



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD
1 AUGUST 2021 - 31 JULY 2022



MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

A N N U A L **REPORT** **2021 - 2022**

For the Financial Period 1 August 2021 - 31 July 2022

MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN & POVERTY ALLEVIATION

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.



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Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation
ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022

REFERRAL LETTER

Hon. Lynda Tabuya
Minister for Women, Children & Social Protection
Level 5, Civic Towers
Suva

Dear Madam,

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the financial year 1st August 2021 to 31st July 2022 for the Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation.

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



Eseta Nadakuitavuki (Ms.)
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Women, Children & Social Protection

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:

- 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 Government's Poverty Alleviation Programme

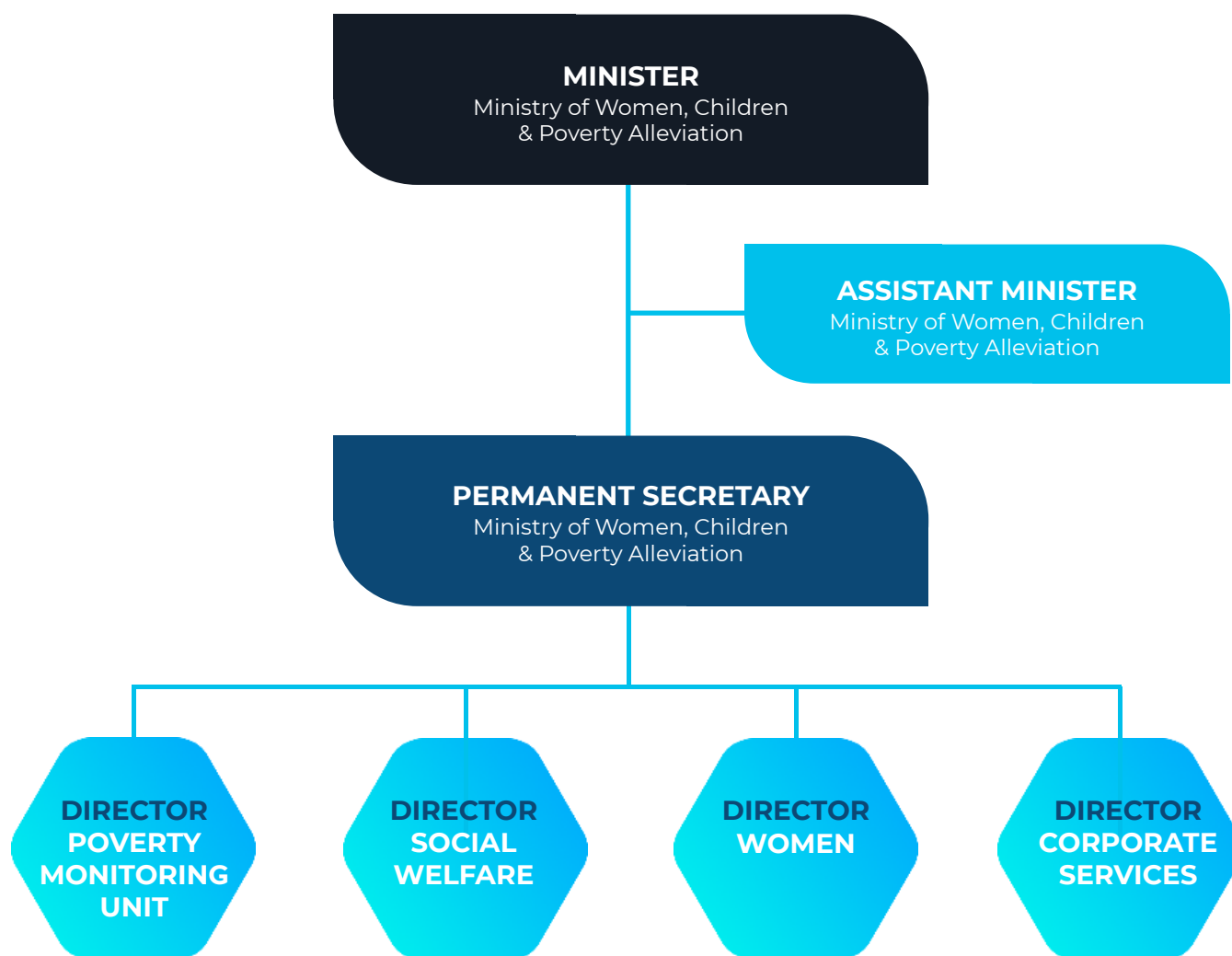
Statutory Obligations under the Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation:

- Adoption of Infants Act (Cap.58) 1978
- Community Work Act 1994
- Family Law Act 2003
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018
- 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
- Community Based Corrections 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

Organization Chart





A Dialogue on Human Trafficking and Consultation for the Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls

16 Days of Activism

Sofitel

10 December 2021



SECTION 1

Ministry's Achievements by Departments, Units and Programmes

- Department of Social Welfare
- Department of Women
- Poverty Monitoring Unit
- Corporate Services Division

1 DEPARTMENT OF Social Welfare

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation was allocated **\$138.5 million** in the Revised 2021 - 2022 Budget.

1.1 CHILD SERVICES UNIT

The Child Services Unit handles the Department of Social Welfare's statutory responsibilities related to care and protection of Children. The unit has four main areas of operation which includes:

1. Child Protection Program
2. Residential Services
3. Probation and Juvenile Justice
4. Secretariat to the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC)

1.1.1 Child Protection Training - Capacity Building and Development for Staff

With the support of UNICEF Pacific, the unit successfully co-facilitated the Child Protection Training for 30 welfare officers across the division and district offices. The training consisted of five modules facilitated through a five-week interval. Each module covered on important aspects of case management for child welfare cases from child development, indicators of abuse, assessment, interview skills and self-care. A total of **57 welfare officers have been trained** with 27 welfare officers trained in the last financial year.

1.1.2 Child Welfare Act (2010) Reported Cases

Reported CWA Cases (2021 - 2022)

A total of 1,780 cases was reported in this financial year (2021-2022). [Source: CWA National Database]



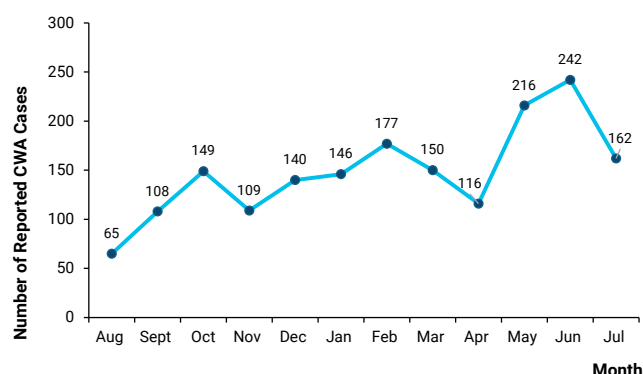
1,780 cases
was reported in
this financial year.

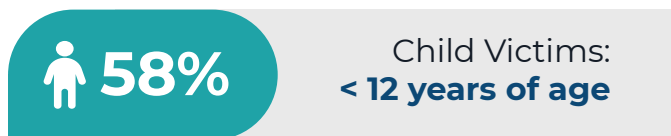
Time of Reporting

The most reported month was the month of June (242 cases) followed by May (216 cases), and February (177 cases). Compared to previous years, the months of May, July, and August have been the most reported months in which most incidents happen.

Statistics also show that the reporting to professionals happen within the same month in which the incidents happen.

FIGURE 1.1: Total Number of Reported CWA Cases





Demographics

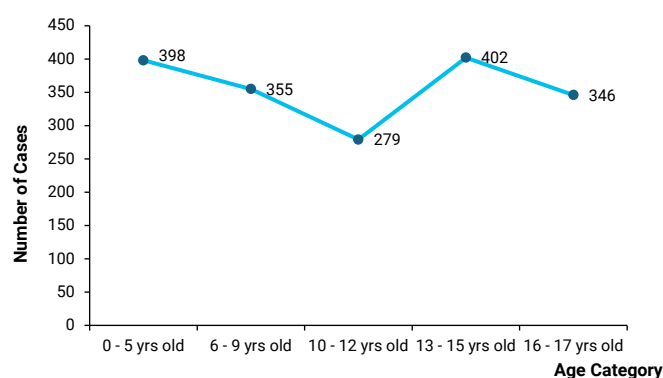
Females were victims in more than 50% of the cases reported. Most cases that reported females being the victim of the abuse were sexual abuse (194 cases of the 242 cases reported), and other cases which includes teenage pregnancy (87 cases). Males were reported to be victims of mainly behavioral cases and physical abuse.

The most reported age category was 13-15 years old (402 cases; 23% of the total cases).

The number of child victims reported to be between 0-5 years old were 398 cases (22%). 58% of the child victims were below the age of 12 years old.

The youngest victims were 1 day old (2 cases). This decreased compared to 2020 to which it was 10 cases. A total of 77 cases reported that the child victims were below the age of 1. 4.3% of the child victims reported were below the age of 1.

FIGURE 1.2: Total Number of Cases by Age Category

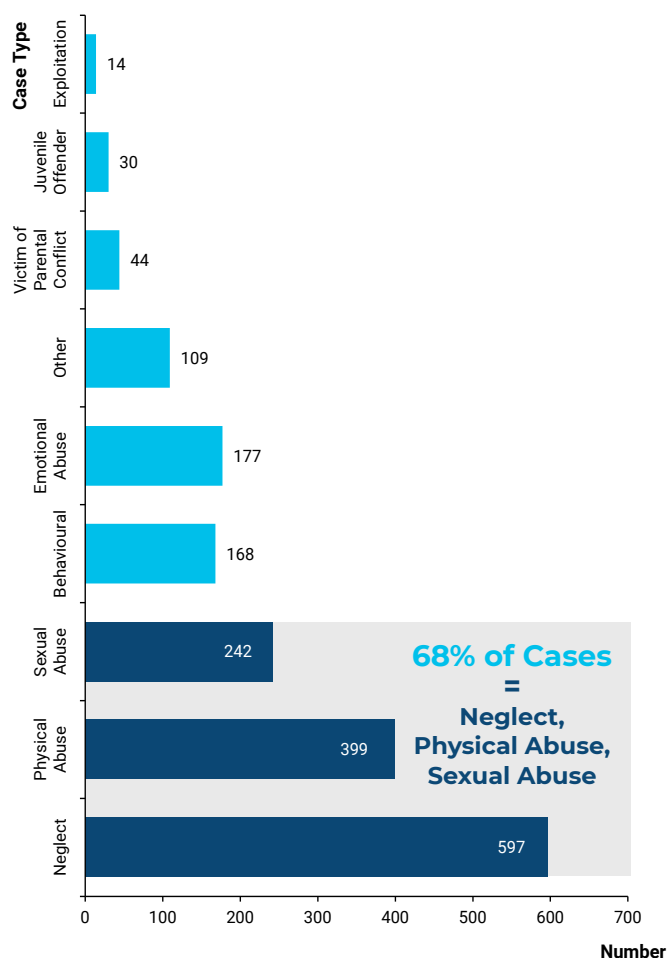


Reported Cases

The three most reported cases were child neglect (597 cases), physical abuse (399 cases), and sexual abuse (242 cases).

The most reported case type under neglect is lack of supervision. The most reported case type under physical abuse is physical harm to child by adult and sexual assault/molestation for sexual abuse. Cases reported under behavioural were mainly of beyond control and cases reported under Other was mainly of teenage pregnancy.

FIGURE 1.3: Total Number of Cases by Type



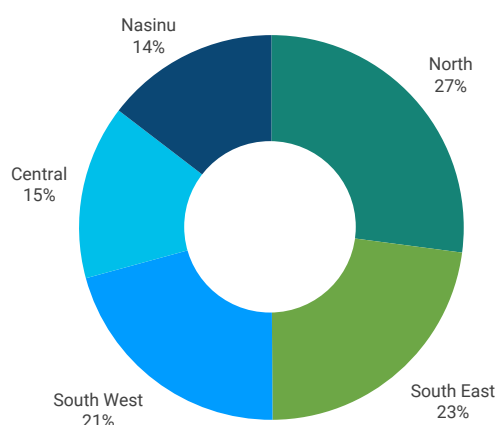
Hotspot Areas

Most of the incidents were reported to have happened in the Northern Division (438 cases) followed by South East (369 cases), South West (337 cases), Nasinu (236 cases), Central (258 cases) and North West (163 cases).



Welfare Officers in the Western division attended a training, aimed at building the capacity for the implementation of the new Community Based Correction Act

FIGURE 1.4: Total Number of Cases by Hotspot Areas



80% of the perpetrators are known to the victim.

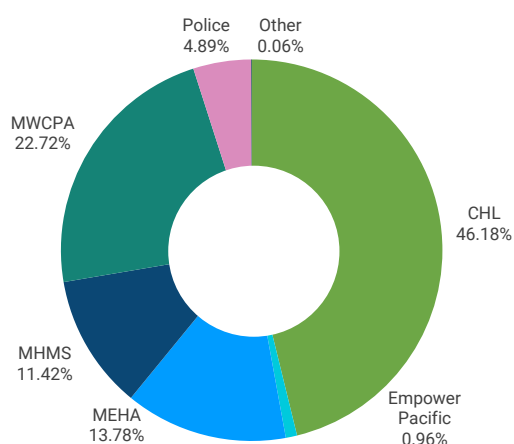
Perpetrators

80% are known to the victim. Of the 80%, **71% are immediate family members**. 19% reported no perpetrator as it was behavioral cases or cases of children in conflict with the law or the perpetrator was not stated. 0.6% are strangers.

Agency Reporting

A total of 46% of the cases were reported via the CHL.

FIGURE 1.5: Total Number of Cases by Agency



1.1.3 Residential Care Services for Children in Institutional Homes

The Unit conducts an annual audit of the Homes to ensure compliance to the Fiji Minimum Standards on Residential Care Services for Children.

It also ensures that all children under the care of the Director Social Welfare have proper documentations, are also monitored and it also ensures that the monthly Care and Protection Allowance are payable to the Homes.

As at end of the financial year, there were a total of **165 children under state care**.

The following table indicates Government's commitment towards the care of children in residential homes.

TABLE 1.1: Government's Commitment towards the Care of Children in Residential Homes

HOME	TOTAL PAYMENT
Dilkusha Home	63,600
St. Christopher's Home	34,080
St. Philomena Home	8,760
Homes of Hope	33,000
Treasure House Christian Children's Home	65,520
St. Minas Home	25,920
St. Tabitha Home	45,120
Veilomani Boys Home	34,440
Lomani Au Home	12,480
Fiji Crippled Children Society	387,960
TOTAL	\$710,880

1.1.4 Mandatory Reporting to Court

The Department of Social Welfare as per the Adoption of Infant Act (Cap.58, 1978) and Juvenile Act (1973) are required to provide social enquiry reports as and when required by the Court. These reports validate circumstances and make recommendations in the best interest of children. The following table provides the breakdown of the district facilitations of Court Reports within the financial year.

TABLE 1.2: Breakdown of District Facilitations of Court Reports within the Financial Year

DIVISION	TOTAL
Northern	70
Western	54
Central Division	19
TOTAL	143

1.1.5 National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was ratified in 1993 by the Government of Fiji. Ratification of this international law gives rise to new and further opportunities for the protection and welfare of children, the promotion of children's rights and a heightened awareness is placed on the importance of children's issues in Fiji.

In 1993, Cabinet endorsed the formulation of a national co-ordinating body to advise, implement, regulate, and monitor the protection and welfare of children under the Convention (CRC). The national body is called the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC).

The membership of NCCC and its subsequent bodies comprises representatives from Government institutions, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), also referred to as Civil Society Organizations (CSO's), Development Partners and International Organizations.

In this financial year, **a total of 4 quarterly meetings** were held which were chaired by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary. At the Divisional and District level, is the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC), with similar membership and meet on a quarterly basis.

1.1.6 National Child Helpline

The National Child Helpline (CHL) is an access point for children to be able to talk freely on issues that affect them. The services are contracted to Medical Services Pacific (MSP). As of July 2022, a total of **2,336 genuine calls** were received and directed to relevant authorities.



2,336
Genuine Calls
Received

1.1.7 National Child Helpline and Child Protection Mascot Program

The Child Protection Mascot – Charlie the Turtle was launched in May 2022 as an initiative to raise awareness on Child Protection. Sea turtles are an endangered species in Fiji. A protected and confident turtle is usually seen with its head and neck out of its shell. Charlie the turtle represents a protected and confident child who can come out of its shell and speak up about issues he or she is facing. Charlie is also a prevention tool for child abuse and neglect and promotes healthy behavior for all children and parents/guardians.

What does Charlie represent?

- 1. A CHILD**
Charlie represents the voice of a child and a confident child.
- 2. A TOOL FOR CHANGE**
Awareness tool for child protection and a prevention tool against child abuse and neglect.
- 3. ROLE MODEL**
A role model for healthy and good behaviour.
- 4. PROMOTES HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS**
Promotes behaviour change for children and parents / guardians.

The Child Protection Mascot

Charlie



1.1.8 Community Based Corrections Overview

The **Community Based Corrections Act of 2018**, provided for a community-based correction system that fosters community-based sentencing options, rehabilitation, and reintegration of offenders.

Community awareness on the Act was conducted in 46 communities and 4 schools.

TABLE 1.3: Number of Community Based Awareness

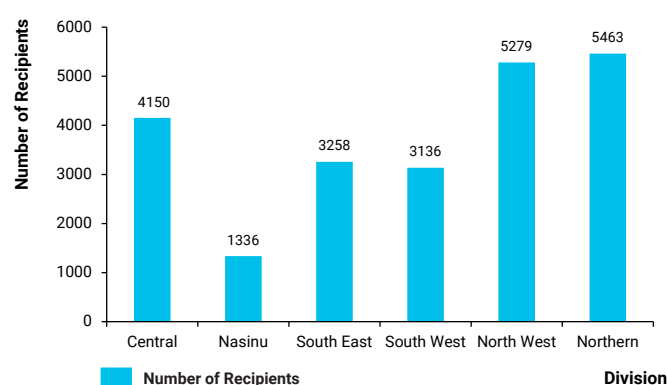
DIVISION	TOTAL
Central	5
South East	9
South West	11
North West	6
Northern	15
TOTAL	46

1.2 FAMILY SERVICES UNIT

1.2.1 Poverty Benefit Scheme

The scheme with a budget of **\$32.2m** had **assisted 22,622 households** within this financial period. Also, during this financial year, 1,353 new families were entered into the scheme. Furthermore, the Ministry conducted 2,118 reviews with current beneficiaries of the scheme to determine their continuing eligibility under the programs criteria. For this Financial Year the Program utilized 100% of budget allocated.

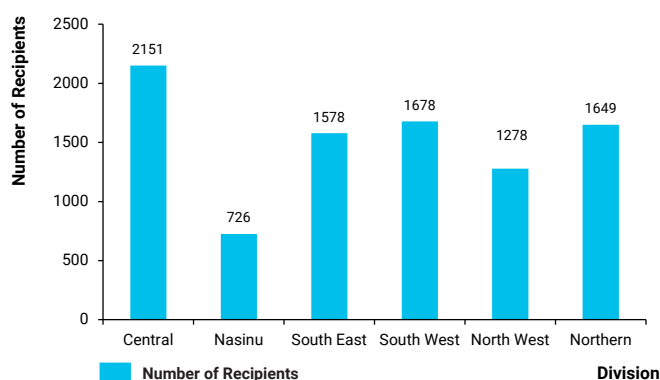
FIGURE 1.6: Poverty Benefit Scheme Recipients 2021 - 2022



1.2.2 Care and Protection Allowance

The Care and Protection allowance with an allocated budget of **\$11.75m** (100% utilisation), had **assisted 9,060 households** with children in need of care and protection within this financial period. During this period the Ministry completed assessments, 647 new families were entered into the scheme. Additionally, the Ministry conducted 922 reviews with current beneficiaries of the scheme this included children who had turned 18 years old and children who had progressed into primary or secondary education to determine their continuing eligibility under the programs criteria.

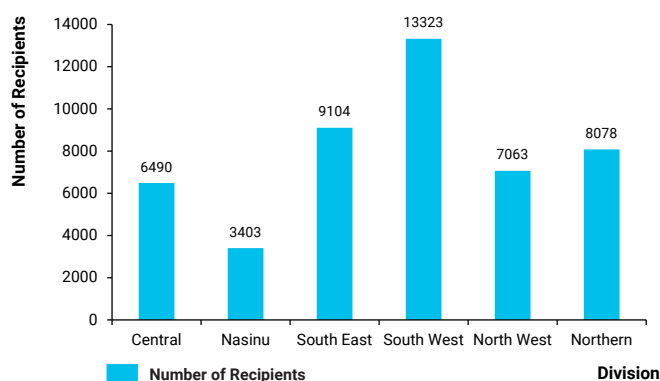
FIGURE 1.7: Care and Protection Allowance Recipients 2021 - 2022



1.2.3 Social Pension Scheme

The Social Pension Scheme allowance with the allocated budget of **\$54.9m** (100%), had **assisted 47,461 senior citizens** who had attained the age of 65 years and did not have a superannuation. During this period the Ministry completed assessments and 2,572 new recipients were entered into the scheme. Also, the Ministry conducted 3,251 reviews with current beneficiaries of the scheme to determine their continuing eligibility under the programs criteria.

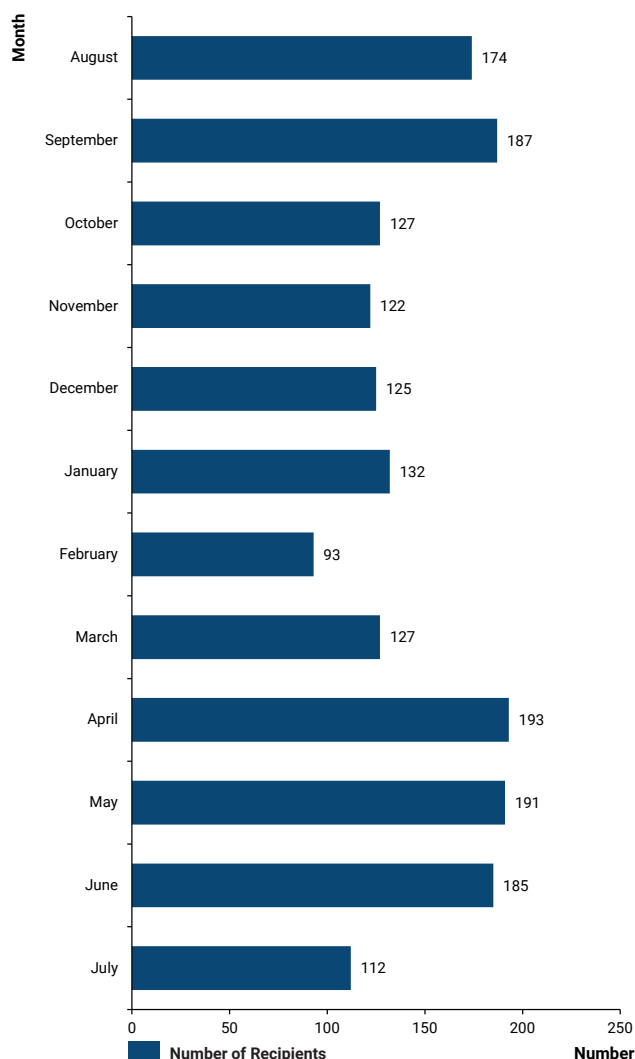
FIGURE 1.8: Social Pension Scheme Allowance Recipients 2021 - 2022



1.2.4 The Rural Pregnant Mothers Food Voucher

The program facilitated all applications received from Rural Health facilities from which **1,768 pregnant mothers** were assisted which was 46.9% of the allocated budget. The budget received was \$1,046,100.

FIGURE 1.9: Rural Pregnant Mothers Food Voucher Recipients 2021 - 2022



1.2.5 Bus Fare Subsidies

The Ministry received 7,208 new applications for bus fare assistance. There were 7,208 cards issued in total, of which 6,898 were for elderly and 310 for persons with disabilities. The bus fare allowance was increased from \$10 to \$25 per month in the month of April. This increase was facilitated as a three-month travel allowance with payment of \$75 for 3 months per beneficiary. In July, at the end of the financial year the program had over **52,179 beneficiaries**. The Bus fare subsidies program was **allocated a budget of \$6.7m** of which the program utilized 100% of the budget.

1.2.6 Cash Top Ups

The Fijian Government received a support of **\$4.2m** for its Social Protection Programs from the World Bank which was paid out as a top-up monthly payment to existing programs namely Poverty Benefit Scheme, Care and Protection, Disability Allowance, Social Pension Scheme, and the Rural Pregnant Mothers.

1.2.7 Fire Victim Grants

The Fire Victim Grants with a budget allocation of \$100,000, had assisted a total of **81 fire victims** with a sum of \$1,000 each.

1.2.8 Grants to Voluntary Organizations

The Non-governmental Grants **budget of \$200,000** (which is 83% utilisation) was awarded to Organizations that 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 1.4: 2021 - 2022 Grants to Voluntary Organizations

NGO	SERVICES	LOCATION	GRANT (\$)
Dilkusha Home	Children's Residential Home	Nausori	23,750
Veilomani Boys Home	Boys Residential Services	Ba	26,000
Salvation Army	Family Care Centre	Suva, Lautoka, Labasa	20,000
Saint Christophers Home	Children's Residential Home	Nausori	35,000
Treasure Home	Children's Residential Home	Nadi	33,320
Saint Tabitha Home	Children's Residential Home	Nadi	16,000
Empower Pacific	Social Services and Counselling Services	Suva, Lautoka, Labasa, Nadi, Sigatoka	20,000
GRANT TOTAL			\$174,070

1.3 OLDER PERSONS UNIT

The Older Persons Unit is responsible for coordinating and facilitating the legislative mandate as well as the policy aspects to promote the care, dignity and well-being of older persons in Fiji. For this Financial Year the NCOP received a total budget of \$160,000.00 and noted 80% utilization. Below are activities for this allocation.

1.3.1 National Council of Older Persons (NCOP)

The National Council of Older Persons (NCOP) provides grants to agencies that provide for the needs of older persons. For the financial year 2021 to 2022, there were 5 agencies that were given a **total grant of \$89,655.00**.

TABLE 1.5: 2021 - 2022 Grants to Organizations Supporting Older Persons

NGO	SERVICES	LOCATION	GRANT (\$)
Father Law Home	Aged Care	Suva	15,000
HART Nursing Home	Aged Care	Suva	15,000
Home of Compassion	Aged Care	Suva	15,000
Pearce Home	Aged Care	Suva	15,000
Senior Citizens Ba	Community Seniors Centre	Ba	29,655
TOTAL COMMITTED			\$89,655

District Communities for Older Persons (DCOPS)

Another activity under the Older Persons Unit is to ensure that there is awareness and advocacy for older persons within communities, for this, the Ministry is working towards establishing district committees. In the period 2021 to 2022, there had been 11 district consultation carried out.

The purpose of these consultations was to establish District Committees that will look into advocacy for older persons.

Tabulated below is the breakdown of advocacy and consultations towards the establishment of District Committees for Older Persons.

TABLE 1.6: Breakdown of Advocacy and Consultations for the Establishment of District Committees for Older Persons

CENTRAL DIVISION	
District	Number of Consultations
Navua	1
TOTAL	1

NORTHERN DIVISION	
District	Number of Consultations
Labasa	1
Nabouwalu	1
Taveuni	1
Savusavu	1
TOTAL	4

WESTERN DIVISION	
District	Number of Consultations
Ba	1
Tavua	1
Rakiraki	1
Lautoka	1
Sigatoka	1
Nadi	1
TOTAL	6

The outcome of the 11 consultations at district levels identified the key areas of concern for older persons in communities basically included:

- **Age friendly Bus access**, as most buses steps are too high.
- **Enabling environments and packages for Elders in each town/city**. Whereby, Elders can rest and recover before leaving for their destinations.
- **Inclusivity of Elders in discussions** on community development or national interest.
- **Inter-generational opportunities in districts and urban settings** to enable Elders to impart knowledge and skills based on their experiences.
- **Medical services to be more accessible**, mobile clinics to be also frequent and inclusive of the needs of Older Persons.



Enabling environments and packages for Elders in each Town and City.

1.3.2 Special bus for the Golden Age Home Lautoka

On 3rd March 2021, the **Government of Japan** had provided assistance worth up to FJ\$279,000 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)**. In order to procure a special bus retrofitted to serve the care sensitivities in the Home, the Ministry signed another Agreement with the PA Lal Trading Pte Limited in July 2021. The official launch was carried out on 15th June, 2022.





Hon. Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and Permanent Secretary attending a function for Older Persons.

1.4 DISABILITY SERVICES UNIT

1.4.1 Disability Allowance Scheme (DAS)

Ever since the inception the unit in 2017, the Ministry has facilitated the pay out of the Disability Allowance to its recipients. In the reporting financial year, the unit was allocated **\$10.6m** to cater for the program. This was paid out in different mode of payments, that is, through Banks, Manual Vouchers and Paymasters. Tabulated below is the utilization rate (97%):

TABLE 1.7: Disability Allowance Scheme Utilisation Rate

YEAR	BUDGET (\$)	UTILISATION (\$)
2017-2018	7,974,736.00	1,290,979.66
2018-2019	6,850,519.00	4,506,876.59
2019-2020	6,355,819.00	6,457,811.04
2020-2021	9,355,819.00	9,007,574.42
2021-2022	10,788,541.00	10,578,960.00

1.4.2 Grants to Organizations for Persons with Disabilities

A total of **\$738,815.23** was committed to six agencies complementing the work of the Department in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Fiji.



\$738,815
committed to
6 agencies.

1.4.3 Economic Empowerment Program

The Ministry was also provided a budget targeted at economic empowerment of persons with disabilities. Through the funding of **\$10,000** (utilisation rate of 86% of the allocated budget) there were 11 individuals assisted with seed grants.

TABLE 1.8: 2021 - 2022 Grants to Organizations Supporting Persons with Disabilities

NGO	LOCATION	GRANT (\$)
Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons	National Umbrella Body for Persons with Disabilities	Suva 488,000.00
Fiji Cripple Children's Society	Hostel	Suva 66,789.23
Harland Gospel School for the Deaf	Hostel	Suva 55,000.00
Fiji Society for the Blind	Hostel	Suva 45,000.00
United Blind Persons	Association	Suva 28,826.00
Viti Spinal Injury Association	Disability Service Provider	Suva 55,200.00
TOTAL COMMITTED		\$738,815.23

2 DEPARTMENT OF Women

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Department of Women identified as the National Women's' Machinery is the policy advisor to government and provides a national advocacy and coordination role in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The strategic priority areas of the Department for Women include:

- Ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG)
- Women Economic Empowerment (WEE)
- Gender Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (GCCDRR)

The thematic cross cutting strategic priority areas for the Department include:

- Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development
- Women and Girls leadership
- Promoting the availability and analysis of quality gender data and statistics and reports

2.2 ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The government recognizes the seriousness of issues of gender-based violence and violence against women and girls as the long-term socio activity as well as the long term socio-economic impact that it has on its communities and therefore is committed to build a society free from all forms of gender based discrimination and violence.

This will provide a pathway to participate fully alongside men and boys.

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

The consultation on the development of the Fiji National Action Plan continued ensuring a whole of government, whole of population approach. The goal and objectives of the consultations were to:



Launch of the NAP Progress Report at the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva

Generate high level findings that will inform the development of NAP:

- Enabling diverse stakeholders to provide advice, expertise and information; and
- Strengthening relationships and promoting engagement and ownership

The consultation progress report was launched on 9th December 2021 culminating with the Media Setting NAP Consultation.

Various NAP Consultations were also undertaken including the Justice and Legal Sector, amongst other settings in partnership with **UN Human Rights and UN Women**. With the development of the NAP, Secretariat and Technical Working Group continued to meet to provide technical guidance on the continuous NAP consultations.

2.2.2 Activity 2: Implementation of the National Service Delivery Protocol for Responding to Cases of Gender Based Violence

The **National Service Delivery protocol** is a response that makes sure survivors of gender-based violence receive appropriate, timely, and quality treatment. In order to guarantee that victims of gender-based violence, primarily women and girls, receive the best care and attention possible, the Protocol binds service providers to a standard set of principles and criteria.

In ensuring a coordination and governance of Multi-sector Services through effective implementation the following Service Delivery Protocol / Gender Based Violence Working Group at Divisional and District level were established:

TABLE 2.1: Service Delivery Protocol / Gender Based Violence Working Group at Divisional and District Level

DISTRICT	DATE
Northern Division	Labasa (18/11/21)
Cakaudrove District	Savusavu (23/11/21)
Bua District	Nabowalu (30/11/21)
Western Division	Lautoka (07/07/22)
Rakiraki District	Rakiraki (19/07/22)
Tavua District	Tavua (26/07/22)
Ba District	Ba (18/07/22)
Nadi District	Nadi (14/07/22)

The following activities were undertaken as part of implementation and socializing of the National Service Delivery Protocol for Responding to Cases of Gender Based Violence. Continuous distribution of Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials were distributed to service providers as a means of information sharing, update on gender-based violence services and access to the justice system. The work around convening of the costed consultation Work plan provided an opportunity to finalize a work plan with budget for the implementation of the SDP/ GBV Working Group at Divisional and District level.

TABLE 2.2: Events for National Service Delivery Protocol for Responding to Cases of Gender Based Violence

EVENT DETAILS:

Division & Date: National (14th December 2021)

Venue: Tanoa Plaza

Event: National GBV Service Providers Preparedness Meeting

Stakeholders: Government and non-government organizations

TABLE 2.2: Events for National Service Delivery Protocol for Responding to Cases of Gender Based Violence (continued)

EVENT DETAILS:

Division & Date: Eastern (12 – 29 May 2022)

Venue: Lau Group – Oneata, Kabara, Moce, Namuka-i-lau, Ogea islands.

Stakeholders: Ministry of Health and Medical Services & Fiji Police Force

EVENT DETAILS:

Division & Date: National (Ongoing quarterly)

Venue: Zoom Platform

Event: Costed Consultation Work plan Meeting

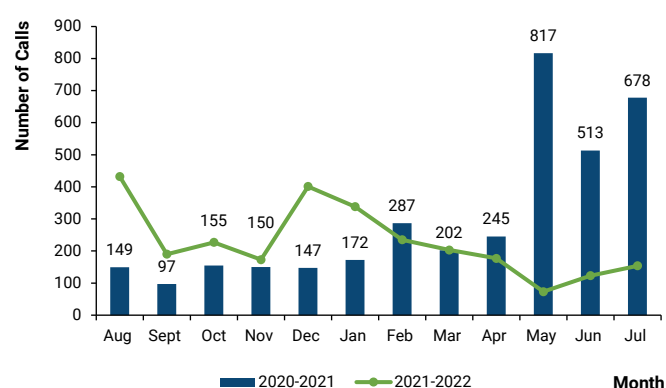
Stakeholders: Department of Women & UN Women

A total of 1,314 (48%) calls were referred to other agencies to respond accordingly to the callers need.



\$200,000
to Fiji Women's
Crisis Centre
for DV Helpline

FIGURE 2.1: Number of Calls on DV Helpline 2020 - 2022



2.2.3 Activity 3: Administration of the Grants for the Safe Shelter for Survivors of Gender Based Violence

A total of **\$100,000** was provided to the **Homes of Hope**. The Homes of Hope is a residential campus providing long term restorative care services including lodging care, vocational training Programme, therapeutic counselling classes and sports sessions for girls, young women and children who are victims or vulnerable to forced sex. From January to July 2022, a total of 7 survivors and 13 vulnerable community girls.



\$100,000 to
Homes of Hope
for Restorative
Care Services



2,726
Genuine Calls
81% Females
19% Males

2.2.4 Activity 4: Administration of the Grants for the Domestic Violence Toll Free Helpline

A total of **\$200,000** was distributed to the **Fiji Women's Crisis Centre** for the administration of the National Domestic Violence 24-hour toll-free helpline. The Helpline provides a quick and direct access to helpline workers who assist callers refer them to counselling organizations and referral services for assistance. In the 2021 – 2022 financial year, 2,726 genuine calls were received at the Helpline. Of these, 2,202 (81%) are female and 524 (19%) are male.



2.3 WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (WEE)

The **Women Economic Empowerment** desk in this fiscal year aimed at strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems that foster women's entrepreneurship, enhance women entrepreneurs' access to capital through innovative financing mechanisms, and increase women entrepreneurs' use of ICT through relevant training and tools through the Catalyzing Women Entrepreneurship.

The desk also looked at strengthening internal guidelines related to WEE projects and coordinated the review of the next Fiji National Women's Expo through the development of the 6th Fiji National Women's Expo concept Paper.

The desk administered the disbursement of Grants to identified institutions that provide skills training to vulnerable women and selected NGO.

2.3.1 Activity 1: Grants to Women's Institutions

The following Women's Organizations were given grants to assist them provide practical and strategic needs training to women.

TABLE 2.3: Grant's to Women's Institutions

NAME	AREAS OF ASSISTANCE	GRANT (\$)
Ba Women's Forum	Home art, computing skills, cooking and baking and floral arts	40,000
Makoi Vocational	8 weeks of training for women in cooking and baking, home art, hydroponic farming with 2 batches of up to 100 women running simultaneously.	40,000
Almanah Hope Centre (Life Bred)	Self-care and self-development, financial wellbeing and leadership training.	40,000
Homes of Hope	Residential campus providing restorative care services including lodging care, vocational training program, therapeutic counselling classes and sports sessions.	100,000
TOTAL		\$220,000



Makoi Vocational Centre Trainees graduating at the graduation marking the end of their training with Hon. Minister, Rosy Akbar.

2.3.2 Activity 2: Grants to Non-Government Organizations

The Catholic Women's Group received **\$17,000** to conduct a workshop on Post Strategic planning and Constitution Workshop with 91 women's participant as part of their Institutional Strengthening.

2.3.3 Activity 3: Review of the Fiji National Women's Expo

The Fiji National Women's Expo seeks to provide a substantial platform to recognize and empower women artisans from around the country.

In reviewing the Fiji National Women's Expo, the following documents were developed for the reconvening of the Divisional and the National Women's Expo:

- National Women's Expo and Divisional Expo Concept Note
- Workplan

2.3.4 Activity 4: Project on Catalyzing Women Entrepreneurship (CWE)

The Ministry through the Department of Women in **partnership with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)** continue to implement CWE) with the financial support from the government of Canada.

The five-year Project aim to create an enabling policy and business environment that enhances women entrepreneurs' access to capital through innovative financing mechanisms as well as increase their use of ICT and digital solutions. The following were undertaken:

- Convened the Women Entrepreneurship Working Group and Project Coordination Support
- Completion of the Rapid Assessment on Enabling Policy Environment for Women Entrepreneurs Report
- Completion of the Gender Responsive Micro Small Medium Enterprise Policy Report
- Development of Case Studies of women at the Flea Market and Training Report
- Conduct 3 Training of Trainers on E-Commerce and Digital Marketing to Women Entrepreneurs
- Contracting local consultant to undertake the Action Research with 80 Suva Flea Market Vendors with:

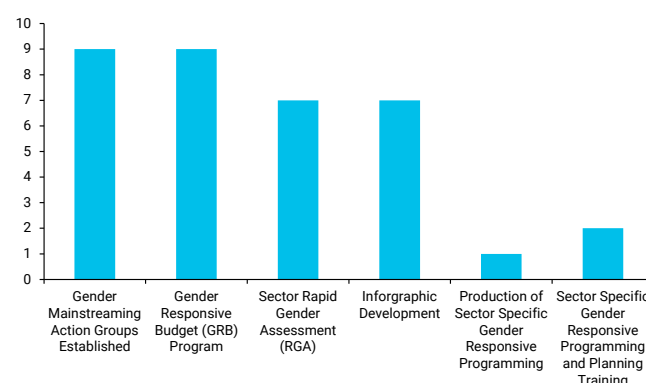
- Consultancy EOI Developed and advertised.
- Terms of Reference Developed and distributed
- Concept Paper developed with even applications received

2.3.5 Activity 5: Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development

The overall objective of the Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD), a **"whole of government"** initiative, is to improve technical expertise, competence, and resources on transformative gender mainstreaming throughout government institutions.

Below are the activities undertaken for the year with the support of the New Zealand government and the government of Canada.

FIGURE 2.2 ICD Activities Undertaken 2021 - 2022



The year also noted the continuous training of the Lead Facilitators from the Ministry of Economy and Department of Women facilitated by Fiji Women's Rights Movement. As a result, Lead Facilitators continue to facilitate **2 trainings to 8 Ministries** namely:

- Ministry of Agriculture;
- Ministry of Fisheries;
- Ministry of Forests;
- Ministry of Education Heritage and Arts;
- Ministry of Youth and Sports;
- Ministry of Commerce, Trade Tourism and Transport;
- Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation;
- Department of Social Welfare and Poverty Monitoring Unit); and
- Fiji Police Force

On the 2nd June the Ministry in partnership with Stakeholders from government, donor's agencies and Non-government Organizations launched the **Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) Knowledge Product**, and the phase one completion report. The knowledge product series of the ICD includes achievements and analysis in key sectors and settings. It is intended to showcase Fiji's considerable accomplishments, emphasize the remaining issues, and present crucial recommendations while also providing Gender Mainstreaming Action Groups (GMAGs), Lead Gender Trainers, and government officials in particular with pertinent information and gender analysis across different sectors and situations. The team was invited to attend the High Level Breakfast organized by the Ministry of Foreign affairs and trade, New Zealand. This meeting included the Hon. Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Attorney General and Hon. Minister for Economy, Fiji along with Hon. Minister MCTTT and Hon. Minister MWCPA and also the respective Permanent Secretary and representatives for the 9 pilot GMAGS. The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Hon Jacinda Arden conveyed her appreciation for the technical assistance used and the continued technical assistance by her government to the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation.



2.4 STRENGTHENING GENDER CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (GCCDRR)

As storms, floods, droughts, and other climatic dangers become increasingly frequent and severe in Fiji, gender equality and women's empowerment become even more crucial. Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and natural disasters because of persistent gender inequities and social norms. But for a society-wide strategy to increase the resilience of families, communities, and the nation overall, their participation and leadership are essential.

2.4.1 Activity 1: Construction of the Fiji Barefoot College

Fiji Barefoot College which is a solar electrification training centre is envisioned to train rural women in solar engineering to solar electrify rural communities. The initiative is to empower rural women in Fiji to be solar engineers, build local capacity and electrify "off-the-grid" communities with clean, low-cost solar energy. A total of **\$1.4 million** was utilized for the construction of the Barefoot College.

2.4.2 Activity 2: Women's Resilience to Disaster (WRD) Programme

With the support of the **Government of Australia**, the Women's Resilience to Disasters (WRD) programme is implemented with a comprehensive package to strengthen the resilience of women and girls with the goal of ensuring that the lives and livelihoods of women and girls are resilient to disasters and threats, contributing to sustainable, secure, and thriving communities.

The Women's Resilience to Disaster (WRD Fiji) programme is being delivered through the joint implementation and partnership of the UNWOMEN Fiji Multi-Country Office (MCO), Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty Alleviation (MWCPA), the Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and the Ministry of Economy's Climate Change Division.

Key milestones in partnership with the Ministry includes:

TABLE 2.4: Key Milestones

KEY ACTIVITIES / EVENT	MONTH
■ Launch of the Women's Resilience to Disaster Programme on 8th March 2022	March 2022
■ Interagency meetings with key focal points with the government ministry to discuss and develop the WRD Country Work Plan.	May 2022
■ CSO Consultation Workshop to present and discuss the Draft WRD Country Work Plan.	May 2022
■ Established and convened the WRD National Programme Management Committee – Permanent Secretary for MWCPA (Chairperson) and Director of MWCPA (Co-Chair)	June 2022

2.5 COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS TREATIES AND OBLIGATION

The following event were attended by the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Allegation as part of the government through obligations.

- 66th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women in New York
- Chaired the inaugural Pacific Island Forum Women Leaders Meeting

At National and local level, the Department continues to commemorate and celebrate the success and highlight the struggles of women and girls through the following events:

- **International Women's Day** is on 8th March. It is a day of celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. For the year, the day was part of the launch of the Women's Resilience to Disaster programme held at the Grand Pacific Hotel organized by the Ministry through the Department of Women in partnership with UN Women.
- **Menstrual Hygiene Day is commemorated annually on 28th May.** It is an opportunity to highlight the importance of menstrual care and raise awareness about the issue faced by those who don't have access to sanitary products. Also access to safe, hygiene spaces in which to use them, and the right to manage menstruation without shame or stigma. The event which was held on Saturday 27th May at St Joseph Secondary School was jointly organised by UNFPA, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Department of Women and other key Stakeholders.

■ **Rural Women's' Day is celebrated on 15th October.**

The day highlights the crucial role that women and girls play in ensuring the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and overall wellbeing. The Department celebrated the event by publishing women's success stories in the field of economic empowerment and leadership.

■ **16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence from 25th November to 10th December.**

The 16 Days period provides an opportunity to raise awareness about gender-based violence, challenge discriminatory attitudes and call for improved laws and services to end violence against women for good. A notable event was the launch of the Women's' Friendly space on the 25th of November in Dreketi by the Hon. Minister Akbar. The space allows women and girls to have a safe space for women and girls where they can receive information on Family planning, reproductive health and maternal health issues and gender-based violence issues.

- The Department for Women also commemorate Pinktober to create awareness and educate women and the public at large about cancer. To honor those that have passed on, the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation visited 2 families that have lost their mother from breast cancer and provide support with groceries worth \$1,000 and school items for the children. To support the work undertaken creating awareness and providing rehabilitation support.

3 POVERTY Monitoring Unit

The Poverty Monitoring Unit is mandated to monitor, evaluate and report on the impact and progress of Governments Poverty Alleviation Programmes through:

- i. Consultation with Poverty Alleviation Programme implementers
- ii. Conduct research and prepare feedback report on Government Poverty Alleviation Programmes
- iii. Provide policy briefs to the Honorable Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

3.1 OUTPUT 1: Integrated National Poverty Eradication Programme (INPEP) – coordination, structures, mechanisms, framework, and systems are established and Review & Development of the INPEP Framework (2022-2026)

The Unit received fourteen written submissions from implementing line agencies on the support of the proposed establishment of the National Coordinating Body for Poverty Alleviation. The Agencies that provided their support are namely:

- i. Office of the Prime Minister
- ii. Ministry of Economy
- iii. Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources
- iv. Ministry of Sugar Industry
- v. Ministry of Agriculture
- vi. Ministry of Rural, Maritime Development
- vii. Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism
- viii. Ministry of Infrastructure and Meteorological Services
- ix. Ministry of Fisheries
- x. Ministry of Employment Productivity and Industrial Relations

- xi. Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs
- xii. Ministry of Defense and National Security
- xiii. Ministry of Forestry
- xiv. Ministry of Education, Heritage, and Arts

3.2 OUTPUT 2: Monitoring & Evaluation of Government's Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) under the INPEP – are analyzed and disseminated.

KOBO Tool Box Application In-House Capacity Building

As part of PMU's monitoring and evaluation output was to review its processes. The team had deliberated on areas that would make monitoring and evaluation work more efficient. An area of consideration was the introduction of the Kobo Toolbox online application where the team would shift from using paper questionnaires to using online questionnaires. Initially the team had practical knowledge on the use of the Kobo on-line questionnaire as the PMU team were part of the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) organized by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to monitor cash top assistance to social welfare recipients affected by TC Harold in the 28 identified affected areas. Incorporating the Kobo Toolbox application into the Units M & E work, the team underwent Kobo training through the support of the Ministry of Agriculture officials and UN WFP.

There are various aspects that were discussed during the Kobo toolbox training which included the following:

1. Questionnaire Design (flow of questionnaires, understanding various logics when linking questions).
2. Data gathering (survey teams need to understand the importance of capturing accurate data).
3. Data cleaning (verifying the responses with the survey team).
4. Linking coordinates obtained from the survey to the Arc GIS Software.
5. Tabulation plan and report writing.

Inter-Agency Consultation

The Team began preparatory works on the monitoring and evaluation of Governments Poverty Alleviation Programmes by holding a series of pocket consultations with nine (9) agencies namely:



The aim of the consultation was to:

- Gather baseline information on the various Government Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) identified and monitored by the invited Ministries for the past five (5) years;
- Discuss the Draft INPEP Impact Assessment Questionnaires using KOBO Tool, a new survey tool adopted by PMU planned to be used in this FY and beyond; and
- Strengthen collaboration and networking with Government Ministries in preparation to our FY 2021-22 INPEP survey.

The outcome of the discussions enabled the team to develop the boundaries of the survey where 8 Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) from the three (3) Ministries were identified to be monitored as follows:

TABLE 3.1 Monitoring of Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) from Government Ministries

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTER	NAME OF PROGRAMME MONITORED
■ Ministry of Rural, Maritime Development & Disaster Management	Community Access Road, Footpath, Footbridges Programme
	Self Help Programme
■ Ministry of Fisheries	Seaweed Development Programme
	Aquaculture Food Security Programme
■ Ministry of Agriculture	Rural Outer Island Development Programme
	Export Promotion Programme
	Dairy Industry Support Food Security Programme

The Programmes mentioned above were monitored in the Eastern and Northern Division respectively with a total of 134 projects monitored in the Eastern Division and 211 projects monitored in the Northern Division.



Ms Elenoa Koroinasau and Mr Davetanivalu interviewing a beneficiary in Bua



Discussions with Fiji Bureau of Statistics on the INPEP Questionnaire indicators

PMU Process Re-engineering Workshop

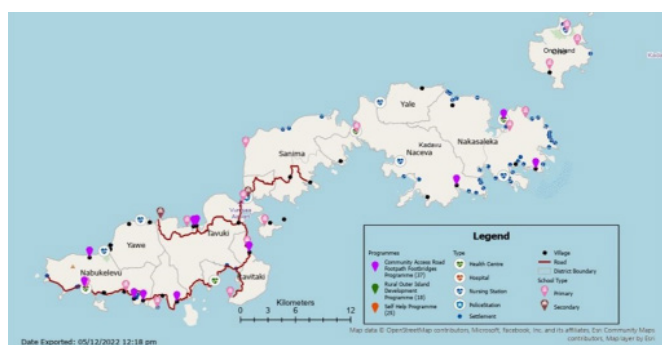
Towards the end of the financial year, the PMU had organized a process re-engineering workshop where guest speakers from our Development Partners and Line Ministries shared on the work they carry out and how it can complement PMU's role. The workshop was opened by Economists from the World Bank who talked about how poverty is being measured globally and putting into context Fiji's measure on poverty.

In addition, the Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FiBOS) also provided brief background on the Household Income Expenditure Survey (HIES) and how they have changed their 2019/2020 HIES survey methodology to meet international standards. In addition, FiBOS had conducted a short sampling exercise for the participants, just to give a brief understanding how sampling is carried out.

The Ministry of iTaukei Affairs had also presented on village itaukei setting by sharing the best practices on Capacity Building Programmes for villages. The main gist of the presentation was having a collaborative approach from the bottom-up in order to ensure that the formulation of any Integrated Village Development Plan is inclusive. Finally, the workshop was concluded by the Ministry of Agriculture statistics team who provided a refresher course to the technical staff on the data processing steps when exporting raw data from the Kobo Database.

3.3 OUTPUT 3: Data gathering for baseline information and analysis on Poverty Alleviation Programmes are updated and disseminated.

Geographic Information System Mapping of the Eastern and Northern Division INPEP Survey monitored sites.



Geographic Information System Mapping

3.4 OUTPUT 4: Effective representation, participation and networking with Stakeholders on PAP, is strengthened and enhanced.

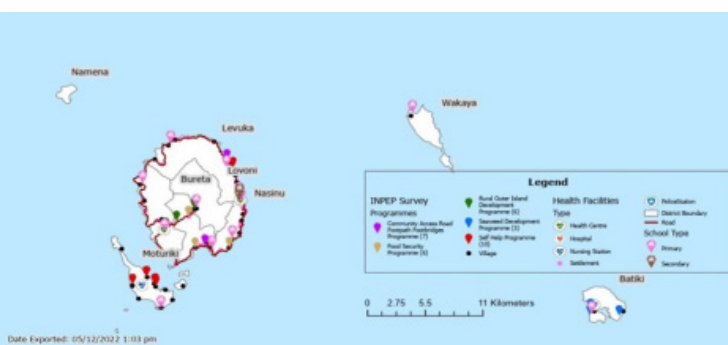
The Unit participated in various key Sectoral engagements which included the inputs into the review of various policy documents. Such engagements included:

- i. Review of the 2018 National Employment Policy.
- ii. Consultation with the Adaptive Social Protection Consultant on an “Adaptive Social Protection Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- iii. Reviving of the “Integrated Rural Development Framework” with the Ministry of Rural Maritime Development and National Disaster Management
- iv. Civil Registration Vital Statistics (CRVS) First National Capacity Building Workshop Assessing Inequalities in Registration – 21st to 25th March 2022.
- v. World Bank – Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Welfare Graduation Programme Meeting
- vi. World Food Programme Partnerships for Critical Markets Assessment.
- vii. Institutional Capacity Development Gender Mainstreaming Action Group Training.

3.5 OUTPUT 5: Conduct Awareness on Poverty Alleviation programmes.

Commemoration of the 2021 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The Unit commemorated the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17th October through mass media publicity. Part of this publicity involved center spread message on October 17 in the Fiji Sun, ITC mass email, social media updates and uploading of success stories.



4 CORPORATE Services Division

4.1 Functions

Administration of the Constitutional Functions in compliance with Civil Service policies and guidelines:

- Human Resources Management
- Assets Management
- Finance

4.2 Services

Corporate services:

- Appointments, removal and institute disciplinary action
- Determine terms and conditions of employment in compliance with Labour laws inclusive of staff benefits: leave management, compensation, etc.
- Staff establishment of the Ministry
- Qualification requirement for appointment
- Uphold the principles and values of State services.
- Workforce Management & Plans
- Performance management
- Learning and training
- Succession planning
- Support for Strategic Planning
- Workforce Plans
- Events
- Asset Management including fleet.
- Budget planning and utilisation in compliance with Finance Regulations

FIGURE 4.1 Staff Establishment (Approved Numbers)

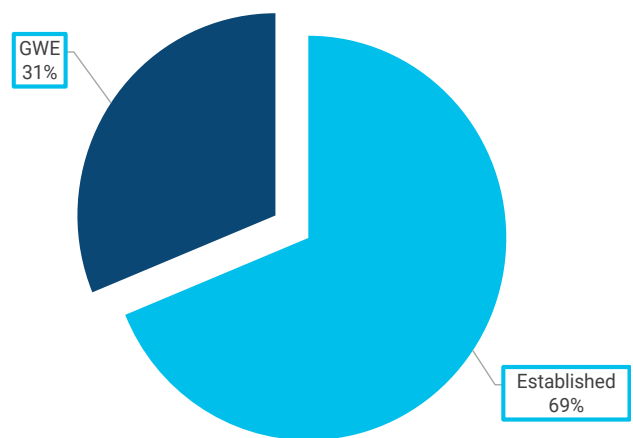
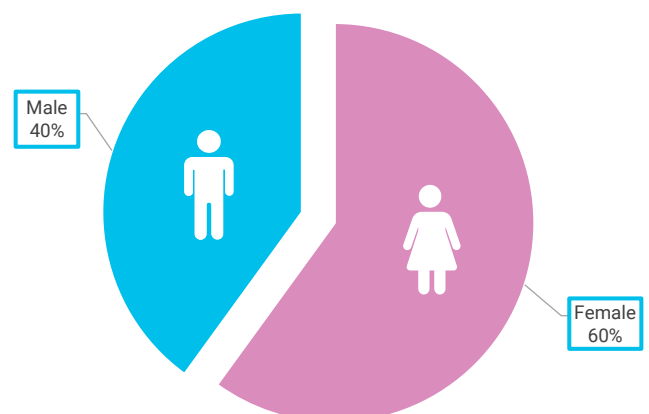


FIGURE 4.2 Gender Distribution





The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation bid farewell to Director of Social Welfare, Mr. Rupeni Fatiaki.

TABLE 4.1 Staff Establishment

CADRE	APPROVED	FILLED	VACANT	NO. OF TR
Established	291	157	31	103
GWE	132	102	8	22

TABLE 4.2 Gender Distribution

PROGRAM	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
Policy & Administration	58	46	104
Poverty Monitoring Unit	8	5	13
Institutional Services	3	17	20
Field Services	81	43	124
Senior Citizens	46	33	79
Women & Gender	24	13	37
TOTAL	217 (60%)	142 (40%)	359

TABLE 4.3 Recruitment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of positions advertised – 159 Number of interviews conducted – 115 Number of positions filled – 93 Number of Positions advertised – 65 Number of Appeals – 5 Number Upheld – 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of Employment Contracts – 13 Extension of Temporary Appointments – 94 New Employment Contracts – 93 New Temporary Appointments – 26 Extension of Acting Appointments – 28
--	---

TABLE 4.4 Training

TYPE OF TRAINING	NUMBER
Training Conducted	49
Number of Officers trained	253
OHS Training	9

TABLE 4.5 Disciplinary Cases

OFFICE	NUMBER
Accounts	2
FJRDC	1
Department of Women	1
Social Welfare Field Office	1
Samabula GAH	1
Older Persons Unit (HQ)	1
TOTAL	7

TABLE 4.6 Exits

TYPE	NUMBER
"No Jab No Job" Policy	8
End of Contract	9
Deemed Resignations	1
Resignations	30
Deaths	2
TOTAL	50

SECTION 2

Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2022

- 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



Level 1, Modyl Plaza
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Website: <http://www.oag.gov.fj>



File: 623

15 August 2023

The Honourable Lynda Tabuya
Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection
Civic Tower
SUVA

Dear Honourable Tabuya

MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 JULY 2022

The audited financial statements of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the year ended 31 July 2022 together with my audit report 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 action.

Yours sincerely

Sairusi Dukuno
ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL

cc: Mrs. Eseta Nadakuitavuki – The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection, Suva.

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

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation which comprise the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses for the financial year ended 31 July 2022, 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 and Poverty Alleviation are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010.

Basis of 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 of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation* in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for 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 my other ethical 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 the following matters:

- Established Staff and Government Wage Earners costs in the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure. An unreconciled variance of \$189,658 and \$106,990 existed between the FMIS general ledger and the Ministry's payroll report for Established Staff and Government Wage Earners respectively.
- Note 7 of the financial statements disclosed the Revolving Fund Account closing balance of \$46,978 as at 31 July 2022. The amount includes carried forward balance of \$45,658 or 97% which have been carried forward from prior year comprising of accountable advance issued to Officers which was not retired on time.

My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Other Matter

The Ministry does not have an electronic system for processing of applications for Social Protection Schemes. There is also no backup maintained for digitizing of records.

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.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation's financial reporting process.

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 judgement 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 of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management of 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
15 August 2023

MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

Management Certificate

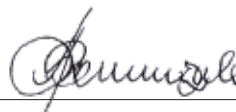
We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the year ended 31 July 2022; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010.



Mrs. Eseta Nadakuitavuki
Permanent Secretary

Date: 11 / 08 / 2023



Mrs. Venina Duvuduvukula
Principal Accounts Officer

Date: 11 / 08 / 2023

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

	Note	31 July 2022 (\$)	31 July 2021 (\$)
REVENUE			
STATE REVENUE:			
Operating Revenue	3(a)	12,702	11,499
Total State Revenue		12,702	11,499
AGENCY REVENUE:			
Miscellaneous Revenue	3(b)	1,680	15,528
Total Agency Revenue		1,680	15,528
TOTAL REVENUE		14,382	27,027
EXPENDITURE			
OPERATING EXPENDITURE:			
Established Staff	3(c)	7,247,437	7,203,282
Government Wage Earners	3(d)	1,868,785	2,038,611
Travel & Communication	3(e)	405,425	277,032
Maintenance & Operations	3(f)	1,027,377	863,917
Purchase of Goods & Services	3(g)	3,483,694	3,145,899
Operating Grants & Transfers	3(h)	117,819,421	111,186,939
Special Expenditure	3(i)	646,409	7,223,538
Total Operating Expenditure		132,498,548	131,939,218
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:			
Capital Construction	3(j)	1,755,641	2,632,879
Capital Purchases	3(k)	13,498	-
Capital Grants & Transfers	3(l)	81,000	78,000
Total Capital Expenditure		1,850,139	2,710,879
Value Added Tax	3(m)	424,249	396,601
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		134,772,936	135,046,698

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

SEG	ITEM	Budget Estimate	Appropriation Changes	Revised Estimate (a)	Actual Expenditure (b)	Lapsed Appropriation (a-b) Note 4
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)
OPERATING EXPENDITURE						
1	Established Staff	7,960,446	(112,216)	7,848,230	7,247,437	600,793
2	Government Wages Earners	1,922,321	112,216	2,034,537	1,868,785	165,752
3	Travel & Communication	293,000	127,900	420,900	405,425	15,475
4	Maintenance & Operations	996,146	91,905	1,088,051	1,027,377	60,674
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	4,272,368	(142,666)	4,129,702	3,483,694	646,008
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	116,148,741	2,392,920	118,541,661	117,819,421	722,240
7	Special Expenditure	916,954	(35,139)	881,815	646,409	235,406
	Total Operating Expenditure	132,509,976	2,434,920	134,944,896	132,498,548	2,446,348
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
8	Capital Construction	4,596,796	(2,028,527)	2,568,269	1,755,641	812,628
9	Capital Purchase	250,000	(205,345)	44,655	13,498	31,157
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	100,000	---	100,000	81,000	19,000
	Total Capital Expenditure	4,946,796	(2,233,872)	2,712,924	1,850,139	862,785
13	Value Added Tax	1,005,700	(201,048)	804,652	424,249	380,403
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		138,462,472	---	138,462,472	134,772,936	3,689,536

STATEMENT OF LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

Loss of Money

There was no loss of money recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2022.

Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2022.

Loss (other than money)

The Board of Survey for 2022 was carried out for the financial year ended 31 July 2022. There were no reported loss (other than money) recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2022. However, following the 2021 - 2022 Board of Survey, the items worth \$232,350 were written off as approved by Permanent Secretary for Economy.

CATEGORY	AMOUNT (\$)
Furniture & Other Machinery	100,059
IT Equipment	132,291
Total	232,350

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

TRUST FUND ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

	Note	31 July 2022 (\$)	31 July 2021 (\$)
OPENING BALANCE		189,972	189,987
RECEIPTS:			
Revenue		---	---
Total Receipts		189,972	189,987
PAYMENTS:			
Bank Fees		---	15
HFH Fund returned to Ministry of Finance		189,972	---
Total Payments		189,972	15
CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31 JULY 2022	(9)	---	189,972

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation oversees national policies and programmes that create an inclusive social safety net for Fiji's most vulnerable groups and ensure they are cared for, empowered and included in our ongoing national prosperity.

The Ministry oversees the three Departments: Department of Social Welfare, Department of Women and the Poverty Monitoring Unit. Government is committed to reducing poverty to a negligible level and these Departments further that cause by breaking down barriers erected by gender, age, disability and economic standing.

The Department of Social Welfare administers Fiji's recently-reformed Social Welfare programs, which include the Poverty Benefit Scheme, the Child Protection Allowance, the Food Voucher Program, the Social Pension Scheme. In managing these programmes, the Department is responsible for ensuring that assistance targets those most in need and eliminating corruption and fraud in the system. The Department is equally committed to ensuring that these programmes do not create a culture of dependency, focussing efforts and energy on graduating individuals and families from "welfare to workfare" through its Welfare Graduation Program and Executive Support Unit Projects. The Department also has the statutory responsibility to ensure the protection and well-being of children, which includes managing Juveniles centres. The Ministry manages the three state owned homes for senior citizens and leads the National Council for Older Persons (NCOP) and the National Coordinating Committee for Children (NCCC). In partnership with the Australian Government and the World Bank, the Department aims to Social Adaptive MIS system designed to enhance its Social Protection Programmes and serve as a platform for extension of support during natural shocks and disasters.

The Department of Women and Children is responsible for mainstreaming gender in the public service through the National Gender Policy and does so by promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls through the implementation of the National Women's Plan of Action. The National Women's Plan of Action is aimed at boosting women's employment opportunities, increasing women's participation in decision-making, eliminating violence against women and girls, improving women's access to basic services, and addressing women's issues in new legislation. The Department works with other Ministries to promote gender equality and ensure that gender perspectives are addressed in all Government policies and initiatives.

The Poverty Monitoring Unit evaluates Governments poverty-related programmes and makes policy recommendations to the Ministry and Cabinet. The Unit is committed to ensuring that all such programmes deliver tangibles outcomes that improve livelihoods and reduce poverty.

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

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

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 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.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued...) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED....)

(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) Revenue Recognition

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

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- (a) The State Revenue increased by \$1,203 or 10% in 2022 compared to 2021 due to commission which is deducted at source from insurance premium payable and other credit institutions payable.
- (b) The Miscellaneous Revenue decreased by \$13,848 or 89% in 2022 compared to 2021 due to reduction in number of return invalid bank accounts and decess accounts received from the Bank for Social Protection Programme recipients.
- (c) The Established Staff cost increased by \$44,155 or 1% in 2022 compared to 2021 due to new request of vacant positions with its FNPF contribution 6%.
- (d) The Government Wage Earners cost decreased by \$169,822 or 8% in 2022 compared to 2021 due to correct alignment of vacant positions against P2P and filling.
- (e) The Travel & Communication cost increased by \$128,393 or 46% in 2022 compared to 2021. The increase was due to travelling undertaken by the Ministry's staff, increase in meal allowance from \$10 to \$15 and increase in telecommunication costs. The increase is also due to outsourcing of Travel to the Taxi Vendors.
- (f) The Maintenance & Operations cost increased by \$163,456 or 19% in 2022 compared to 2021 due to increase of payment in expenditure for maintenance of the Ministry vehicle and fuel cost, power supply and water sewerage.
- (g) The Purchasing of Goods & Services increased by \$337,795 or 11 % in 2022 compared to 2021 due to commission charges for fees paid to Banks for monthly Social Protection Programme Pay out, purchase of IT, Furniture equipment and also the cost of structure and cabling for the new office at Service Worker Building.
- (h) The Operating Grants and Transfers increased by \$6,632,482 or 6% in 2022 compared to 2021 due to increase in payment for Social Protection Programmes, monthly pay out to the recipients and increase of E-Ticketing Bus Fare Concession for Senior Citizens and Persons Living with Disability.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued...) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS (CONTINUED....)

- (i) Special expenditures decreased by \$6,577,129 or 91% in 2022 compared to 2021. This decrease 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 for 2020-2021 financial year.
- (j) Capital Construction decreased by \$877,238 or 33% in 2022 compared to 2021. This decrease was due to reduction of payment expenditure pay out for Construction of Barefoot College and refurbishment of aged care facility in Labasa.
- (k) Capital Purchase increased by \$13,498 or 100% in 2022 compared to 2021. This increase was due to procurement of furniture's for refurbishment of Aged Care facility in Labasa.
- (l) The Capital Grants and Transfers increased by \$3,000 or 4% in 2022 compared to 2021 was due to funding to Fire Victims recipients based on as and when fire occurs.
- (m) The Value Added Tax increased by \$27,648 or 7% in 2022 compared to 2021 mainly due to increase in VAT charge activities.

NOTE 4: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

No.	Expenditure	Revised Budget (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Savings (\$)	Percentage Savings (%)
(a)	Purchase of Goods & Services	4,129,702	3,483,694	646,008	16%
(b)	Operating Grants & Transfers	118,541,661	117,819,421	722,240	1%
(c)	Special Expenditure	881,815	646,409	235,406	27%
(d)	Capital Construction	2,568,269	1,755,641	812,628	32%

a) The savings under Purchase of Goods & Services (SEG 5) was due to the following:

- (i) Technical Assistance - SPP Reform - \$87,824 is due to late recruitment of technical team to undertake a detailed review of the six key social assistance schemes administered by the Department of Social Welfare which include Management Information Systems for each scheme.
- (ii) Commission charges -\$520,563 is due to less fees debited to Bank for pay out of the monthly Social Protection Programme and redeem food vouchers for Post Fiji.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued...)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

NOTE 4: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS (CONTINUED....)

b) The savings under Operating Grants & Transfers (SEG 6) was due to the following:

- (i) Grants to Organization with Disability's savings of \$63,577 was due to late receiving of acquittals, audit report and narratives from the Disability Provider Organizations that causes the delay in releasing fund.
- (ii) Food Voucher for Rural Pregnant Mothers savings of \$48,700 was due to late encashment of food vouchers by the recipients in various Post Fiji outlets and also late booking receive from Health Centres.
- (iii) Allowance for Person with Disability savings of \$302,592 was due to high staff turnover that resulted in one of the budget component activity not being implemented.
- (iv) Women's Institution saving of \$180,000 was due to incomplete tender progress whereby the second bidder did not provide full information as requested.

c) The Savings under Special Expenditure (SEG 7) was due to the following:

- (i) Social Welfare Management Information System (DFAT) savings of \$150,000 is due to late recruitment of the technical team to undertake a detailed technical report of the system for each scheme towards automating/ digitizing key business processes and scope for improved interoperability.

d) The savings under Capital Construction (SEG 8) was due to the following:

- (i) Construction of Aged Care Facility savings of \$453,643 was due to the project lapsed into defect liability period.
- (ii) Construction of Barefoot College savings of \$339,476 is due to variation of the completion of the project which has been deferred to the next financial year.

NOTE 5: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION CHANGES

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

Journal Number	From	To	Amount (\$)
V24001	SEG 8	SEG6	2,434,920
	SEG 9		
	SEG 13		

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

Journal Number	From	To	Amount (\$)
V24002	SEG 1	SEG 1	107,873
	SEG 2	SEG 2	112,216

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2022

NOTE 5: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION CHANGES (CONTINUED....)

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

Virement No.	From	To	Amount (\$)
DV2403	SEG 6	SEG 6	720,000
DV2404	SEG 4	SEG 4	6,454
	SEG 7	SEG 5	10,959
DV2405	SEG 5	SEG 3	48,000
	SEG 6	SEG 4	44,000
	SEG 7	SEG 13	6,750
	SEG 13		
DV2406	SEG 4	SEG 13	75,000
	SEG 5	SEG 4	85,000
	SEG 6		
DV2407	SEG 6	SEG 6	795,066
DV2408	SEG 4	SEG 3	4,900
	SEG 6	SEG 4	9,149
		SEG 6	3,476
		SEG 7	78,736

There was no redeployment funds during the financial year for the Ministry.

NOTE 6: OPERATING TRUST ACCOUNT

As at 31 July 2022, the Ministry had a credit balance of \$105,465 in the Operating Trust Account.

NOTE 7: REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNT

As at 31 July 2022, the Ministry had a balance of \$46,978 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 \$46,714 in the Drawings Account. These monies were related to Electronic Fund Transfer process done by the Ministry that were yet to be processed by the Bank.

NOTE 9: MAIN TRUST ACCOUNT - HELP FOR HOME TRUST

As at 31 July, 2022 the Ministry had closed the True Trust Account named MWCPA T/ A Help for Home Trust (HFH). 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.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN & POVERTY ALLEVIATION

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