and guidance from New Zealand Central Authority as well.

The devised forms will assist the consultant to develop the regulations. Trainings on the new law will take place before the implementation of the law.

Child Justice & Child Care and Protection Bill

The Bills have been reviewed by the Officer of the Solicitor General (SG) and returned with comments, to which the Ministry responded to via the consultant.

FIGURE 1.6: Fiji Early Childhood Care Services Policy and Regulatory Framework: Guidance Note



National Child Safe-Guarding Policy

The National Child Safeguarding Policy has been developed by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation to reinforce the Government's commitment to keeping children safe from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation.

The Policy acknowledges that there are a number of potential risks associated with delivering services to children, including the potential for abuse or exploitation of children by Government staff, volunteers and contractors. Minimizing these risks requires concrete steps to ensure that all Government services are delivered in a *"child-safe"* manner.

Cabinet approved of the policy and a consultation plan was developed to ensure that it is widely consulted.

1.2.2 Residential Care Services

Residential Care Services

There are eleven (11) residential homes for children in need of care and protection and child in conflict with the law. There are two (2) State Homes and nine (9) Faith-Based Homes.

TABLE 1.7: Children's Residential Homes

CENTRAL DIVISION	NORTHERN DIVISION	WESTERN DIVISION
2 State Homes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fiji Juvenile Rehabilitation Development Center• Pearly Gates Home 4 Faith-Based Homes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dilkusha Home• St. Christopher's Home• St. Philomena Home• Homes of Hope	1 Faith-Based Home <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lomani Au Children's Home	4 Faith-Based Homes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. Minas Home• Treasure House Christian Children's Home• St. Tabitha Home• Veilomani Boys Home

1.2.3 National Child Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC)

The NCCC is a multi-sectoral Government Ministerial Committee which works in collaboration with civil society, specialist children's organisations, faith-based organisations, youth and children to coordinate and oversee activities and work, in relation to the rights and wellbeing of children. The NCCC provides oversight on Government's implementation of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC). The NCCC is a national, high level committee that coordinates all policies and programs related to children. NCCC meeting was held virtually in Quarter 4, 2020 - 2021 on 18th May 2021. A total of 26 members attended the meeting. The meeting included an update from the ECC taskforce, Ministry of Defense on the Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy and Plan, Child Services Unit and other agencies.

1.2.4 Inter-Agency Guidelines

Revised Inter-agency Guidelines Launch

The revised inter-agency guidelines was launched on 19th November, 2020 on the same day as the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. The revised version of the guidelines, developed in consultation with stakeholders, reflects the lessons learnt in implementing the IAGs and aims to strengthen coordination management of child protection cases.



1.2.5 Child Welfare Act (CWA) Cases

A total of 1,727 cases were reported in the financial year 2020 - 2021.

Compared to the same period in the last financial year (2019 - 2020), a total of 1,470 cases were reported. There was an increase in the reporting of child welfare cases.

Demographics

Majority of the child victims were females (924 cases) compared to males (803 cases).

Majority of the children were between the ages of 0 - 5 years. This was similar to the same period last year.

Most of the children reported to be 0 - 5 years old, were victims of child neglect (155 cases) and physical abuse (96 cases).

The youngest victims reported were 1 day old (2 cases) and the oldest victims reported were 17 years old (126 cases).

Types of Cases

Majority of the neglect cases were due to the lack of supervision. Most cases reported were of children being left unsupervised, resulting in falling and sustaining injury, ingestion of harmful chemicals or sustaining minor burns.

Physical abuse cases were mainly of violence in the home to which children were disciplined by their parents or slapped and punched by a family member.

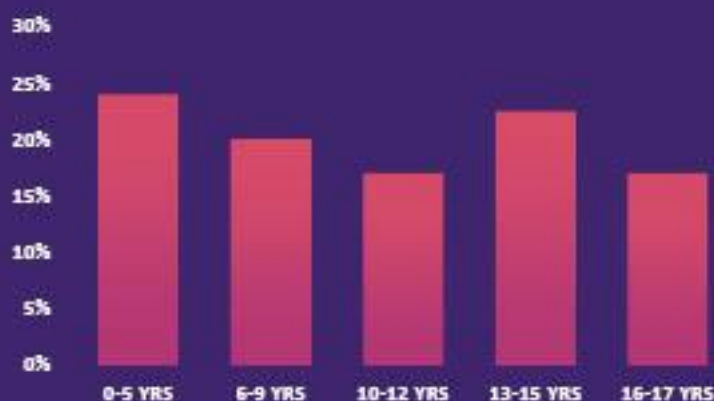
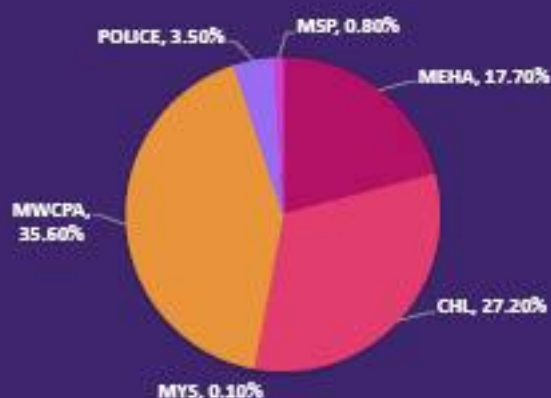
Reported CWA Cases 2020 - 2021

(Source: CWA National Database)



- Neglect (560 Cases)
- Physical Abuse (468 Cases)
- Sexual Abuse (221 Cases)

54% of the perpetrators were an immediate family member of the child victim. In most cases, the perpetrator was one or both parents of the child.



1.2.6 Child Protection in Emergencies

Response to TC Yasa

The Child Services Unit worked in partnership with UNICEF Pacific in response to TC Yasa (Category 5). With the provision of 38 recreational kits, a total of 24 welfare officers were deployed to Vanua Levu in the provinces of Cakaudrove and Macuata. The officers were deployed to set up child friendly spaces (CFS), provide psychosocial support, psychological first aid, train community volunteers, and facilitate awareness sessions in affected communities.

The officers were divided into 8 teams visiting 38 communities in the duration of 5 days. A total of 1,761 children were part of the CFS program set up across the 38 communities. Of the 1,761 children, 965 were in Cakaudrove and 796 in Macuata. According to the National Disaster Management Office's TC Yasa IDA Report (2020), the total population for the 38 communities in both provinces is 1,695 children (1,110 in Cakaudrove, 585 in Macuata). In comparison to the statistics derived from the report, there was an 87% coverage in Cakaudrove and 100% coverage in Macuata.

Community volunteers were also identified and trained to assist in the continuity of the CFS program in each community. The community volunteers included the custodian for the kit which was mainly the Turaga Ni Koro (village headman) or Nasi Ni Koro (village nurse). A total of 265 volunteers were trained (142 in Cakaudrove & 123 in Macuata). Community awareness sessions were facilitated for parents and guardians in every community. A total of 555 adults participated (432 in Cakaudrove, 123 in Macuata).

TABLE 1.8: Community Awareness Sessions

Province	No. of Communities	No. of Children Participated	No. of Trained Community Volunteers	No. of Adults Reached in Community Awareness Sessions
Cakaudrove	20 communities	1,110 children	142 trained volunteers	432 adults
Macuata	18 communities	585 children	123 trained volunteers	123 adults

1.2.7 Child Protection Training

First Round of Child Protection Training

With the support of UNICEF, the Child Services Unit assisted in the facilitation of a Social Services Workforce Child Protection Training. This training is targeted as refresher for welfare officers or orientation for new officials, as well as an appreciation of shared experiences between colleagues about the innovative practice in the field. The training consisted of 5 modules that were covered in an interval of 5 sessions (fully funded by UNICEF) between the months of August 2020 to November 2020. While the training outcomes have identified gaps, the Ministry continues to commit towards addressing these in the best interest of childcare, protection and development.

Second Round of Child Protection Training

With the support of UNICEF, the Child Services Unit assisted in facilitating the second round of the Social Services Workforce Child Protection Training for 30 welfare officers. Modules 1 and 2 were covered in February to March 2021.

Child Safeguarding In-House Training

Two in-house trainings on the Ministry's Child Safeguarding Policy conducted at the Fiji Juveniles, Rehabilitation and Development Centre and The Ministry's Corporate Department.

Divisional/District Inter Agency Committee on Child Protection

Despite the 2nd wave of the COVID19 pandemic, the IAC members continued to hold meetings to discuss issues and solutions regarding the increase of child welfare cases in Fiji. There were 18 IAC meetings on Child Protection issues held last year.

Training of Trainers (TOT) and Child Protection Awareness on the Community Based Child Protection Manual "Children Are a Precious Gift from God"

The Department provided support, facilitated training and created awareness with community leaders on the community Child Protection Manual Children Are A Precious Gift from God in various communities across the six Divisions. One Training of Trainers (TOT) of community leaders was conducted in the Northern Division. Child Protection Awareness on the manual was also conducted amongst 49 communities, 3 schools and 7 Bose Ni Tikina across the six divisions. With the financial and technical support of UNICEF, the Child Services Unit reviewed the community Child Protection manual this financial year (2020 - 2021).

1.2.8 Court Duties Compliance to Legal Responsibilities

The Department has a statutory obligation to provide advice and reports to the Courts in the best interest of children. A total of 117 Court reports was facilitated across the six divisions. The reports includes the following:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Adoption Report (GAL) | 3. Home Environment | 5. Social Background | 7. Community Work Final Report |
| 2. Residence and Contact | 4. Notice of Child Abuse | 6. Pre-Sentencing | |

1.2.9 Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Campaign (PCAN)

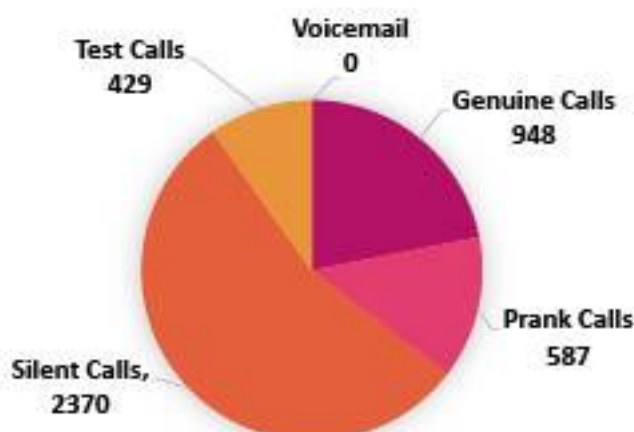
The PCAN theme "Healthy Homes Help Children Grow" recognizes the importance of having a healthy childhood. The theme focuses on the importance of having a child friendly safe environment as this will positively impact a child's development. PCAN build-up Activities and celebration has been driven mostly at the community level in the District/ Divisional levels. Central Division hosted its first ever Interactive Dialogue for Naitasiri Province on the prevention of child abuse and neglect. There was a total of 49 PCAN community awareness, one PCAN Interactive Dialogue at the Central Division, launch of the PCAN message on 10 buses in the Northern Division and 3 PCAN Day celebrations.

1.2.10 National Child Helpline

The Child Helpline (CHL) has been operating since its launch in 2015 and is operational 24/7 days a week. The CHL has been providing the needed services and responding to the increase of reported child abuse, neglect and exploitation of children.

The Ministry had renewed its one year contract and partnership with Medical Services Pacific (MSP) for the administration and operational of the CHL.

A total of 4,334 calls were received through the CHL in this financial year.



1.3 DISABILITY UNIT

Disability Specific Programs

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation has five (5) specific disability budget lines which is highlighted in the table below:

Allowance to Persons with Disabilities

\$9.36m

Busfare Subsidy (Elderly/Disabled)

\$6.50m

TABLE 1.9: Disability Budget Lines

Head 24	Activity	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021
1	Allowance to Persons with Disabilities	0	7,974,736	6,850,519	6,355,819	9,355,819
2	Grants to Organizations for PwD	0	1,100,000	1,100,000	200,000	400,000
3	Economic Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities	0	0	100,000	17,500	20,000
4	Implementation of Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018	0	0	100,000	30,000	50,000
5	Capital Grants to Organisations for Persons with Disabilities	0	500,000	200,000	0	0
6	Consultation for the Establishment of an Institution for Psycho Socially Challenged	0	25,000	0	0	0
7	FNCDP (NCPD) Grant	390,000	1,189,356	1,000,000	350,000	500,000
8	Busfare Subsidy (Elderly/Disabled)	150,000	20,000	20,000	10,000,000	6,500,000

(Source: Budget Estimates for respective years)

The overall specific disability budget lines sees an increase for all activities. The Allowance to persons with disabilities being the most. This is to be expected given the amputee rate released by Ministry of Health and Medical Services of 1 every 8 hours. The increase in budget reiterates the government's commitment to make Fiji an inclusive society for all Fijians. As Fiji moves into making progressive realization of the rights of persons with disabilities the Ministry works with the National Council of Persons with Disabilities and its 25 affiliates in raising awareness and advocacy.

1.3.1 Allowance for Persons with Disabilities

The allowance for persons with disabilities targets those that are permanently disabled, using the Functional Independence Measure, modified to suit Fiji's context, as an assessment tool.

Fiji experienced two tropical cyclones and went into lock down to contain the second COVID-19 wave. Most of the

Disability Unit staff in the field joined the Ministry of Health's joint government intervention taskforce, in ensuring that persons with disabilities needs were also met.

The 2020/2021 Financial year, saw the number of new recipients gradually increase. This was expected given the Ministry of Health and Medical Services estimated amputee rate of 1 every 8 hours. With Fiji's increasing Non communicable Diseases (NCD) rate also rising, the Unit is predicting that, as NCDs in Fiji increases, so will those that qualify for disability allowance.

FIGURE 1.10: Number of Recipients by Month



(Source: Mode of Payments lists for respective months)

The table below shows the utilization rate of the allowance since its inception. The utilization at the year end stood at \$9,007,574.42.

TABLE 1.11: Utilization Rate of Allowance

Year	Number of Recipients	Budget (\$)	Utilisation	% Utilised
2017/2018	2,833	7,974,736	1,290,979.66	16%
2018/2019	6,638	6,850,519	4,506,876.59	66%
2019/2020	8,118	6,355,819	6,457,811.04	102%
2020/2021	9,197	9,355,819	9,007,574.42	96%

(Source: FMIS, Mode of Payments for respective years)

The utilisation for this allocation was all for allowance to persons with disabilities who qualified under the Disability Allowance Scheme. Though there were stringent COVID-19 measures in place, Disability Unit staff used government trips and awareness programs to reach those persons with disabilities and their families.

1.3.2 Grants to Organizations for Persons with Disabilities

There were 7 grant recipients that received assistance under the Grants to Organizations for Persons with Disabilities. These disability provider organizations assisted the Ministry in meeting the services needed for persons with disabilities in the communities. All these recipients of the grant provided services only unique to that of the organization.

The Ministry supports the Disability Service Providers when they apply for the grants an increase in the following areas:

- (a) Human resources wages and salaries;

- (b) Community Awareness Programs or Community Outreach programs;
- (c) For school hostels an increase in the request for building repairs and operation costs; and
- (d) Office equipment

The grant recipients for 2020/2021 financial year are reflected in the table below:

TABLE 1.12: Grants to Organizations for Persons with Disabilities

Disability Service Provider	2020 - 2021 Government Funded the Following Items
Spinal Injury Association of Fiji Service: (a) Provision and distribution of mobility aid and appliances (b) Provision and distribution of medical consumables (c) Referrals (d) Training and Capacity Building	Total Government Grant: \$73,595.41 (a) Wages and FNPF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office Manager - \$7,030.80 • Finance Officer - \$7,030.80 • Clinical Coordinator - \$7,942.20 • Technical Coordinator - \$6,148.50 • Technicians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intermediate Techs (2) - \$8,853.60 - Basic Techs (3) - \$11,600.00 (b) Vehicle Maintenance - \$7,500.00 (c) Audit Report 2020 - \$1,253.51 (d) Vehicle and Fuel - \$6,200.00 (e) MDS follow up and outreach - \$10,000.00
Fiji Crippled Children Society - Frank Hilton Organisation Target Group - 10 children in Hostel 6 High Support Needs who need full time care	Total Government grant: \$66,789.23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 caregivers
Harland Ministries (Gospel School for the Deaf Hostel) 3 Hostels 40 students who are hard of hearing some who are from the region and outer islands.	Total Government Grant: \$55,000.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsors - \$15,000 (15) • Food expenses - \$40,000
Fiji Society for the Blind (Hostel) Children 16 + Staff 4 = 20 4 Females 12 Males Legally Blind: 5 Low Vision: 11 Staff Low Vision: 1 Normal: 3	Total Government Grant: \$45,500.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Salary - \$31,000.00 • Annual Hostel Ration - \$8,000.00 • Monthly Utilities - \$4,500.00 • Repairs - \$2,000.00
United Blind Persons of Fiji Indicator: Strengthening of services to its members. Baseline: One Fundraising event in 2019. Target: One Fundraising event in 2021.	Total Government Grant: \$28,826.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary for Fundraising officer - \$15,066.00 • Wages and Finance officer - \$11,160.00 • Ink and Stationery - \$2,600.00
Viti Spinal Association Indicator: 10 accessible home projects for persons with a spinal injury. Target: To provide community services which empower persons with Spinal Injuries.	Total Government Grant: \$88,200.00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Salary - \$49,200.00 • Other office consumables - \$1,150.00 • Rent - \$3,600.00 • Proposed projects - \$30,000.00 • Vehicle repairs and Insurance - \$4,250.00

Disability Service Provider	2020 - 2021 Government Funded the Following Items
Psychiatric Survivors Association (a) Community Awareness members data collection and profiling each member. (b) Members activity (Who live in the street). (c) Members activity (St Giles Hospital). (d) World Mental Health Day. (e) Women's Activities.	Total Government Grant: \$24,946.00 • Wages - \$22,746.00 • Members meeting - \$1,200.00 • Audit \$1,000.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$382,856.64

(Source: Grants agreements for 2020/2021)

The following presents the achievements of the disability sector for the 2020/2021 financial year. During the second wave of COVID-19 in Fiji, the Disability sector with resources provided by the government assisted in the distribution of much needed assistance in the form of food rations, dignity kits, hygiene kits, diapers and assistive devices. The Ministry would like to acknowledge donors that assisted Organizations for Persons with Disabilities in putting together disability specific food rations, dignity kits, hygiene kits, diapers and assistive devices. Donors such as DFAT, MFAT, UNICEF, USAID, Fiji Womens Rights Fund and PysioNet UK, British Aid.

Reflected in the *table below* are all the assistance provider by Organizations for Persons with Disabilities and Disability Service Providers such as Hilton Organization, Fiji Society for the Blind and Harland Ministries.

TABLE 1.13: Assistance Provided by Organizations for Persons with Disabilities and Disability Service Providers

SUMMARY	ITEM	TALLY
1	Frank Hilton Organization - Food ration packs for children with disabilities and their families	520
2	Frank Hilton Organization - Health and hygiene support for children with disabilities and their families	114
3	Frank Hilton Organization - Maternal and Infant kit	550
4	Frank Hilton Organization - Medication support for children with disabilities	68
5	Frank Hilton Organization - Parent Education and Awareness	42
6	Frank Hilton Organization - PPEs	43
7	Frank Hilton Organization - Seed pack distribution to families of children with disabilities	30
8	Frank Hilton Organization - Telehealth service to support parents/guardians who were caring for children with disabilities	518
9	Grants to Organizations for persons with disabilities	7 recipients
10	Organizations for Persons with the support of the Ministry of Women and National Council for Persons with disabilities distributed FOOD PACKS	332
11	Organizations for Persons with the support of the Ministry of Women and National Council for Persons with disabilities distributed PPEs to the North [face mask/sanitizer/baby wipes/soap]	601
12	Organizations for Persons with the support of the Ministry of Women and National Council for Persons with disabilities distributed SHELTER KITS for North	5
13	Organizations for Persons with the support of the Ministry of Women and National Council for Persons with disabilities distributed TC Yasa RELIEF PACKS to the North	400
14	Organizations for Persons with the support of the Ministry of Women and National Council for Persons with disabilities distributed UNFPA DIGNITY KITS to the North	50

SUMMARY	ITEM	TALLY
15	Organizations for Persons with the support of the Ministry of Women and National Council for Persons with disabilities distributed WHEEL CHAIRS and parts	28
16	SIA - 3 cartons specialized wheel chair cushions	3 cartons
17	Spinal Injury Association distributed 15 rollators to the North	15 rollators
18	Spinal Injury Association distributed 22 walking canes to the North	22
19	Spinal Injury Association distributed 26 pairs elbow crutches	26 pairs
20	Vaccination doses from Northern Centre	5910
21	Viti Spinal housing retro-fit projects and to the immediate living area of persons with disabilities	25

(Source: Narrative reports from relevant Organisations)

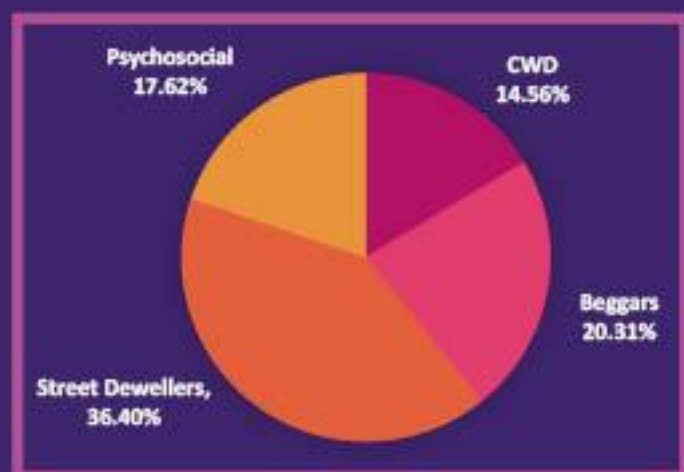
1.3.3 Economic Empowerment for Persons with Disabilities (EEP)

The objective is to financially empower Persons with Disabilities (PWD's) towards financial security and independence. The Economic Empowerment Program is a joint venture between the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and Organizations for Persons with Disabilities (OPD). The Initiative encourages and uplifts the lives of persons with disabilities, but also substantially contributes towards efforts to integrate them into the labour market. Improving the economic status of persons with disabilities will help eliminate the stigma, discrimination and exclusion of Persons with Disabilities.

The Disability Unit began the program with the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation in which 47 were picked and trained out of which 31 received assistance.

1.4 BEGGARS UNIT

The Beggars Taskforce is a sub committee of Operation Loloma. The taskforce consists of Fiji Police Force, Great Commission Christian Center, The Ahava Project, Aruka Ministries, Psychiatric Survivors Association and Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation continues to profile regular beggars.



(Source: National Beggars Database 2020/2021)

The gap between regular beggars and other cases on the streets is slowly closing with the number of street dwellers profiled by the team. In 2020, COVID-19 had seen a significant decrease in numbers of beggars on the streets for a few months due to the lockdown restrictions. The team noticed that with these restrictions in place, those that were profiled on the streets were predominantly psychosocial cases. In January 2021, the team had seen a surge in beggars in Suva due to local borders opening back up and restrictions easing. The second wave of COVID also saw an increase in street dwellers profiled where the team at one point had profiled a total of 50 street dwellers. The 2020 - 2021 year saw two major operations with the Fiji Police Force and other stakeholders namely 'Operation Samaka' and 'Operation Lesu I Vale' which had targeted the growing numbers of beggars and street dwellers on the streets.

The outcome of joint efforts by the Unit and other stakeholders saw a significant decrease in street dwellers sleeping on the streets where those profiled were factored into either being re-integrated back into their communities or were given shelter that was provided by faith-based organizations such as Ark of Hope for example.

As evident in the pie graph, those that are factored into either being reunited with family or are referred to shelters that are run by faith-based organizations are largely street dwellers that were encountered during Operations. Regular beggars who frequent the streets periodically have been placed home multiple times but keep returning. However, the 2020 - 2021 period saw 3 beggars charged under the Minor Offences Act and which had also allowed the Team to monitor active begging cases which is about 9 regular beggars today. Currently there are 15 street dwellers at the Ark of Hope shelter (30%) with the remaining 30% who fall under loitering for example.

In 2021, efforts by the National Taskforce Committee were further solidified when the Interagency Working Group was formed to continue the work of the parent body. The Group is slowly growing from 2 to 6 active organizations today. We now have new partners and donations received in kind to assist our work.



The pictures below are snapshots of activities of the working group:



Breakfast and grooming drive before returning home



A visit to DO Nauru's office

To conclude, the Beggars Taskforce or Operation Loloma from its endorsement in parliament has become more inclusive in their clientele. We are now dealing with street dwellers, children selling pies and pudding, to older persons refusing to go home. The Ministry is now assisting street dwellers, children selling pies and puddings as well as adults and older persons refusing to go home. The Ministry would like to thank the Taskforce and Partners for their in-kind support to street dwellers.



1.5 OLDER PERSONS UNIT

The Older Persons Unit under the Department is responsible for the overseeing the coordination and facilitation of services of the 3 State administered Aged Care facilities. This has been via sound policy instruments, training, monitoring and evaluation over the last 5 years since 2016.

The Unit has been providing Secretariat support to the National Council of Older Persons (NCOP) since 2014.



1.5.1 Structured and Coordinated Operations of the 3 State Homes for Older Persons

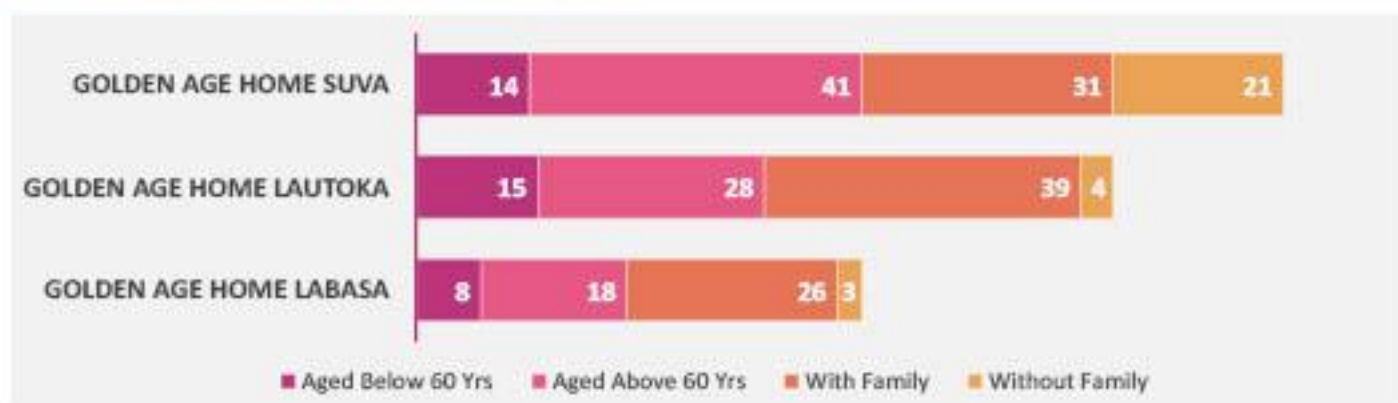
The 3 Aged Care facilities now referred to as the Golden Age Home Labasa, Lautoka and Suva, were transferred from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in 2016, as an outcome of a Functional Review. In the financial year 2020 - 2021, a total of 122 residents were care for in the 3 Homes under the responsibility of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation (refer to Figure 1.14).

FIGURE 1.14: Residents at the 3 State Homes as at 31st July 2021



Across the 3 State administered aged care Homes, 30% of the residents are below the aged of 60 years, while 70 % are aged 60 years and above. In addition across the 3 Homes 77% have families while 23% have no record of family. Figure 1.15 provides a breakdown accordingly.

FIGURE 1.15: Age and Family Background of Residents



The Ministry ensures that proper case and care management is provided as key to the service delivery in the 3 Homes. A summary of the care sensitivities across the Homes is provided in Figure 1.16.

FIGURE 1.16: Care Sensitivities of Residents



1.5.2 Capital Project: Upgrade of the Golden Age Home Labasa

The Golden Age Home Labasa was the first of the 3 Aged Care Homes administered by the State to be provided an allocated budget for its upgrade. The project has a total cost of \$4.4 Million. Major construction works continued in 2020 - 2021.

1.5.3 Grant for the Procurement of Special Bus for Golden Age Home Lautoka

The Government of Japan provided an assistance worth up to FJ\$279,000 (US\$139,947) to the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for provision of a special bus through its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP).

1.5.4 Fiji National Council of Older Persons (NCOP)

Fiji National Council of Older Persons (NCOP) is an advisory arm of Government under the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. The NCOP was established in 2013 as per the NCOP Act of 2012. The Council also serves as an umbrella body of all services for older persons, and such organizations that provide services will need to be registered under the Council. Currently NCOP is comprised of representatives from key Government ministries and charitable organizations that provide services for older persons in communities and institutions.

The Fiji Government since 2014 has been resourcing NCOP with an annual funding to carry out its mandate.

TABLE 1.17: Financial Summary

#	Category of Activity	Total	Budget
a)	Consultation on the Formation of District Committees for Older Persons: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Central (3 Districts – Nasinu, Vunidawa, Nausori) \$9,355.32• Western (6 Districts – Sigatoka, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Tavua, Rakiraki) \$6,311.10• Northern (4 Districts – Nabouwalu, Savusavu, Labasa, Taveuni) \$1,950.00	13	17,616.42
b)	Needs Assessment for Older Persons after TC Yasa	1	4,148.98
c)	Older Persons Awareness	1	206.00
d)	Meetings	1	692.57
e)	Advertisement	1	1,557.83
f)	NCOP Human Resource	1	3,796.94
g)	NCOP Secretariat	1	4,638.18
h)	Others	4	6,910.70
TOTAL		23	\$39,567.62

2

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.

2.1 WOMEN'S PLAN OF ACTION CONCERN AREAS & ITS IMPLEMENTATION

The key thematic areas under the Women's Plan of Action include:

1. Formal Sector Employment and Livelihood
2. Equal Participation in Decision Making
3. Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children
4. Access to Basic Services
5. Women and the Law

An emerging area of concern is Gender and Climate Change



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The key Strategic Priorities include:

1. Women's Economic Empowerment
2. Elimination of Violence Against Women
3. Gender Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

Cross Cutting Priorities

1. Women in Leadership
2. Access to Services
3. Gender Data and Research Policy
4. Women and the Law

2.1.1 Elimination of Violence against Women

Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace. The Department has recognized, supported and spearheaded strategies and mechanisms that will help eliminate and prevent any form of violence against women, girls, and children. This involves working with development partners, government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Activity 1: National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls (NAP)

The National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls High Level Consultation was launched by the Hon. Prime Minister on November 25th, 2020. The NAP is a whole of government, whole of population, evidence-based, measurable, inclusive and funded five-year plan with an emphasis on *stopping violence before it starts*.



Activity 2: 16 Gender Based Violence Training

During COVID-19, the Department of Women used the existing Zoom-platform to discuss training on GBV with its stakeholders and the community in general. A total of 10 community-based trainings were conducted in the four (4) divisions with the aim of ensuring that community members were well informed of the existing legislation relevant to gender-based violence.

Activity 3: 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign was observed from November 25th to December 10th. A series of events were undertaken, including the following event:

- **25TH NOVEMBER:** Launch of the High-Level NAP Consultation in partnership with Civil Society Organizations and Non-Government Organizations. The beginning of the 16 days event highlight saw the Hon. Prime Minister launch the national consultation on the development of the National Action Plan to prevent violence against all women and girls on the 25th of November, 2020 in Suva.

Activity 4: Service Delivery Protocol (SDP) Training

The Department, in partnership with UN Women, underwent a training of trainers on the National Service Delivery Protocol. Through the training, the officers went through mock sessions to enable them to facilitate SDP training awareness and socialize the Protocol to signatories. The Department further conducted training and awareness to ensure service providers understand the referral pathway of gender-based violence and, most importantly, know their role as (medical assistance, legal advice, counseling, and social service and emergency shelter) service providers when they receive reports of domestic violence.

The following SDP Training was undertaken:

TABLE 2.1: Training Undertaken on the National Service Delivery Protocol

No.	Division	Venue	Name of Agency	Number of people reached and % participation of women
1.	National	Suva	Department of Women	19 - (89% Women)
2.	Northern	Labasa Police Station	Fiji Police Force	18 - (33% Women)
3.		Taveuni Police Station	Fiji Police Force	15 - (13% Women)
4.		Daku Resort	Fiji Police Force	99 - (80% Women)
5.		Nabouwalu Police Station	Fiji Police Force	10 - (10% Women)
6.		Lautoka Police Station	Fiji Police Force	32 - (22% Women)
7.	Western	Nadi Police Station	Fiji Police Force	11 - (27% Women)
8.		Namaka Police Station	Fiji Police Force	17 - (18% Women)
9.		Sabeto Police Post	Fiji Police Force	13 - (8% Women)
10.		Vatukoula	Fiji Police Force	18 - (13% Women)
11.		Rakiraki Police Station	Fiji Police Force	11 - (36% Women)
12.		Nalawa Police Station	Fiji Police Force	18 - (22% Women)

The table below provide the list of service providers in the Western division that had received the Service Delivery Protocols booklets.

TABLE 2.2: List of Providers in the Western Division that Received Service Delivery Protocols Booklets

No.	Name of Service Providers	Number of Service Delivery Protocol Booklets received
1.	Nanoko Nursing Station	10
2.	Bukuya Health Station	10
3.	Namau Health Station	10
4.	Koronubu Police Post	10
5.	Varoka Police Post	10
6.	Ba Women's Crisis Centre	5
7.	Ba Salvation Army	5
8.	Empower Pacific Nadi	20
TOTAL NUMBER OF SDP DISTRIBUTED		80

The table below provides with the list of service providers in the Central division that had received the Service Delivery Protocols booklets.

TABLE 2.3: List of Service Providers in the Central Division that Received Service Delivery Protocols Booklets

No.	Name of Service Providers	Number of Service Delivery Protocol Booklets received
1.	Nausori Police Station	10
2.	Nausori Health Centre	10
3.	Mokani Health Centre	10
4.	Wainibokasi Health Centre	10
5.	Nausori Airport Community Post	10
6.	Baulevu Health Centre	10
7.	House of Sarah	40
TOTAL NUMBER OF SDP DISTRIBUTED		100

Activity 5: COVID-19 Resource Kit and BCC Materials for Helpline Workers and Responders

The Department is undertaking its coordination role by working with the Gender-Based Violence Working Group with technical assistance from UN Women.

A total of 8,022 BCC materials were also distributed to service providers and corporate organizations, including the Response Resource Kit for Helpline Responders, Community Referrals Booklet, Helpline Business Card (in 3 vernacular languages), Helpline Stickers, Fiji Community Referral Pathway Poster for Women & Children, helpline stickers (in 3 vernacular languages), stay informed and the community referral booklet. Production of TV ads and airing of the same were also undertaken. Through working with mobile companies, text messages were sent to users, creating awareness of GBV and also providing an avenue for assistance at the same time.

Receiving organizations included the Fiji Police Force, Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Legal Aid Commission, i-Taukei Affairs Board, Human Rights Commission, House of Sarah, and the Vinod Patel Group.



Activity 6: National Domestic Violence Helpline

The National Domestic Violence 24-hour toll-free helpline provides quick and direct access to a source of information or help and timely support for 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 \$200,000.00 to the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre to administer the Domestic Violence Helpline.

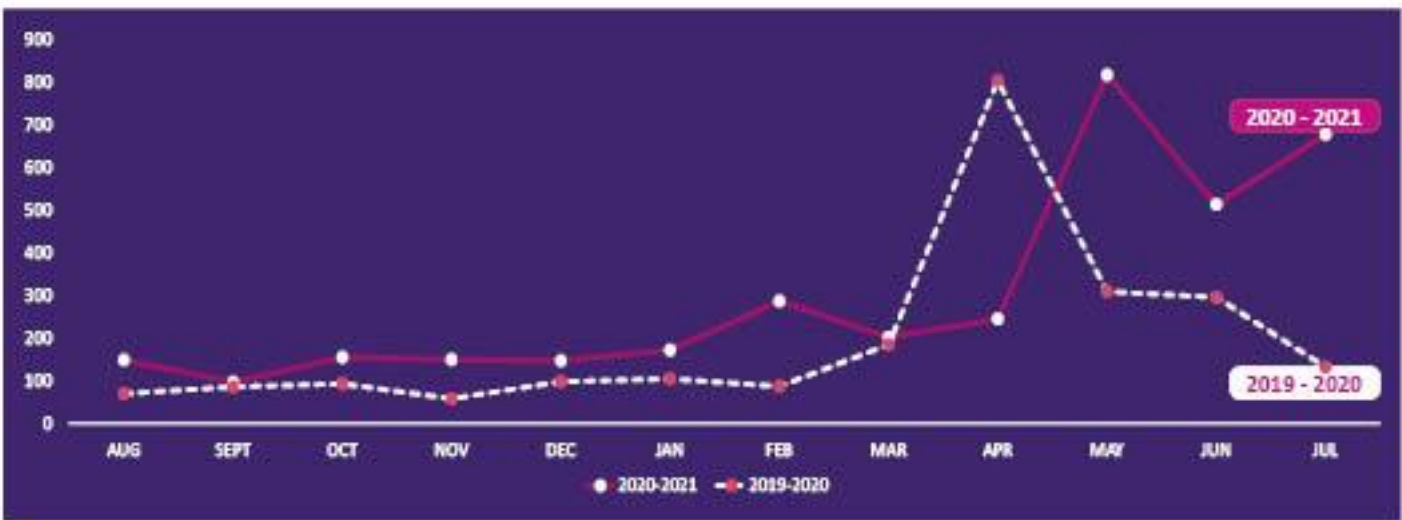
Since its establishment in March 2017, the helpline has recorded a total of 8,281 calls. In the 2020 - 2021 financial year, 3,612 genuine calls were received at the helpline. Of these, 2,821 (78%) are female and 789 (22%) are male. Of the total calls, 51% were domestic violence related. A total of 1,410 calls were referred to other agencies to respond accordingly to the caller's needs. 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 56% increase in calls in 2020 - 2021 compared to 2019 - 2020 (2,322).

FIGURE 2.4: Total Genuine Calls 2020 - 2021



FIGURE 2.5: Total Calls (2019 - 2020 & 2020 - 2021)



Activity 7: Development of the Gender Based Violence Shelter Guideline



Shelter Providers at the opening of the Consultation in Suva

The Department organized a 2-day consultation with GBV shelter providers to develop a shelter guideline on September 15 - 16, 2020. The consultation discussed ways of improving standards for shelters for gender-based violence survivors and looking at ways to protect their safety and dignity by upholding the highest ethical standards for safety and quality care. This was attended by 19 shelter providers' personnel.

On March the 11th, 2021, the validation was undertaken to ensure operational aspects of shelters and the minimum standards of care were also taken into consideration.

Activity 8: Inaugural Sub-regional Conference on Eliminating Gender-based Violence

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, the Melanesian Spearhead Group, and the Pacific Islands Forum hosted a three-day meeting from March 3 - 5 to strategise new approaches for the sub region in eliminating gender based violence. The meeting was also in partnership with the Pacific Community's (SPC) Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT), the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), and UN Women.



Ministers and Senior Government Officials at the Melanesian Spearhead Group meeting on GBV.

The Minister of Women and senior officials from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and New Caledonia attended the inaugural meeting. The meeting noted that even though there is a lot of work being done at the national level to address domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence, it was important to meet with Ministers from the Melanesian sub-region to discuss how implementation may be improved as well as how the Melanesian sub-region could cooperate to raise the issue at the regional and international level.

An outcome document was developed and sets out commitments by the sub-region in relation to addressing domestic, sexual, and gender based violence.

2.1.2 Women's Economic Empowerment

Formal Sector Employment and Livelihood continues to focus on economic empowerment programmes and policy review. At field divisional and district levels, the focus was on monitoring existing income-generating projects, women's resource centers, and also conducting skills training that women could access to gain knowledge and skills on how to produce quality products that can be marketable.

Activity 1: Economic Empowerment Training

The figure below highlighted the number of economic empowerment activities undertaken at the 4 divisions.

FIGURE 2.6: Number of Economic Activities Undertaken



In the value chain analysis program, emphasis is on the engagement of divisional staff to participate in the identification of women's groups and communities with income-generating projects or businesses, and staff were part of the interview process.

The skills training for tie and dye was part of the western division staff capacity development, which was facilitated by the team as part of the team bonding exercise. The Western and Northern Divisions managed to conduct sewing training in their divisions by leveraging trainers that had completed the training program.

Activity 2: Grants to Women Institutions

To complement the work undertaken by the Department, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between the Department of Women and the following women's institutions. This is to provide services to their work, which complements service delivery to the Ministry's target groups. The figure below provides the names of women's institutions that received funds from the Ministry in the fiscal years 2020 - 2021 for their operational activity costs.

FIGURE 2.7: Grants Distributed to Women's Organizations



Activity 3: Catalyzing Women Entrepreneurship Program

Funded by Canadian government, the Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship (CWE) is a 5 year programme (2018 - 2023) aiming to advance women's entrepreneurship in the Asia and the Pacific region through three interconnected pillars of influence:



The project undertaken is in partnership with UNESCAP with provisions of technical and financial support. The project aims to undertake its activities in the following areas, focusing on addressing the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs to become key catalyst for economic independence overcoming poverty, increased investment in health and education and increased employment opportunities.

CWE also focuses on the:

- ▶ Establishment of the Women's Entrepreneurial Working Group Meeting;

- ▶ Enabling Policy Environment for Women's Entrepreneurship;
- ▶ Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Policy and Framework that includes Gender Responses and Analysis;
- ▶ The Young Entrepreneurship Scheme supports the MSME Unit that includes Gender Responses and Gender Analysis; and
- ▶ Preparations and provision of Information communication and technology.

2.1.3 Women and the Law

The Department works to ensure that women are aware of important legislative and human rights issues. Further identifies the need to recognize and strengthen understanding towards ensuring the achievement of the goal of the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. In addition, compliance with CEDAW, MDGs, and other regional commitments is essential.

Activity 1: International Women's Day



International Women's Day (7th March), DWA for Equality with the Ministry commemorated the day by holding a HAP Consultation for women in the informal sector. The day also provided an opportunity to disseminate information on a shared understanding of gender-based violence and hear from women the strategies they would like to see part of the Prevention Plan. The event was held in Lautoka.

Activity 2: Gender Transformative Institution Capacity Development (ICD)

The Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) is a *"whole of government"* initiative with the overall goal of creating an environment to ensure integration of all women and girls' needs, interests, concerns, contributions, and perspectives into policies, strategies, programs, and budgets, as well as to improve technical expertise, competence and resources on transformative gender mainstreaming across government institutions.



A 3 days Orientation was held from 2 - 4th March for GNAG members from respective pilot Ministries and agencies.

Nine key Government Institutions undertook Phase One, focusing on strengthening technical knowledge, skills, competence and resources on Transformative Gender Analysis and Mainstreaming and Gender Responsive Budgeting and Planning (GRBP) across government institutions along with the establishment of effective coordination and accountability mechanisms. The 9 Government Institutions include the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty

Alleviation, Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Fiji Police Force.

The ICD effort to advance and strengthen gender equality was launched in January, with the initiative in line with international agreements including the Beijing Platform for Action +25 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which Fiji has ratified. The ICD encourages adherence to national commitments, such as those in the Fiji National Development Plan, the National Gender Policy, and the forthcoming Fiji National Action Plan to prevent Violence against Women and Girls.

Key undertakings for the year include:

- ▶ Development of the Gender Sensitisation Toolkit
- ▶ Development of Gender Analysis Toolkit
- ▶ Mock session with Department of Women Lead Facilitators on Gender Sensitisation and training with Ministry of Economy Lead Facilitators
- ▶ IVD Orientation
- ▶ Drafting of Terms of Reference for the Gender Mainstreaming Action Group (GMAG)
- ▶ Work on Sector-Specific Rapid Gender Assessment Commenced
- ▶ Analysis on budget submissions by the Ministries and Fiji Police Force
- ▶ Analysis of the outcome after budget submission
- ▶ Development of Facilitators' Guide and Training Toolkit

The ICD Initiative is funded by the governments of New Zealand and Canada.

Activity 3: Fiji Country Gender Assessment

In 2020, Fiji embarked on a comprehensive whole-of-government country gender assessment, marking the first initiative in the Pacific. The Fiji Country Gender Assessment began with an inclusive consultation process which saw the Fiji Country Gender Assessment data steering committee launch on Thursday 29th October. The Data Steering Committee Working Group was established to facilitate access to and validate the data used in this assessment. The Data Steering



Working Group, comprised of representatives of all government agencies, supported access to relevant data, to be reviewed and to be validated. This is envisioned to improve the collection, accessibility and use of gender data and statistics.

2.1.4 Women in Leadership

This thematic desk focuses on women in leadership roles. The three (3) major activities in this sector are (i) *BRIDGE training*, (ii) *leadership training*, (iii) *and the formulation of the "Ketekete ni Marama"*. In building the capacity of

women to participate at decision-making level, the Department continued to provide leadership training, which included (3) three major activities in this sector: (i) BRIDGE training (ii) Leadership training (iii) and the reviewing of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs "Ketekete ni Marama" Training Manual.

The Department focused on women in leadership roles through building the capacity of women to participate at decision-making level. This is continuously undertaken through:

- ▶ Development meetings such as Tikina Council Meeting and Provincial Council Meetings; and
- ▶ Awareness Programmes at all levels

2.1.5 Access to Service (ATS)

Activity 1: Advocacy and Awareness

The Department has been part of the organized REACH Programme and has been able to provide services to women to access and reach out to information with service providers. Apart from the REACH Mission, visitation and awareness working with stakeholders from government and non-government organizations further provides an avenue to disseminate information that will enable women to access health and justice services to ensure women have been informed and are able to make sound decisions for themselves and their families.

Activity 2: Food Security and Nutrition Policy

Department in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, National Food and Nutrition Centre (NFNC) and Ministry of Fisheries ensured that Food Security & Nutrition Policy is gender responsive.

2 Poverty Monitoring Unit



The role of the Poverty Monitoring Unit is to monitor, evaluate and report on the progress and impacts of Government's Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs), which will assist implementing Agencies to improve their Programme performance and service delivery towards Poverty reduction and improve socio-economic development needs of Fijians.

The Role of the Unit is achieved through the following:

- ▶ Consultation with relevant Government Ministries, Development Partners, Statutory Bodies, Private Sectors, Faith-based Organizations and Non-Government Organizations.
- ▶ The timely management and implementation of the Integrated National Poverty Eradication Programme (INPEP).
- ▶ Carry out Research and Feedback to identify possible way forward on the implementation of PAP.
- ▶ Recommending policy changes to the Honorable Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation.



The role of the Poverty Monitoring Unit is to monitor, evaluate and report on the progress and impact of Government's Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs), which will assist Implementing Agencies to improve their Programme performance and service delivery towards Poverty reduction and improve socio-economic development needs of Fijians.

3.1 Monitoring and Evaluation of Governments Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP)

During the fiscal year, the Unit identified and monitored ten (10) Poverty Alleviation Programmes implemented across eight (8) Implementing Agencies of Government, as outlined in the Unit's Work Plan and the Ministry's Costed Operational Plan. The objective of the monitoring exercise is to gauge the impact of governments poverty alleviation programmes on the beneficiaries, identify gaps to be addressed which will be opportunities for improvement for the Implementing Agencies towards better service delivery with the goal of Poverty reduction.

Impact assessment surveys were conducted in the Northern, Western and Central Division.

The Eastern Division INPEP survey was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Details of the surveys are as follows:

- (I) *Northern Division* from the 4th – 23rd October, 2020
- (II) *Central Division* on the 25th January – 9th February, 2021
- (III) *Western Division* on the 15th – 31st March, 2021

Tabulated below is a list of Programmes monitored and the respective implementing Agencies:

TABLE 3.1: List of Programmes Monitored and Implementing Agencies

No:	IMPLEMENTING AGENCY/MINISTRY	NAME OF PROGRAMME
1.	Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts	Primary & Secondary School Library Scheme
2.	Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources	Groundwater Assessment (Larger Islands) Programme
3.	Ministry of Agriculture	Dairy Development Programme Ginger Development Programme
4.	Ministry of Fisheries	Seaweed Development Programme
5.	Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism & Transport	Integrated Human Development Programme (IHRDP)
6.	Ministry of iTaukei Affairs	Special Revitalization Programme
7.	Ministry of Youth and Sport	Youth Training Centers Programme
8.	Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation	Rocket Stove Programme Solar Mamas Programme

During the impact assessments in the three Divisions, the Team managed to monitor:

- ▶ 120 project sites in the Northern Division were visited with 314 beneficiaries interviewed across the 3 Provinces within the Division.
- ▶ 127 project sites were visited in the Central Division with 249 beneficiaries interviewed across the 5 Provinces within the Division.
- ▶ 113 projects were visited in the Western Division with 192 beneficiaries interviewed.



3.2 Strengthening Collaboration with Development Partners

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Cash Top Up Monitoring

During the months of August and September, 2020 the Australian Government assisted Social Welfare recipients in the areas affected by Tropical Cyclone Harold with a Cash Top Up of \$100 per month. The Unit provided logistical support to the Team from DFAT in the Public Diplomacy exercise through the collation of impact stories on randomly selected beneficiaries of Poverty Benefit Scheme, Disability Allowance and Child Protection Allowance in the Provinces of Tailevu, Nadroga/Navosa and Nakasi/Nausori.

In addition, the Unit provided administrative support to Tebutt Research in obtaining beneficiary listing from the Department of Social Welfare and liaising with the respective Department District Officers and Provincial Office Officials with regards to the intended research plans by Tebutt Research.

World Food Programme (WFP) Post Distribution Monitoring

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation through PMU conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) survey from the 1st to 16th of December, 2020. The survey was conducted in partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in the 28 Tropical Cyclone Harold affected areas that were given a cash top up assistance of \$100 in November, 2020. The survey proper was conducted using the Kobo Toolbox, a data collection tool coordinated by WFP which had assisted in the monitoring exercise through designing questionnaires which facilitated the face-to-face interviews with randomly selected recipients from Tailevu North, Nausori, Nakasi, Beqa, Malolo, Vatualele, Nadroga, Yasawa, Kadavu and Moala in the Lau Group. At the conclusion of the survey, a total of 396 recipients were successfully interviewed surpassing the WFP quota of 375 recipients.

3.3 Informative and Updated Poverty Information Centre (PIC) & Geospatial Information System (GIS)

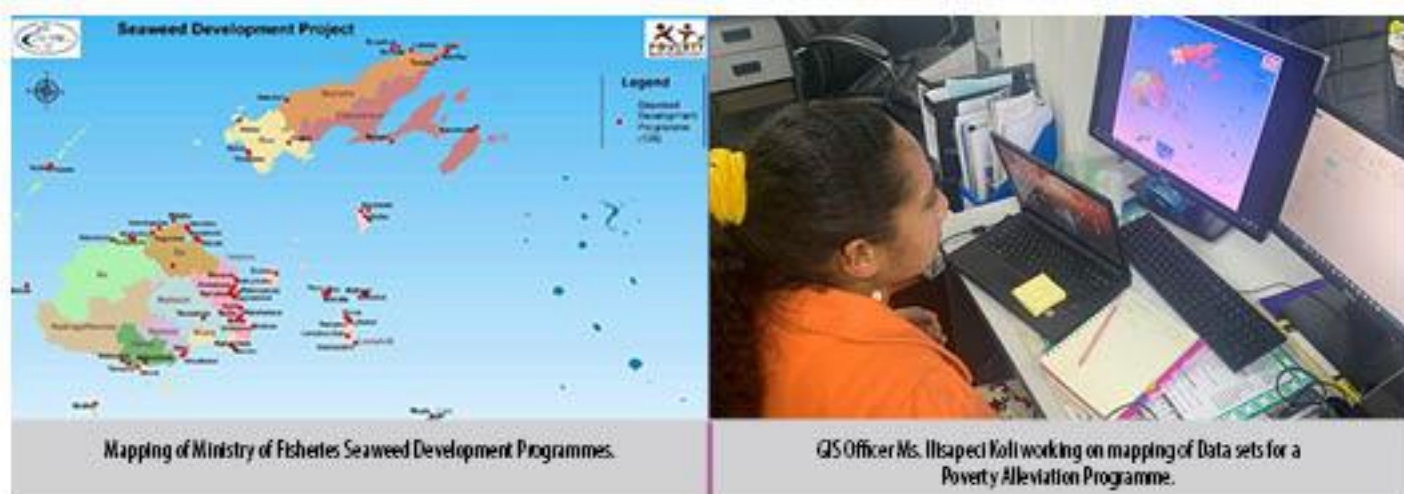
The Geographical Information System is an essential component of the Unit. Through the use of ArcGIS online Software, has enabled the Unit to map poverty alleviation programmes and projects of Government and other stakeholders who support Government in reducing poverty. This has also provided PMU Officers and other Users with a visual understanding of the data collated from the respective Implementing Agencies. The system captures, manages, analyses, stores and designs spatial geographical data and allows agencies to create interactive queries (User-created searches) for analysis and presentation of results for decision making purposes.

In the last fiscal year, the GIS Officer has successfully managed to complete plotting and mapping of the following project sites:

TABLE 3.2: List of Projects Mapped

Projects	Total Mapping Done
Office of the Prime Minister Small Grants Scheme	21
Other Rural Water Supply (2016) Water Authority of Fiji	1,764
Grants to Self Help Programme (2010-2011)	314
Community Access Roads Footpaths & Footbridges	78
Rural Housing Assistance	325
Primary and Secondary School Library Scheme	383
Groundwater Assessment (Larger Islands)	37
Seaweed Development Programme	136
Integrated Human Resources Development Programme (IHRDP)	83
Special Revitalization Programme	3
Youth Training Centers	19
Solar Mamas	4
Rocket Stoves	20
Fiji Safety and Protection Cluster:	
▶ Child Protection sub-cluster interventions	240
▶ Medical Services Pacific (MSP)	286
▶ Reproductive and Family Health Association of Fiji (RFHAF)	83
▶ Tropical Cyclone Harold affected locations	

During the third quarter of the fiscal year, the Ministry through Unit hosted the April GIS/RS User Forum. A forum where GIS officers and users from across Government and Non-Government Organizations convene and share knowledge with the latest innovative GIS work being carried out in their respective Agencies.



3.4 Awareness on Governments Initiative to Reduce Poverty

Participatory Learning and Action Workshop (PLA)

PLA is a Poverty Reduction strategy adopted by Unit to empower Fijians in our rural and isolated communities to improve their standard of living and access to services. This is a 9-step exercise which has been an effective participatory approach by the community members in identifying the challenges prevalent within their communities with the guid-

ance of the workshop facilitators. Community Development Plans were formulated to address their socio-economic needs.

In the second quarter, the Unit in consultation with Ministry of iTaukei Affairs officials, conducted a PLA workshop in the Province of Ra. The workshop included the three (3) Districts in the interior of Ra, which have yet to receive any Government Roadshows within these Districts. The PLA workshop was organized in the Tikina of Nalaba, with Burelevu Village hosting the eighteen (18) villages from the three Districts of Tokaimalo, Nalaba and Nailuva. A total of 95 participants participated in the two-day workshop which was conducted from the 11th - 12th of November, 2020.

The Participatory Learning and Action workshops scheduled for the 3rd and 4th Quarter were cancelled due to COVID-19 safety protocols in place.

3.5 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP)

Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) 2020

Fiji being a signatory member to the UN Declaration, the Ministry through the Poverty Monitoring Unit coordinates the commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on the 17th of October. In 2020, in accordance with the COVID-19 safety protocols in place, the Unit organized a Media Publicity campaign that focused on capitalizing media modes to create awareness on the significance of the day and initiatives undertaken by Government towards achieving the theme of observance which was *"Acting Together to Achieve Social and Environmental Justice for All"*. The following media platforms were chosen to raise awareness and promote messaging on the week of October 17th:

- ▶ Print Media – Fiji Sun newspaper
- ▶ Radio – Fiji Broadcasting Corporation's five radio stations
- ▶ Radio Talk Back Shows on FBC radio with guests speakers from NGOs Adventist Development Relief Agency and Makoi Women's Vocational Centre
- ▶ Television – FBC TV
- ▶ Social Media Platforms
- ▶ ITC Services mass email via Govnet platform

In addition to the media campaign, the Ministry was invited by the Immaculate Conception Parish, Lami to participate in the *TC Harold appeal* for all Fijians living in the Lami to Naboro areas who were affected by the cyclone. On this day, Faith Based organizations commemorated the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty which was spearheaded by the Catholic Church making donations of clothing, food items and cash for the affected communities. The Ministry was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ms Jennifer Poole, who also made a contribution towards this worthy cause. Team PMU set up a booth and served clients who sought information on Governments Poverty Alleviation Programmes.



Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Ms. Jennifer Poole presents the MWCPA contribution towards the fundraiser.



Team MWCPA booth at Lami Parish fundraising drive seated (L) ADPMU Ms. Taimuni, Permanent Secretary - MWCPA, Ms. Jennifer Poole and PASCS Mr. Zinck.

4

Rights, Empowerment, and Cohesion

REACH Programme



The REACH initiative is an inclusive and a caring platform which the Government has adopted, to overcome the various challenges that Fijians faces in the remotest maritime islands or the most interior parts of Fiji. It is bounded by the Fijian Constitution to provide essential Government social and economic services and promoting greater access to Justice for all Fijians irrespective of their age, gender, religion or ethnicity. With its core mandate of *“reaching the furthest behind first and leaving no Fijians behind”*, it is accountable to the people and for the people with all efforts of improving Government public service delivery.

4.1 Community Awareness and Service Delivery

During the fiscal year, the Team had managed to reach 71 communities covering 5,904 individuals including 2,857 women; 1,817 men and 1,230 Children through the REACH Awareness Platform:

TABLE 4.1: Community Awareness and Service Delivery

Division	Province	Community (s)	Total Number of Participants
Western	Ra	Caulasi/FSC Compound	47
Western	Ra	Wairuku/Dociu	102
Western	Ra	Mid Road/ Rewasa/ Part of Dugatapu	37
Western	Ra	Ellington/Nagana/Nautu	72
Western	Ra	Waimarri/ MH Compound/ Gallau	61
Western	Ra	Naqoro Sett/ Hart/ Vatuse Village	138
Western	Ra	Vatukacevaceva Village	84
Western	Ra	Tobu Village	131
Western	Ra	Nayavu-i-ra / Nasau/ Veidrala/ Nauniivi	73
Western	Ra	Rakiraki Town	205

Division	Province	Community (s)	Total Number of Participants
Western	Ba	Lausa/Vatia/Maqere/vatutavui/Tagitagi	22
Western	Ba	Davota/ Wainivoce/Rakavidi/ Vatubo	31
Western	Ba	Balata/Drumasi/ Balata2/ Part of Malele	107
Western	Ba	Tavua Market show	92
Central	Naitasiri	Sakoca	219
Central	Naitasiri	Delaivalelevu	309
Central	Naitasiri	Newtown	253
Central	Naitasiri	Delaitokatoka	194
Central	Naitasiri	Nasole	134
Central	Naitasiri	Narere	159
Central	Naitasiri	Makoi (Tuirara)	294
Central	Naitasiri	Wakanisila	172
Central	Naitasiri	Kalabu	210
Central	Naitasiri	Nawanawa	214
Central	Naitasiri	Nepani	273
Central	Naitasiri	Nadawa	142
Central	Rewa	Muslim League Nabua	69
Central	Naitasiri	Nausori Market	475
Central	Naitasiri	Cunningham Stage 1	83
Central	Rewa	Marata settlement (Wailoku)	57
Central	Rewa	Lami Village	72
Central	Rewa	Vale ni Cina settlement	66
Central	Rewa	Namuka I Lau villages	27
Central	Namosi	Wainadoi Settlement	112
Central	Namosi	Nabukavesi Village	198
Central	Namosi	Navua Town	56
Central	Tailevu	Nayavu, Naqia, Wailevu, Savu, Nasaibitu, Veiveiwali, Nabouva, Natuvatuvavatu, Balekinaga	189
Central	Tailevu	Naveicovatu, Veinuqa, Naseibitu, Malabi, Nasautoka, Naqia	102
Central	Tailevu	Nayavu, Naqia, Wailevu, Savu, Nasaibitu, Veiveiwali, Nabouva, Natuvatuvavatu, Balekinaga, Naveicovatu, Nalidi, Malabe, Namoka	56
Central	Tailevu	Nabouva, Nasautoka, Wailotua, Malabe	122
Central	Tailevu	Naveicula, Nasau, Korovou, Wainivilimi	445
TOTAL			5,904

4.2 Vaccination Campaign

After COVID Restrictions was announced by Government, the REACH platform had successfully supported the Ministry of Health and Medical Services in the COVID-19 Vaccination campaign.

The three REACH buses had offered a walk – in service to Fijians in the urban and peri – urban areas, who had faced difficulties in commuting to nearby MOH fixed vaccination facilities.



REACH Bus at a vaccination site in Suva

Corporate Services Department



Corporate Service Department (CSD) is responsible for the administration of the Constitutional Functions in compliance with Civil Service policies and guidelines through the following Units:

- ▶ HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
- ▶ ASSETS MANAGEMENT
- ▶ FINANCE

Responsibilities of the Corporate Service Department are:

- Appointments, removal and institute disciplinary action.
- Determine terms and conditions of employment in compliance with Labour laws.
- Ensure recruitment is based on Merit.
- Support the planning and execution of the Ministry Operational Plan.
- Promote Efficiency and Effective Workforce Management.
- Budget planning and utilization in compliance with Finance Regulations.

5.1 Corporate Activities

- ▶ 124 Post Advertisements
- ▶ 199 New Appointments
- ▶ 4 Resignation
- ▶ 5 Termination
- ▶ 4 Retirement
- ▶ 9 Disciplinary Cases
- ▶ 44 Number of Trainings
(219 Staff attended training)



442
Approved
Number



312 Established
130 GWE



139
Number of
TR



111 Established
28 GWE



267
Number of
Posts Filled



163 Established
104 GWE



20
Substantively
Vacant



20 Established
0 GWE



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021

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

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits



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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 2021

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 2021, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, 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 Opinion

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 \$909,997 and \$768,051 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 2021

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 2021; 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 2021

	Note	31 July 2021 (S)	31 July 2020 (S)
REVENUE			
STATE REVENUE:			
Operating Revenue	3(a)	11,499	18,268
Total State Revenue		11,499	18,268
AGENCY REVENUE:			
Miscellaneous Revenue	3(b)	15,528	---
Total Agency Revenue		15,528	---
TOTAL REVENUE		27,027	18,268
EXPENDITURE			
OPERATING EXPENDITURE:			
Established Staff	3(c)	7,203,282	7,888,506
Government Wage Earners	3(d)	2,038,611	2,369,610
Travel & Communication	3(e)	277,032	349,049
Maintenance & Operations	3(f)	863,917	893,006
Purchase of Good & Services	3(g)	3,145,899	2,551,938
Operating Grants & Transfers	3(h)	111,186,939	125,054,372
Special Expenditure	3(i)	7,223,538	869,155
Total Operating Expenditure		131,939,218	139,975,636
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:			
Capital Construction	3(j)	2,632,879	508,443
Capital Grants & Transfers	3(k)	78,000	1,455,545
Total Capital Expenditure		2,710,879	1,963,988
Value Added Tax	3(l)	396,601	227,836
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		135,046,698	142,167,460

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Appropriation Statement

for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

SEG	ITEM	Budget Estimate	Appropriation Changes	Revised Estimate (a)	Actual Expenditure (b)	Lapsed Appropriation (a-b) Note 4
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
OPERATIONS COSTS						
1	Established Staff	7,758,701	(306,484)	7,452,217	7,203,282	248,935
2	Unestablished Staff	1,832,000	306,484	2,138,484	2,038,611	99,873
3	Travel & Communication	244,800	52,145	296,945	277,032	19,913
4	Maintenance & Operations	705,500	199,290	904,790	863,917	40,873
5	Purchase of Good & Services	4,062,012	(8,989)	4,053,023	3,145,899	907,124
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	125,540,597	(242,446)	125,298,151	111,186,939	14,111,212
7	Special Expenditure	11,283,494	---	11,283,494	7,223,538	4,059,956
	Total Operating Costs	151,427,104	---	151,427,104	131,939,218	19,487,886
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
8	Capital Construction	6,228,761	(2,627,769)	3,600,992	2,632,879	968,113
9	Capital Purchase	---	---	---	---	---
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	200,000	---	200,000	78,000	122,000
	Total Capital Expenditure	6,428,761	(2,627,769)	3,800,992	2,710,879	1,090,113
13	Value Added Tax	1,127,330	(236,499)	890,831	396,601	494,230
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	158,983,195	(2,864,268)	156,118,927	135,046,698	21,072,229

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Statement of Losses

for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

Loss of Money

There was loss of money at a value of \$8,332 recorded in the financial year ended 31 July, 2021 and is under internal investigations.

Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the year ended 31st July, 2021.

Loss (other than money)

The Board of Survey for 2021 was not carried out for the financial year ended 31st July, 2021.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
Trust Fund Account Statement of Receipts and Payments
for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

	Note	31 July 2021 (\$)	31 July 2020 (\$)
OPENING BALANCE		189,987	190,047
RECEIPTS:			
Revenue		---	---
Total Receipts		---	---
PAYMENTS:			
Bank Fees		15	60
Total Payments		15	60
CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31 JULY 2021	9	189,972	189,987

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

Notes To and Forming Part of the Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

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 of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation is responsible for providing services and administering programmes that protect those who are most vulnerable, and work 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 Subsidy for the elderly and people living with disabilities. The ongoing review on the social protection programmes systems and processes will 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 Department also has the statutory responsibility to ensure the protection and wellbeing of children, which includes the management of juvenile centres. Strengthening protective environments for children at the Government, community and family levels is part of this key strategy. This includes raising awareness at the community level, developing life skills education for children, reviewing legislation affecting children, and providing child-friendly services to the general public.

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 decreased by \$6,769 or 37% in 2021 compared to 2020 due to commission which is deducted at source from insurance premium payable and other credit institutions were only for 12 months.
- (b) The Miscellaneous Revenue increased by \$15,528 or 100% in 2021 compared to 2020 due to refund of Social Protection Program Allowance by Bank as there were invalid bank account number.
- (c) The Established Staff cost decreased by \$685,224 or 9% in 2021 compared to 2020 as 2020 decreases was due to reduction of FNPF contribution from 10% to 5%. The reduction is also based on the utilization trend.
- (d) The Government Wage Earners cost decreased by \$330,999 or 14% in 2021 compared to 2020 as 2020 decreases was due to reduction of employers FNPF contribution to 5%. The reduction is also based on the utilization trend.
- (e) The Travel & Communication cost decreased by \$72,017 or 21 % in 2021 compared to 2020. The reduction is due to the policy change in meal claim from \$20 to \$10.
- (f) The Maintenance & Operations costs decreased by \$29,089 or 3 % in 2021 compared to 2020. The decrease was due to reduction of payment in expenditure for maintenance of the Ministry vehicle, and fuel cost and also based on the utilisation trend as well.
- (g) The purchasing of Goods & Services increased by \$593,961 or 23% in 2021 compared to 2020 as this was based on commission charges for fees paid to Banks for monthly Social Protection Programme Pay out and also a new allocation to carter for the development of software system for the Social Protection Programme.
- (h) The Operating Grants and Transfers decreased by \$13,867,433 or 11 % in 2021 compared to 2020. This is due to reduction of budget for E-Ticketing Bus Fare Concession for Senior Citizen and Person living with disability. Also, most Social Protection Programmes budget remained the same from the 2020 Financial Year budget and transfer of portion of Capital Grants to Voluntary Organisation budget from Capital Grants & Transfers to Operating Grants.
- (i) Special expenditures increased by \$6,354,383 or 731 % in 2021 compared to 2020. This increase was due to the funds provided by DFAT for the Covid Assistance top-up of Disability, Child Protection and Poverty Benefit Scheme Allowance in programme funding provided towards this financial year.
- (j) Capital Construction increased by \$2,124,436 or 418% in 2021 compared to 2020. This increase was due to the payment of expenditure payout for completion of Construction project of the Babasiga Ashram in Labasa and also construction of Barefoot College.

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for the Year Ended 31 July 2021

- (k) The Capital Grants and Transfers decreased by \$1,377,545 or 95% in 2021 compared to 2020. This is mainly due to portion of Capital Grants to Voluntary Organisation Budget has been transferred to Operating Grants & Transfers. Also, Construction of Aged Care Facilities at Labasa has also been transferred to Capital Construction.
- (l) The Value Added Tax increased by \$168,766 or 74% in 2021 compared to 2020 mainly due to increase in VAT charge activities.

NOTE 4: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

No.	Expenditure	Revised Budget (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Savings (\$)	Percentage Savings (%)
(a)	Establish Staff	7,452,217	7,203,280	248,937	3%
(b)	Purchase of Goods & Services	4,053,023	3,145,898	907,125	22%
(c)	Operating Grants & Transfers	125,298,151	111,186,938	14,111,213	11%
(d)	Special Expenditures	11,283,494	7,223,539	4,059,955	36%
(e)	Capital Construction	3,600,992	2,632,879	968,113	27%
(f)	Capital Grants & Transfers	200,000	78,000	122,000	61%

- a) The savings under Establish Staff was due to the unfilled vacant positions.
- b) The savings under Purchase of Goods & Services (SEG 5) was due to the following:
- (i) Technical Assistance-SPP Reform-\$500,000: the savings was due to pending of recruitment of the technical staffs.
 - (ii) Commission charges - \$370,335: the savings was due to the reduction of new approval of cases received due to the imposition of COVID restrictions and this affected commission charges.
- c) The savings under Operating Grants & Transfers (SEG 6) was due to the following
- (i) Fiji National Council for Disable Persons savings of \$83,432 is due to unfilled vacant positions and operations cost for the Western Disability Centre.
 - (ii) Grants to Voluntary Organisations savings of \$126,000 was due to delay in receiving the Acquittals and Audit reports for previous years before tabling of applications and agreement. All this delays fails to meet the time-lines requirement.
 - (iii) National Council for Older Persons savings of \$121,613 was due to most of the programmes involve in community outreach and activities and due to impose of COVID restrictions, many programme was on hold.
 - (iv) Bus Fare Programme for Older/Disable Persons savings of \$2,849,854 was due to reduction in monthly top up value from \$20 to \$10 and COVID restrictions imposed.
 - (v) Child Protection Allowance savings of \$1,233,316 is due to not much of new approval of cases received on ground and also impose of covid restrictions.
 - (vi) Food Voucher for Rural Pregnant Mothers savings of \$569,001 is due to not much of new approval of cases received on ground and also impose of covid restrictions.
 - (vii) Social Pension Schemes savings of \$3,536,808 is due to not much of new approval of cases received on ground and also impose of covid restrictions.
 - (viii) Allowance for Persons with Disability savings of \$169,184 is due to not much of new approval of cases re-

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ceived on ground and also impose of covid restrictions.

- (ix) Poverty Benefit Scheme savings of \$4,847,419 is due to not much of new approval of cases received on ground and also impose of covid restrictions.
 - (x) Women and Gender Development savings of \$352,525 is due to impose of COVID restrictions which led to programme activities being cancelled.
 - (xi) Women's Institutions savings of \$180,000 is due to the unutilised budget component for National Women's Shelter for gender based violence which is still has pending confirmations of Tender process (Bidder confirmation).
- d) The Savings under Special Expenditure (SEG 7) was due to the following:
- (i) Community Act savings of \$188,311 is due to pending of recruitment for the CBC staff.
 - (ii) REACH savings of \$70,853 is due to impose of COVID restrictions which led to most programme activities been cancelled.
 - (iii) Integrated National Poverty Eradication Programme savings of \$98,931 is due to impose of COVID restrictions which leads to most programme activities cancelled.
 - (iv) Child Protection Program savings of \$60,521 is due to the cancellation of programme community activities due to COVID restrictions and Tropical Cyclones. Also, engagement of officers in the DISMAC Operations.
 - (v) Social Welfare Management Information System (DFAT) savings of \$2,193,702 is due to pending of recruitment for National coordinator.
 - (vi) Social Welfare Top-Up (DFAT) savings of \$1,323,292 is due to only certain approved categories of assistance with standard amount as per Agreement.
- e) The savings under Capital Construction (SEG 8) was due to the following:
- (i) Construction of Aged Care Facility savings of \$435,494 is due to construction progress affected by COVID restriction being imposed.
 - (ii) Construction of Barefoot College savings of \$532,619 is due to stall in project construction because of COVID restriction being imposed
- f) The savings under Capital Grants & Transfers (SEG 10) was due to the following:
- (i) Voluntary Organisation savings of \$100,000 due to delay in receiving of the Acquittals and Audit Reports of NGO' s in the previous years before tabling of applications and agreement. All this delay fails to meet the required timelines.

NOTE 5: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION CHANGES

The Minister for Economy approved the re-deployment of Funds from Head 24-Capital Construction via Journal Voucher:

Journal Number	From	To	Amount (\$)
REDLY02	SEG 8	Head 50	87,780
REDLY02	SEG 8	Head 50	788,991
REDLY02	SEG 8	Head 50	123,229
REDLY02	SEG 8	Head 50	1,627,769

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

Virement No.	From	To	Amount (\$)
V24001	SEG 1	SEG 1	284,542
		SEG 2	306,484

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

Virement No.	From	To	Amount (\$)
DV2401	SEG 5	SEG 4	20,000
DV2402	SEG 6	SEG 3	5,800
		SEG 4	137,500
DV2403	SEG 6	SEG 3	11,946
	SEG 7	SEG 4	24,400
		SEG 5	11,000
DV2404	SEG 6	SEG 3	34,400
		SEG 4	17,400
DV2405	SEG 3	SEG 3	14,230
	SEG 4	SEG 4	291
	SEG 6	SEG 5	11
		SEG 6	290,061

NOTE 6: OPERATING TRUST ACCOUNT

As at 31 July 2021, the Ministry had a credit balance of \$99,837 in the Operating Trust Account.

NOTE 7: REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNT

At balance date, the Ministry had a balance of \$45,658 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 \$49,180 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, 2021 the Ministry had a credit balance of \$189,972 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
Transformed Communities
with Empowered Women, Children, Older Persons
and the Disadvantaged.

Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation

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