



Presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee

Roles of the Ministry

- Care and protection of children;
- Community based correction;
- Provision of income support to families to address poverty;
- Provision of policy intervention for older persons;
- Provision of policy intervention for persons with disabilities;
- Promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women; and
- Monitor, evaluate and report on the progress and impact of Governments Poverty Alleviation Programme





Statutory Obligations

- Adoption of Infants Act (Cap.58) 1978
- Community Work Act 1994
- Family Law Act 2003
- Fiji National Council for Disabled Person Act 21, 1994
- Juveniles Act (cap 56) 1973
- Probation Act (cap) 1978
- Domestic Violence Decree 2009
- Child Welfare Decree 2010
- Social Justice Act 1997
- National Council of Older Persons Act of 2012

International Conventions



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



Major Highlights – Financial Year 2019/2020

REACH



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

- i. Reach **2340 Individuals**[**1037 Women, 969 Men and 334 Children**] and delivered **7198 services** [**3546 Women and 3652 Men**].
- ii. REACH out to **3 out of 4 [75%]** Divisions except the Eastern Division
- iii. Covering **18 out of 189 Districts [9.52%]** in **5 Provinces across Fiji**
- iv. Percentage Analysis – 44% Women, 41% Men and 14% Child benefited from the awareness whereas 49% of women and 51% of men benefited from the overall services.

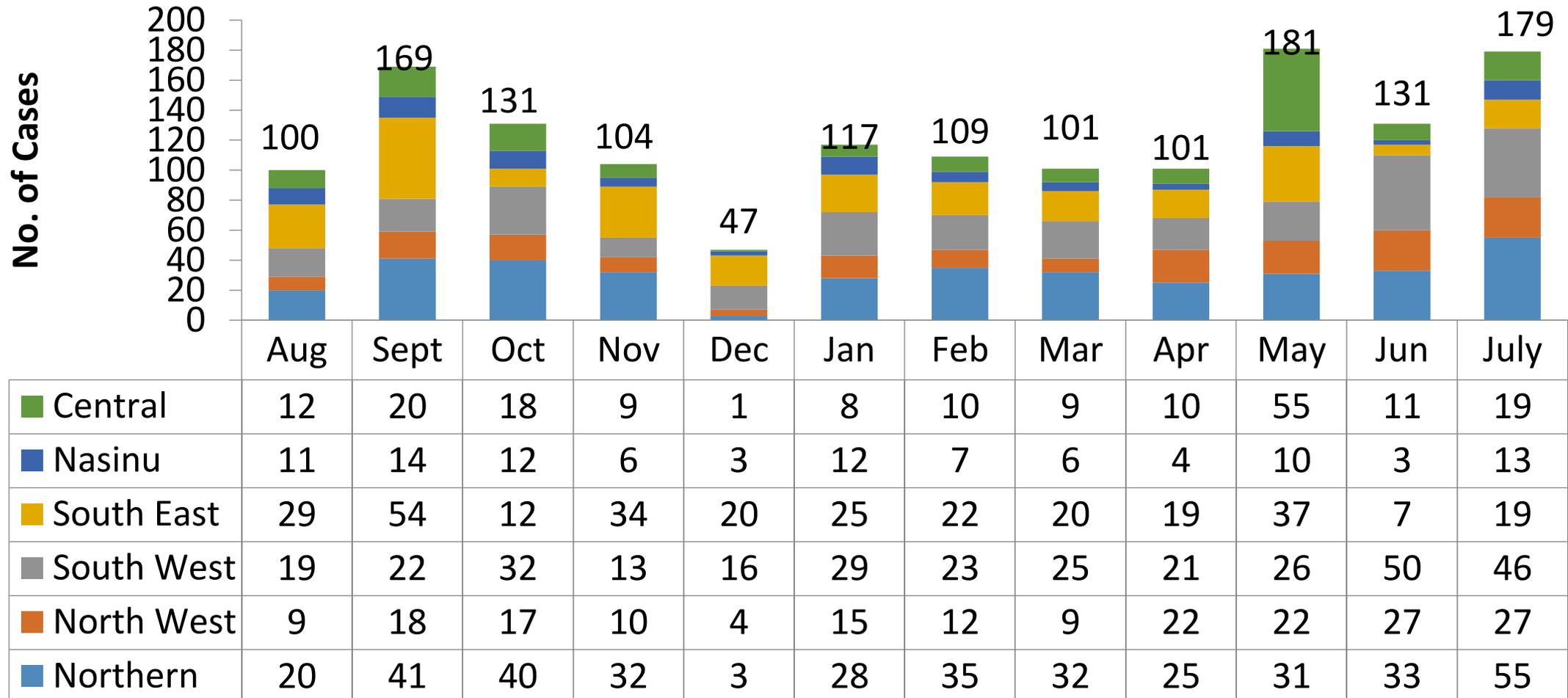
SOCIAL WELFARE

Social Protection Programmes



Programmes	Beneficiaries
Poverty Benefit Scheme	21,429
Care and Protection Allowance	6,384
Social Pension Scheme	39,089
Disability Allowance	8195
Fire Victim Assistance	82
Rural Pregnant Mothers Food Voucher Scheme	3279

Child Welfare Cases

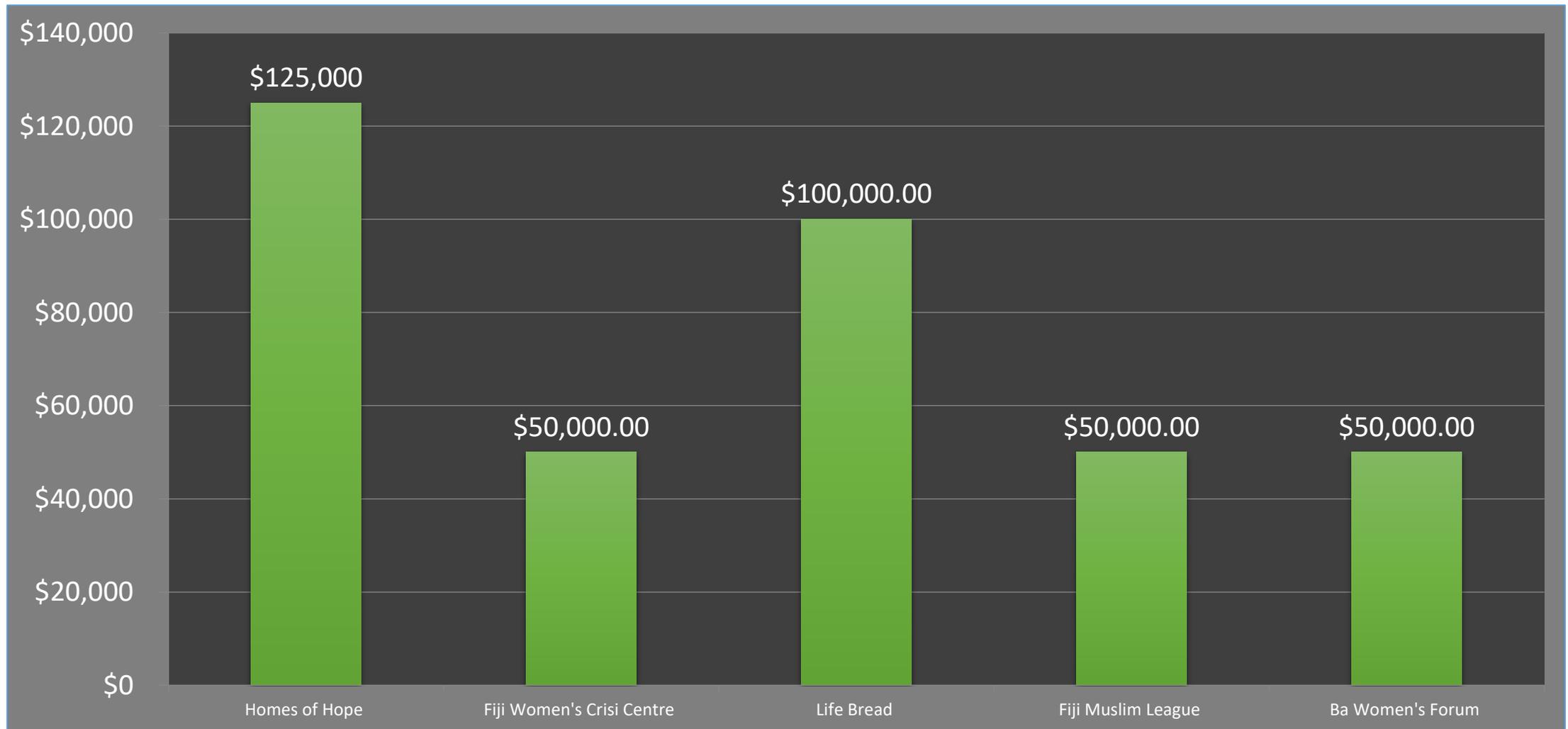


NCOP Grants Recipients



#	Grant Recipients	Total Grants Approved	Total Disbursed	Disbursements
1	HART	\$33,650.00	\$ 16,825.00	\$ 16,825.00
2	Channel Home of Compassion	\$24,175.00	\$ 12,087.50	\$ 12,087.50
3	Suva Relief Trust and Pearce Home	\$21,500.00	\$ 10,750.00	\$ 10,750.00
4	Society of Saint Vincent De Paul	\$20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	-
5	Senior Citizens Charitable Trust of Nadi	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000.00	-
6	Senior Citizens Foundation (Fiji) Lautoka Branch	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000.00	-
7	Senior Citizens Ba Community Centre	\$21,530.00	\$21,530.00	-
Total		\$138,855.00	\$88,427.50	\$39,662.50

Grants to Women's Institutions





Major Highlights – Financial Year 2020/2021

SOCIAL WELFARE

Social Protection Programmes

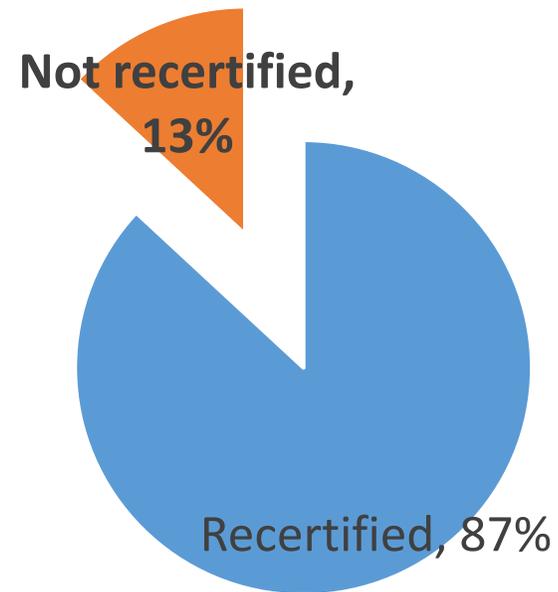


Programmes	Beneficiaries
Poverty Benefit Scheme	23,808
Care and Protection Allowance	8881
Social Pension Scheme	45,134
Disability Allowance	9182
Fire Victim Assistance	78
Rural Pregnant Mothers Food Voucher Scheme	1,713
Bus-Fare Programme	44,000

Review of Social Protection Programs



Recertification of Recipients





Child Welfare Act 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 1,478 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. This was the same for the same period last year.

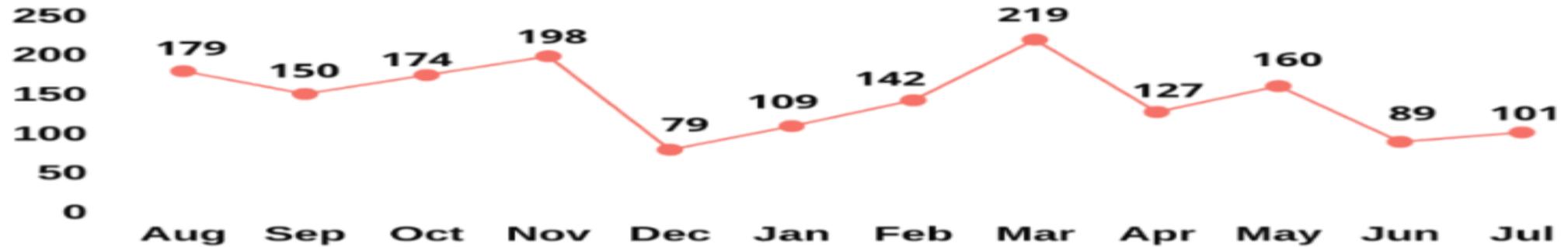
Most of the children reported to be 0-5 years old, were victims of child neglect (155 cases) and physical abuse (96 cases).

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

REPORTED CWA CASES (2020-2021)

Source: CWA National Database

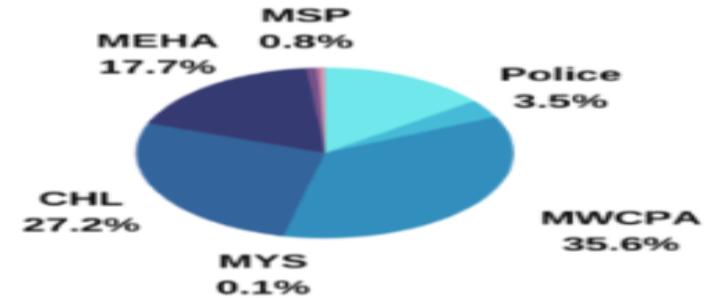
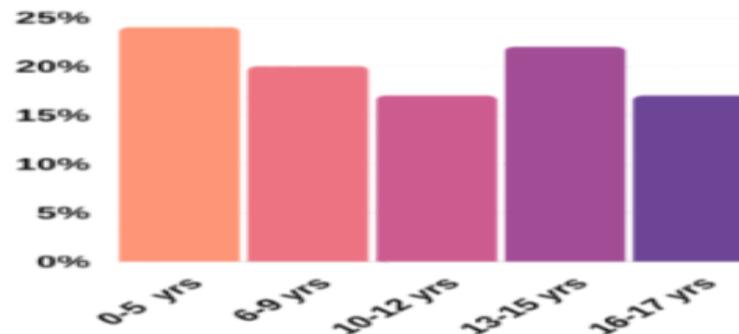
1,727
cases



803 males



924 females



70%

70% of the cases were of the following cases:

- 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.

Child Protection in Emergencies

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.



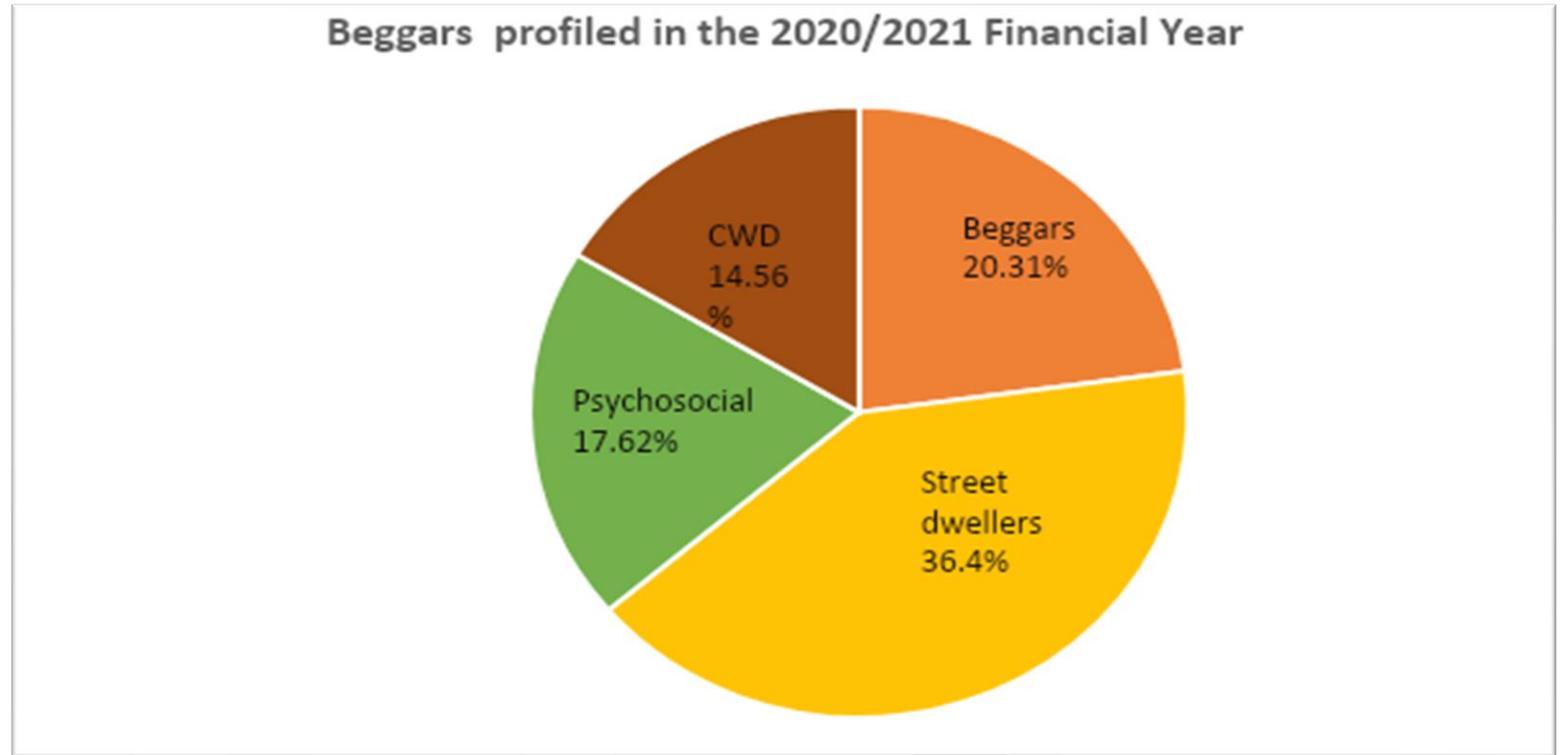
Officers were divided into 8 teams visiting 38 communities in the duration of 5 days. A total of 1,761 children were part of the CFS program set up across the 38 communities. Of the 1,761 children, 965 were in Cakaudrove and 796 in Macuata

Grants to Organizations for Persons with Disabilities



Organization	Allocation
Spinal Injury Association of Fiji	\$73,595.41
Fiji Crippled Children Society - Frank Hilton Organization	\$66,789.23
Fiji Society for the Blind (Hostel)	\$45,500
United Blind Persons of Fiji	\$28,826
Viti Spinal Association	\$88,200
Psychiatric Survivors Association	\$24,946
Total	\$382,856.64

Profiling of Street Dwellers



- The 2020-2021 Financial 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 those on the streets.
- The outcome of joint efforts by the Ministry 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.



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



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

Grants to Women Institution



Institutions	Amounts being received
Homes of Hope	\$80,000
Life Bread	\$80,000
Fiji Muslim League	\$80,000
Ba Women's Forum	\$80,000

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



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 Ministry had 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.





World Food Programme (WFP) Post Distribution Monitoring

- A 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 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, Vatulele, 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.





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

Challenges faced

- COVID had impacted the Ministry deliverables
- Funds were diverted to support in the recovery
- Staff Turnover
- Ministry Offices need maintenance
- Need to make Offices client-friendly in terms of accessibility

