

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 2023

FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD
1 AUGUST 2022 - 31 JULY 2023



Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

2023

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

VISION STATEMENT

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Families and Communities supported through Social Protection Initiatives and Gender Mainstreaming Programs.

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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REFERRAL LETTER

Hon. Lynda Tabuya

Minister for Women, Children & Social Protection
Level 1, Naibati House
Goodenough Street
Suva

Dear Madam,

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the financial year 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023 for the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection.

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 for Ministry of Women, Children & Social Protection

CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection 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 Governments Social Protection Programme

Statutory Obligations under the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection

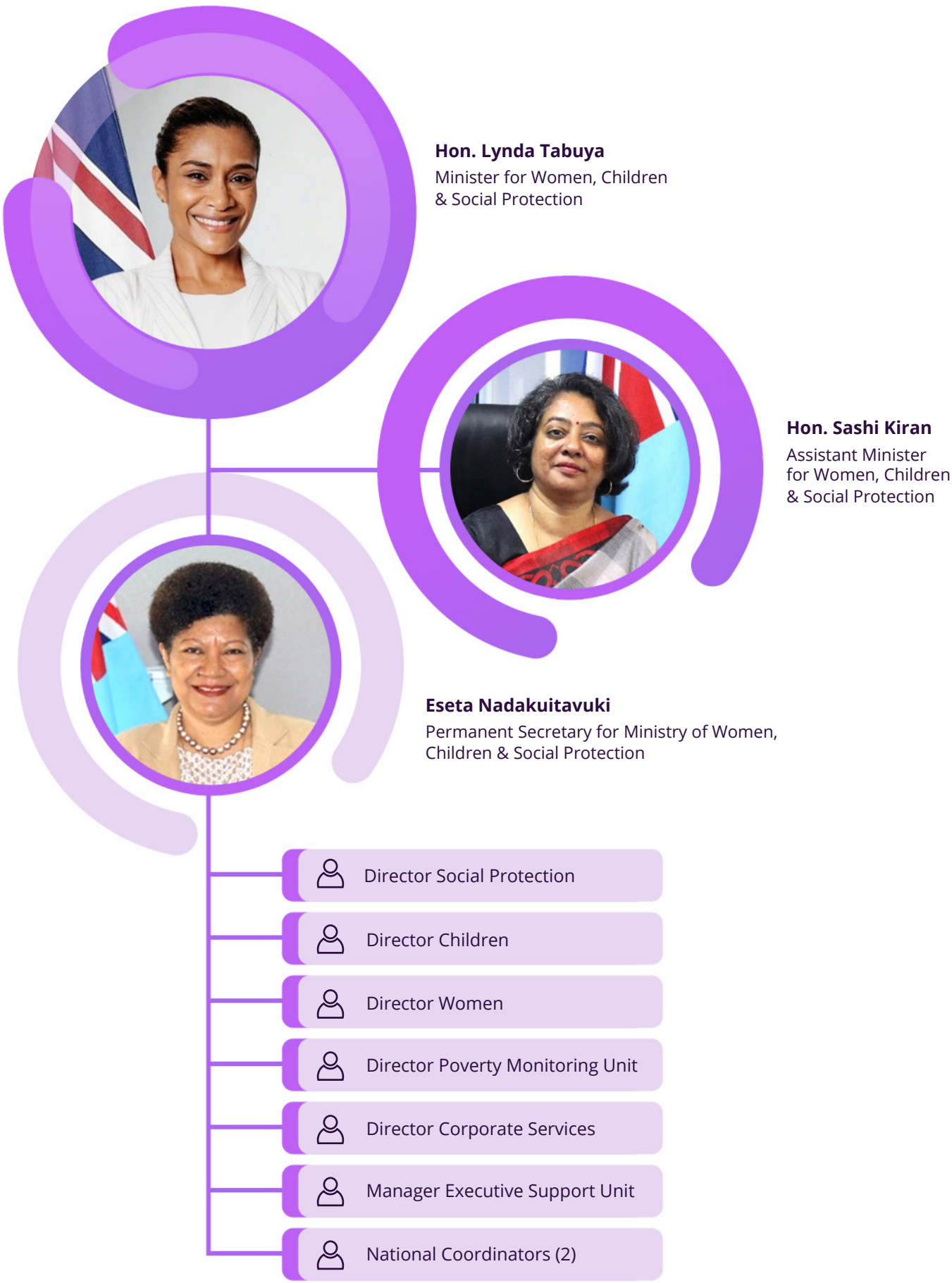
- Adoption of Infants Act (Cap.58) 1978
- Community Work Act 1994
- Family Law Act 2003
- Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2018
- Juveniles Act (cap 56) 1973
- Probation Act (cap) 1978
- Domestic Violence Decree 2009
- Child Welfare Decree 2010
- Social Justice Act 1997
- National Council of Older Persons Act of 2012
- Community Based Corrections 2018

Alignment to International Conventions

- 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



ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE





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

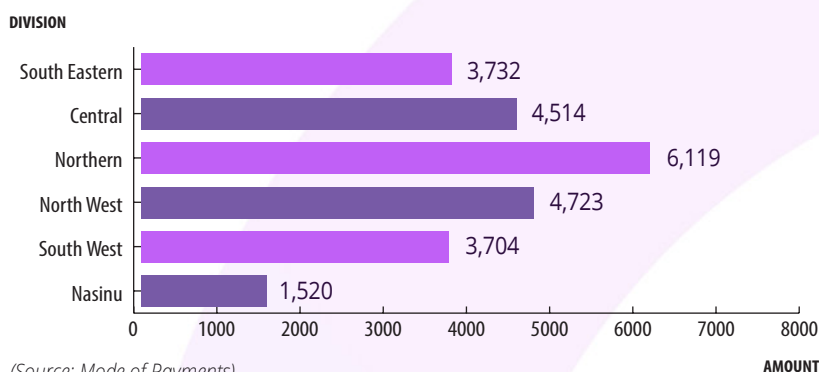
In the 2022 / 2023 financial year, the **Department of Social Protection** was allocated an estimated budget of \$129.2 million from the Ministry's total budget of \$147.7 million.

1.1 CASH BASED TRANSFER PROGRAMS

1.1.1 Poverty Benefit Scheme

The Poverty Benefit Scheme assisted 24,312 households within this financial period. During this period the Ministry completed assessments and 3,595 new families were entered into the scheme. The Ministry conducted 3,063 reviews with the current beneficiaries of the scheme to determine their continuing eligibility under the programs criteria. The Poverty Benefit Scheme was allocated a Revised budget of \$35.86m for the financial period. The program utilized 84% of its budget allocation.

Figure 1.1: Number of Poverty Benefit Scheme Recipients by Division



\$35.86m



Total Allocated Budget for Scheme

24,312



Total Number of Households Assisted

3,595



New Households Added to the Scheme

3,063



Reviews of Current Beneficiaries

84%



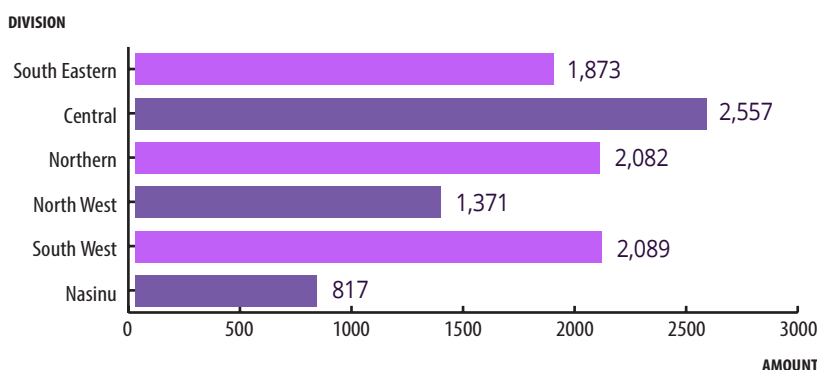
Program Utilized of Budget Allocation



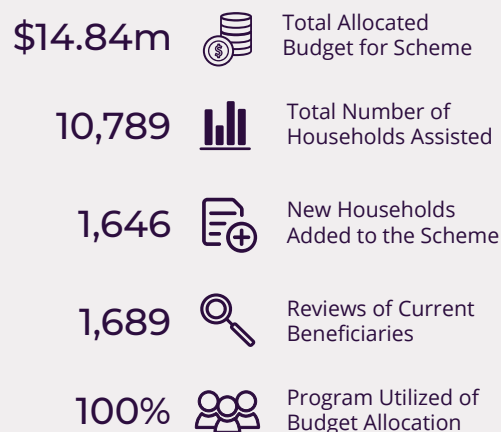
1.1.2 Care and Protection Allowance

The Care and Protection allowance supported 10,789 households with children in need during this financial period. As part of this effort, the Ministry assessed and added 1,646 new households with children to the scheme. Additionally, 1,689 reviews were conducted with current beneficiaries, including children who had turned 18 or advanced to primary or secondary education, to determine their continued eligibility under the program's criteria. The Care and Protection allowance was allocated a Revised budget of \$14.84m of which 100% was utilized by the end of the financial year.

Figure 1.2: Number of Care and Protection Allowance Recipients by Division



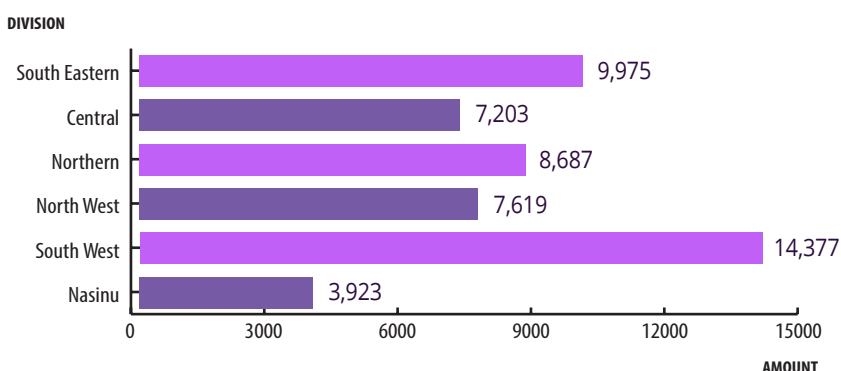
(Source: Mode of Payments)



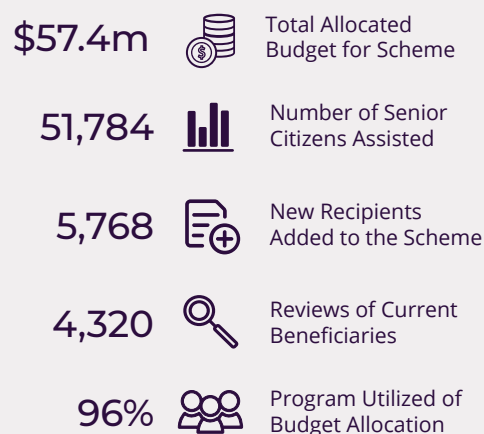
1.1.3 Social Pension Scheme

The Social Pension Scheme provided assistance to 51,784 senior citizens aged 65 and older who did not have a pension. During this period, the Ministry completed assessments and enrolled 5,768 new recipients into the scheme. Additionally, 4,320 reviews were conducted with current elderly recipients to assess their ongoing eligibility under the program's criteria. The Social Pension Scheme was allocated a Revised Budget of \$57.4m for the financial period. The program utilized 96% of its funds by the end of the financial year.

Figure 1.3: Number of Social Pension Scheme Recipients by Division



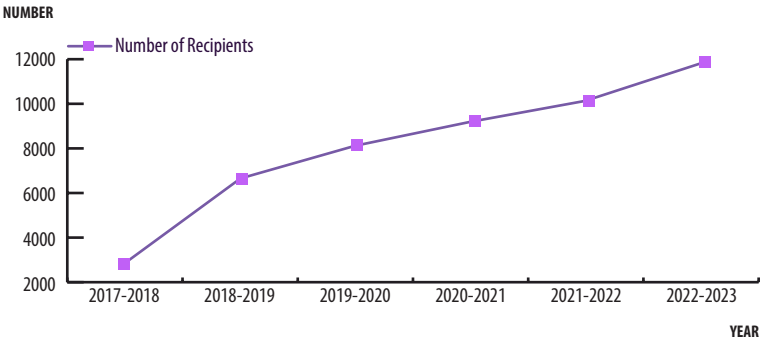
(Source: Mode of Payments)



1.1.4 Disability Allowance Scheme

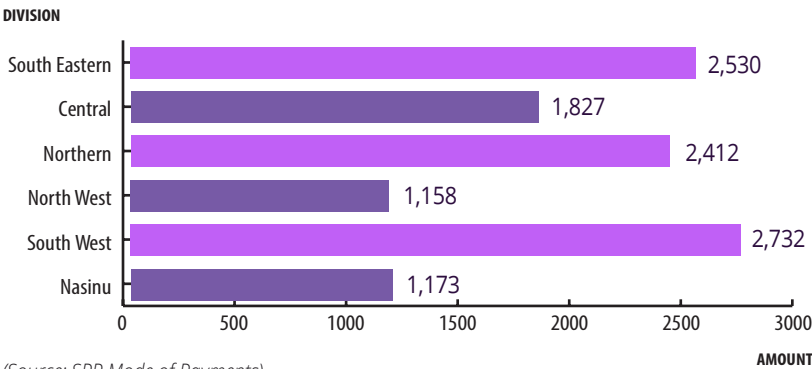
The Disability Allowance Scheme supported 11,832 individuals living with disabilities. Following assessments, the Ministry enrolled 833 new recipients into the scheme. The program received an allocation of \$12 million, of which 92% was utilized during the financial period.

Figure 1.4: Number of Disability Allowance Scheme Recipients 2017 - 2022

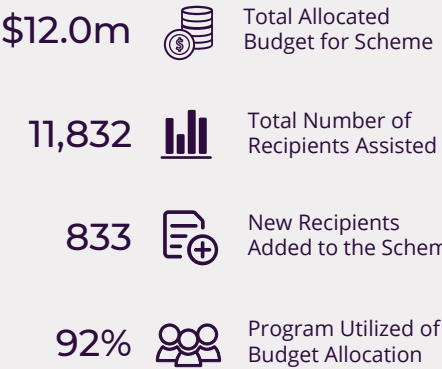


Year	Number of Recipients
2017 - 2018	2,833
2018 - 2019	6,638
2019 - 2020	8,118
2020 - 2021	9,197
2021 - 2022	10,145
2022 - 2023	11,832

Figure 1.5: Number of Disability Allowance Scheme Recipients by Division

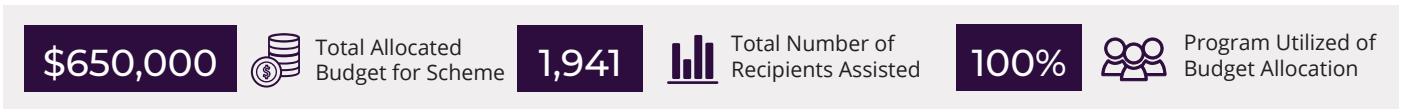


(Source: SPP Mode of Payments)



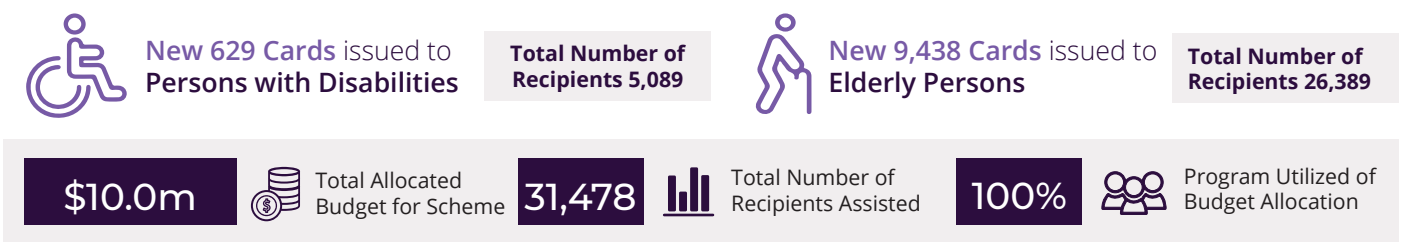
1.1.5 Rural Pregnant Mothers Food Voucher Program

The food voucher assistance program for pregnant mothers in rural areas had a revised budget of \$650,000. The program processed all applications received from rural health facilities, providing assistance to 1,941 pregnant mothers. By the end of the financial period, 100% of the budget had been utilized.



1.1.6 Bus Fare Subsidies

The Ministry received 10,067 new applications for bus fare assistance, resulting in the issuance of 9,438 cards to elderly individuals and 629 to persons with disabilities. By July, at the close of the financial year, the program served over 31,478 beneficiaries, including 26,389 elderly individuals and 5,089 persons with disabilities. The bus fare subsidy program had a budget allocation of \$10 million, all of which was fully utilized.



1.2 GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

1.2.1 Fire Victim Grants

The Fire Victim Grants program had a budget of \$100,000 for the financial year, with a total of 87 individuals assisted. By year-end, program utilization reached 87%. Selected for Gender Responsive Budgeting, the program provided aid to 87 fire victims, including 57 men and 28 women.

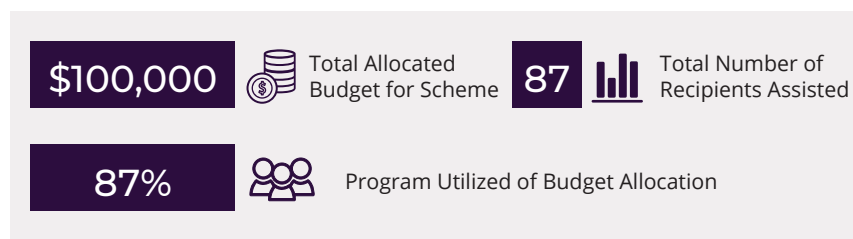
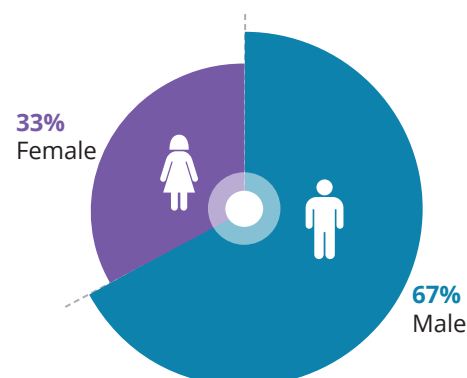


Figure 1.6: Fire Victims by Gender



1.2.2 Non-governmental Organizations Grants

A budget of \$200,000 in Non-Governmental Grants was awarded to organizations that enhance and support the Ministry's service delivery, particularly in providing residential homes, temporary shelters, and offering advocacy and counseling for children in schools. An additional grant of \$100,000 was allocated to St. Vincent's Home, which currently provides care for elderly citizens and the homeless.

Table 1.1: Non-governmental Organizations Assisted in 2022 - 2023

Non-governmental Organization	
✓ St. Vincent Home	Residential Home for Elderly and Homeless
✓ Empower Pacific	Social Work and Counseling Services
✓ St. Christopher's Home	Residential Home for Children
✓ Salvation Army	Providing immediate shelter at Family Care Centres' located in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa

1.2.3 Grants to Organisations for Older Persons

In the 2022 - 2023 financial year, the Older Persons Unit had a total budget allocation of \$90,000, dedicated to promoting the care, dignity, and well-being of older persons in Fiji. To fulfill this mandate, the unit implemented various programs. Four agencies received a total grant of \$60,000, utilizing 67% of the overall budget allocation for the year.

Table 1.2: Breakdown of Grants to Agencies

Agency	Disbursement Figures	Type of Assistance
✓ HART	\$15,000	Administration and wages
✓ Pearce Home	\$15,000	Refurbishment of the home
✓ Golden Survivors	\$15,000	Fish tank
✓ Ba Senior Citizens	\$15,000	Administration, wages and activities

1.2.4 Grants to Organisations for Persons with Disabilities

The grantees assisted in the 2022 / 2023 Financial year under this budget line included:

Table 1.3: Grantees Assisted in 2022 - 2023

Organisations for Persons with Disabilities	
✓ United Blind Persons Association	✓ Harland Ministries
✓ Psychiatric Survivors Association	✓ Fiji Society for the Blind
✓ Frank Hilton Organization	✓ New Vision
✓ Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation	✓ Viti Spinal Injury Association Fiji

1.3 NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEES

1.3.1 National Council of Older Persons

1.3.1.1 Meetings

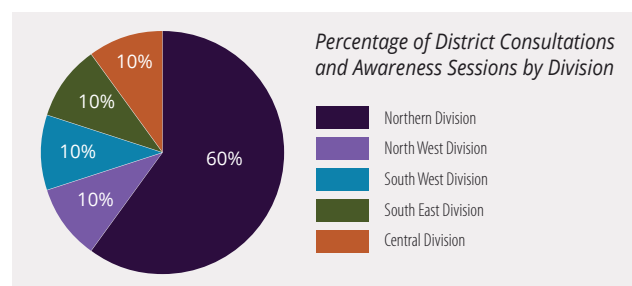
Only three meetings were held during the financial year due to COVID restrictions. These included one NCOP Council meeting and two Institutional Forum meetings, where agencies involved in state, faith-based, and private care for older persons gathered to discuss optimal COVID protocol measures for care homes.

1.3.1.2 District Consultations and Awareness

Another key activity of the unit is to raise awareness and advocate for older persons within communities. To achieve this, the unit is working towards establishing district committees. Between 2022 and 2023, the unit conducted seven district consultations and three awareness sessions at the three state homes for older persons.

Table 1.4: Breakdown of District Consultations and Awareness

Division	Number of Consultations & Awareness
Northern Division	6
North West Division	1
South West Division	1
South East Division	1
Central Division	1
Total Number	10



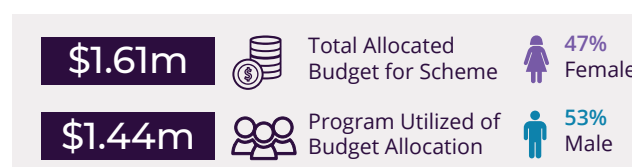
1.4 INSTITUTIONS

1.4.1 Golden Age Homes (GAH)

The three State Homes for Older Persons, *also known as "Golden Age Homes,"* provide care for individuals who require institutional care, for those who have been abandoned, or are neglected. Currently, there are 120 residents across the three homes. For the 2022 - 2023 financial year, the program had an allocation of \$1,608,062, of which \$1,439,868 (90%) was utilized.

Table 1.5: Summary of Residents at Golden Age Homes

Gender	GAH Labasa	GAH Lautoka	GAH Suva
Male	19	23	22
Female	13	16	27
Total Number	32	39	49



The **Child Services Unit** oversees the Department of Social Welfare's statutory responsibilities concerning the care and protection of children. The unit operates across four main areas, which include:

- ✓ *Child Protection Program*
- ✓ *Residential Care Services for Children in Institutional Homes*
- ✓ *Probation and Juvenile Justice*
- ✓ *Secretariat to the National Coordinating Committee on Children (NCCC)*

2.1 CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

2.1.1 Capacity Building and Professional Development

With the support of UNICEF, the unit successfully co-facilitated the **Child Protection Training** for a total of 12 welfare officers. The training consisted of *five modules* with each module covering important aspects of case management for child welfare cases from child development, indicators of abuse, assessment, interview skills and self-care.

As part of the **Child Protection Training** for division and district officers, *a child protection case management supervision and coaching training* was facilitated with support of UNICEF for divisional managers.

2.1.2 International Day for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (PCAN)

In partnership with Vision Fiji, the unit assisted in the facilitation of the Fiji Children's Awards held on 18th November 2022.

The event was to also commemorate the **International Day for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect** celebrated on 19th November and the World Children's Day that is celebrated on 20th November.

Divisional and district celebrations were also facilitated on the PCAN theme of **"Empowering Young Minds."**

Former Minister for Women, Hon. Rosy Akbar with recipients of the Fiji Children Award and Charlie the Child Protection mascot.



2.1.3 Child Welfare Act Reporting

A total of **1,800 cases** were recorded under the National Child Welfare Act (CWA) database. Majority of the cases received were of neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. This was an increase compared to last year in which 1,721 cases were reported.

Table 2.1: CWA Reporting by Case Type

Case Type	Total
Neglect	631
Physical abuse	321
Sexual abuse	206
Beyond control	172
Verbal abuse	103
Emotional abuse	101
Teenage pregnancy	60
Attempted suicide	21
Abandoned	1
Abducted	4
Victim of parental conflict	58
Drug abuse	14
Missing	13
Child beggar	2
Theft	22
Young offender	7
Truancy	3
Bullying	6
Child labour	3
Alcohol / substance abuse	10
Other	11
TOTAL	1,800

Total Cases 2022 / 2023

1,800

Total Cases 2021 / 2022

1,721



Table 2.2: CWA Reporting by Division

Division	Total
Labasa	270
Lekutu	23
Nabouwalu	16
Savusavu	75
Taveuni	14
NORTH	398
Ba	72
Tavua	58
Rakiraki	39
NORTH WEST	169
Lautoka	146
Nadi	110
Sigatoka	70
Navosa	3
SOUTH WEST	329
Suva	260
Navua	120
Kadavu	7
Levuka	34
Eastern	19
SOUTH EAST	440
NASINU	227
Nausori	174
Vunidawa	29
Korovou	34
CENTRAL	237
TOTAL	1,800

2.2 RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL 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 & Protection Allowance are payable to the Homes. As at end of the financial year, there were a total of **142 children under state care**.

Tabulated on the following page is the Government's commitment towards the care of children in residential homes:

Table 2.3: Government's Commitment Towards the Care of Children in Residential Homes

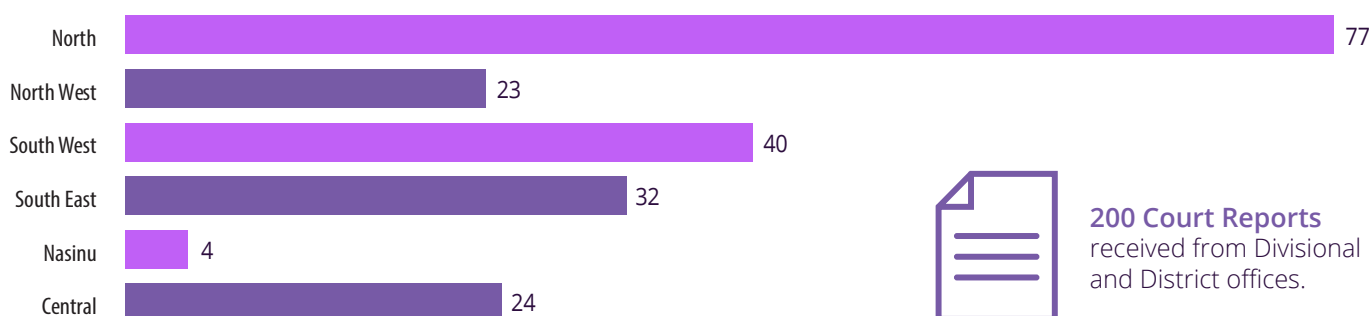
Name of Residential Home	Total	Name of Residential Home	Total
✓ Dilkusha Girls Home	\$31,080	✓ Homes of Hope	\$8,040
✓ St Christopher's Home	\$32,400	✓ St. Philomena Home	\$27,120
✓ Fiji Crippled Children Society	\$9,360	✓ St. Tabitha Home	\$10,920
✓ Veilomani Boys Home	\$14,640	✓ St. Minas Home	\$38,280
✓ Treasure House Christian Children's Home	\$19,800	✓ Lomani Au	\$15,360
Total Government Commitment in FY 2022 / 2023			\$207,000

2.2.1 Residential Audit

A total of **10 residential audits** were conducted. The audits are to monitor and ensure the effective implementation of case management in the residential homes, and also ensuring compliance with minimum standards. The audits also involved the completion of phase one of the SOP residential review for the forms.

2.2.2 Mandatory Reporting to Court

A total of 200 court reports received from Divisional and District offices. The summary of the reports are as follows:

Figure 2.1: Court Reports Received from Divisional and District Offices

2.2.3 Community Based Corrections Program

The Community Based Corrections (CBC) programme was implemented in 2023 and is targeted at strengthening juvenile justice by providing alternative sentencing options to the judiciary other than imprisonment.

The CBC programme intends to maximize the utilization of all government departments and civil society programs to be integrated in the rehabilitation plans for offenders with assistance of trained Community Volunteer Supervisors (CVS) from the communities.

As part of the first phase of implementation, one training was conducted for welfare officers and 4 consultations with stakeholders. In addition, a total of 7 trainings of CVS was conducted with the aim of having available CVS in communities to take on supervision responsibilities as identified by the Court, as and when the need arises. A greater availability of CVS in the communities will enable the judiciary to exercise powers under the Community Based Corrections Act 2018.

3

Poverty Monitoring Unit

The **Poverty Monitoring Unit** under the Ministry is tasked to monitor, evaluate and report on the progress and impact of *Government's Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAPs)*. The results from the monitoring exercises provides an opportunity for Implementing Agencies to improve programme performance and service delivery towards alleviating poverty.

3.1 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF GOVERNMENT'S POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME

The Unit in the current Financial Year 2022 - 2023 continued to monitor the Poverty Alleviation Programmes which were monitored in the previous Financial Year 2021 - 2022. This was a continuation from the previous Financial Year since the Unit was unable to complete its monitoring due to COVID-19 movement restrictions. *Below is a breakdown on the total number of PAP monitored:*

3.1.1 PAP Monitored Programmes

Programme Implementer: Ministry of Agriculture

- ✓ Dairy Development Programme
- ✓ Export Promotion Programme
- ✓ Rural and Outer Island Development
- ✓ Food Security Programme

Programme Implementer: Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development

- ✓ Self Help Programme
- ✓ Community Access Road, Footpath and Footbridges Programme

Programme Implementer: Ministry of Fisheries

- ✓ Seaweed Development Programme
- ✓ Aquaculture Food Security Programme

To gauge the impact of the above PAP on the interviewed beneficiaries, the Unit conducted impact assessments in the four divisions whereby the Northern and Eastern Division surveys was concluded in Financial Year 2021-2022 and the Central and Western Division impact assessment surveys were conducted in Financial Year 2022 - 2023 respectively. At the conclusion of each Divisional Impact Assessment Surveys, the Unit presented its key findings to the respective Programme Divisional Heads after which the reports on the performance of the 8 PAP were submitted to Cabinet for their Information.



Ms. Koli interviewing a beneficiary of a nursery project in Ba.



DO Lautoka pictured with the upper Nacilau water project in Lautoka.



Ms. Leko interviewing a beneficiary of the bus fare programme outside Labasa Town.



In addition to the eight (8) PAP monitored, the Unit also monitored *three (3) other Ministry Programmes* namely the: *Pearly Gates Home, Child Help Line and the Bus-Fare Programme for Old / Disabled Persons* and later provided reports to the Executive Office.

The GIS desk mapped the project sites of monitored Poverty Alleviation Programmes namely: Aquaculture–Food Security Programme; Community Access Road, Footpath and Foot Bridges Programme; Dairy Industry Support Programme; Export promotion Programme; Food Security Programme; Rural Outer Island Development Programme; Seaweed Development Programme and Self-Help Programme.

3.2 CONSULTATIONS / WORKSHOPS AND AWARENESS

3.2.1 Geographical Information Systems Desk

The GIS desk was also represented in various forums which included the GIS / RS User Forums, World GIS Day and Disaster and Climate Change Workshop.

3.2.2 Rural and Outer Island Development Programme

The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development invited our Ministry to be part of a 1 day Consultation on the Rural and Outer Island Development Programme. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain feedback from stakeholders on the current development programmes implemented, and to identify opportunities for improvement and identify other development areas that will be appropriate for designing of Rural Outer Island Development Programmes. Discussion from the workshop were centred on budget constraints faced by agencies, current legislations in place that can be improved for better service delivery, sharing of best practices and areas of collaboration and coordination to maximise service delivery especially in the rural areas.

3.2.3 Inclusive Finance Working Group (IFWG) Meeting

The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection is represented to the IFWG. The Inclusive Finance Working Group (IFWG) is a sub-committee of the National Financial Inclusion Taskforce (NFIT) which was established in 2022 with the objective to support financial deepening through improved access to and use of financial products and services that meet life cycle needs.

The IFWG identifies activities and initiatives that will assist in improving access to and use of financial services that meet the needs of vulnerable groups including women, children, youths, the elderly and persons living with disabilities. The Director PMU is a member of IFWG and have been part of series of meetings attended by members of the IFWG and its Secretariat team from the Reserve Bank of Fiji.



3.2.4 Build-Up Programme for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP)

Talk Back Show – Fiji One Breakfast Show

Director PMU Mrs. Mereoni Tuimuru and ADRA Fiji Program Director Ms. Christine Lemau appeared on Fiji Television's Breakfast show program. The duo shared information regarding the work that their organizations are involved in, to complement Government's efforts towards achieving SDG # 1 - No Poverty. Mrs. Tuimuru shared information on the monitoring and evaluation work undertaken by the PMU while Ms. Lemau shared information on ADRA Fiji's work in empowering communities through livelihood projects that seek to improve their living standards.

3.2.5 The Commemoration of the 2022 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

19th - 20th October, 2022

The Unit coordinated the commemoration of the 2022 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in the Northern Division at the Nadogo Central College ground, Wainikoro, Macuata. This 2022 commemoration event was significant as it marked the 30th Anniversary of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, under the theme, *"Dignity for all in practice: the commitment we make together for social justice, peace and the planet"*. The underpinning idea is that the dignity of the human being is not only a fundamental right in itself but constitutes the basis of all other fundamental rights.

Fiji being a member state of the United Nations and a signatory to the UN declaration also commemorates this UN Observance Day by organizing activities at the national context through engaging various stakeholders to showcase the services they provide to acknowledge the struggles and efforts of people living in poverty.

On Monday 17th October 2022 the Ministry sponsored a 2-page spread consisted of a Ministerial Statement and documentary of success stories highlighting the impacts of Government's various assistance that has enabled recipients to sustain their living.

3.2.6 Achievement of IDEP - 2022

3.2.6.1 Community Participation

There were 308 registered members of the public that accessed services provided at the Nadogo Central College for the two-day event. 34.4% were females and 65.6% were males. 9 Villages and 10 settlements.

3.2.6.2 Schools Participation

There were 13 schools that participated from the Tikina of Nadogo:

- ✓ Early Childhood Education - 3
- ✓ Primary Schools - 9
- ✓ Secondary School - 1

Students programme involved oratory; poetry; drama; meke / dance and poster competition focusing of the IDEP theme.

3.2.6.3 Stakeholder Participation

There were 36 Stakeholders present to show case their services from the various Government Agencies; private Sector; Non-Government Organizations; Financial Institutions and Educational Institutions.

3.2.6.4 Services accessed by General Public - Major Highlights

- 36 Stakeholder present during the 2 day event.
- The highest number served more than 300 clients accessing the Birth, Death and Marriage services (Ministry of Justice) and the Vola ni Kawa Bula (VKB) services through the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs.
- Vodafone Fiji Limited recorded a total sale of more than \$20,000 from the 300 above people who accessed their booth - sim cards and registration to MPAISA services provided.
- Students capitalized on the opportunity by accessing services provided from Academic counselling to school students, career pathways and collation of USP IEC materials - 2022 prospects.
- Ministry of Fisheries issued fishing license and awareness recorded 250 clients accessed their services.
- The Department of Social Welfare officers de-centralized their services that is normally carried out in their Labasa Office and the public were able to access SPP who had the opportunity to apply at the IDEP venue.



4

Department of Women

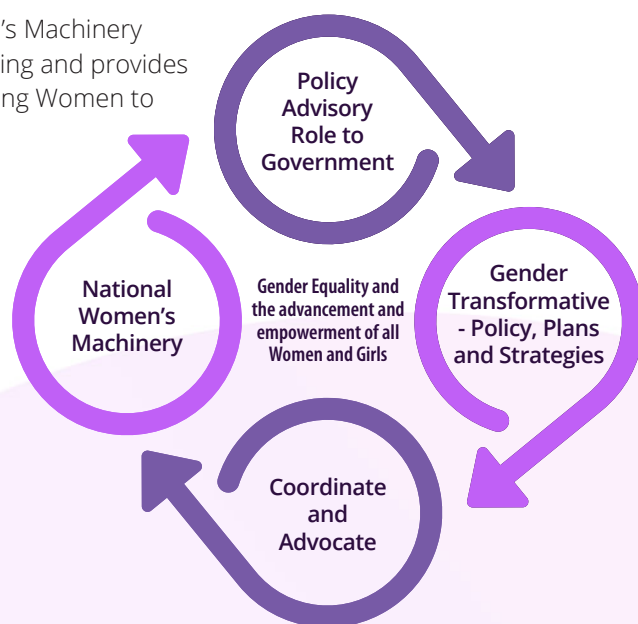
The **Department for Women**, also known as the National Women's Machinery (NWM) is the policy advisor to Government on gender mainstreaming and provides a national advocacy and coordination role in the area of Empowering Women to reach their full potential through Women's Empowerment.

The strategic priority areas of the Department for Women include the following thematic areas:

- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
- Promoting Women's Economic Empowerment
- Improving Protection from and Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change

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

- Access to Services
- Women and Girls Leadership and participation at all levels
- Women and the Law
- Gender Statistics and Research
- Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD)



4.1 ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

4.1.1 Elimination of Violence Against Women Girls

Activity 1: Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against all Women and Girls 2023 - 2028

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance launched the Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against all Women and Girls 2023 - 2028. Fiji has become the first Pacific Island Country to have a National Action plan to prevent violence against all women and girls, and second globally after Australia.

Activity 2: Service Delivery Protocol (SDP)

Service Delivery Protocol / Gender Based Violence



Working Group Meeting were undertaken to ensure the coordination and implementation of the Service Delivery Protocol in district level, divisional and at National level. Fiji national service delivery protocol gender based violence working groups coordinated meetings to ensure proper response to cases of gender based violence by Service Providers. In addition, continuous awareness on the Protocol to the Fiji Police Force and the community in general were undertaken in the communities.

Table 4.1: Service Delivery Protocol / Gender Based Violence Working Group

Division	Venue	Number of Meetings
Western	Sigatoka	1
Northern	Cakaudrove	1
	Bua	1
	Division-Labasa	1

Table 4.2: Service Delivery Protocol Awareness

Division	District / Division	Number of Activities
Eastern	HOD-Suva	1
	Kadavu	1
Central	National	1

Divisional Eastern did awareness on Service delivery protocol to the province of Kadavu on the 5th – 9th September 2022. Total of 200 copies of Community Phone Trees that was distributed in 2 Tikina (Nakasaleka and Vunisea) with a total of 182 females reached.

Table 4.3: Service Delivery Protocol Awareness

Division	District and Venue	Date	No. of Meetings	Participants
Central	Central division at Tanoa Plaza, Suva	1st May, 2023	1	F - 7 M - 5
Central	Korovou District at Korovu, Tailevu	9th May, 2023	1	F - 9 M - 2
Eastern	Rotuma District at Ahau	15th May, 2023	1	NR
Northern	Cakaudrove District at Savusavu	20th June, 2023	1	M - 6 F - 4

Activity 3: 16 Days of Activism Gender Based Violence

✓ Eastern Division

Following the Press Release and Media Statement on **16 Days of Activism** by the Hon. Minister, a series of events were undertaken for the observation of the **16 Days of Activism Program**. The program was held in Levuka on the 9th of December, 2022. The Department of Women (Eastern Division) took the lead role and included FWCC, Empower Pacific, FPF, Legal Aid Commission to conduct a one (1) week long awareness on GBV to the 5 tikinas in Ovalau and Moturiki. A total of 49 female and 40 males were reached during the awareness.

✓ Northern Division Event

Northern Division undertook the **16 Days of Activism** in Viani Village from the District of Navatu. This was a recommendation from the Northern Division SDP / GBV Working Group for a community awareness from the Cakaudrove FNNDP GBV working group (a refresher). Training was also conducted for civil servants in the North on Service Delivery for Gender Based Violence and the importance of procedures for the referral pathway.

✓ Partnership with RFMF (Theme: Stop Gender Violence)

The Department of Women in partnership with Republic of Fiji Military Forces commemorated the **16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence** through:

- Advocacy work at the HFC Stadium on 25th November 2022 where 100 pieces of different Information, Education and Communications (IEC) materials were distributed during the Sukuna Bowl event.
- Two (2) GBV awareness was conducted at QEB, Nabua and Naval Base, Walu Bay on 28th November 2022. Attended by 50 male officers and 10 female officers. The way forward on prevention of GBV at the RFMF was discussed for incorporating this as part of their plan. Awareness were also undertaken at Lautoka RFMF on 30th November, 2022 with 20 male officers attending.



4.2 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:

1. Graduation of Makoi Women's Vocational Centre around 20 sewing machines was handed over to women who graduated under the sewing program.
2. Attended a two (2) days meeting in Bangkok and presenting on Government's commitment towards Women MSMEs, the progress of the work on CWE and also learning from other partner countries on the work implemented around WEE.
3. Information session with Women's Fund Fiji on August 25th attended by WIA Lomaiviti and two (2) women from Koro Island. They were selected by the Fiji Women's Funds as recipient of IGP funding's.
4. Follow up ICT Training of for policy makers across identified government agencies and Statutory Organizations on 10th November, 2022. Participants were taken through the specifics of ICT in regards to business marketing through various digital platform. A quicker, affordable and accessible means of products marketing. 18 personnel attended of which 14 were female and 4 male.
5. As part of International Women's Day commemoration, an ICT Training was held at the Friendly Northern Inn, Labasa on 8th March 2023. This was attended by the women in the Northern Division, who have been engaged in entrepreneurship activities.
6. Disbursement and roll out of the Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Income Generating (IGP) assistance. A total of 41 applications received from the WEE Grant initiative and only 40 applicants were released with a total of \$40,000.00. Each recipient were handed a \$1,000 to start and assist with their IGP.

Table 4.4: Disbursement of Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Income Generating (IGP) Assistance

Number of Recommended Applications	Division	Nature of Business Total Number		Amount
✓ 9	Central Division	Textile 6 Canteen 1	Pastry 1 Internet & Jewelry 1	\$9,000
✓ 8	Eastern Division	Canteen 3 Homestay 1	Textile 2 Weaving 1 Decoration 1	\$8,000
✓ 10	Northern Division	Canteen 2 Catering 4	Textile 2 Farming 1 Handicraft 1	\$10,000
✓ 13	Western Division	Jewelry 1 Farming 2 Canteen 3	Printing & Decoration 1 Textile 5 General Handicraft 1	\$13,000
Total Number of Recommended Applications - 40				\$40,000

7. The two-day High-Level Technical Advisory Workshop included 30 - 35 representatives from civil society, women's rights organizations, relevant government agencies, and the private sector. The workshop mapped out and highlighted the key challenges and opportunities facing Fijian women and girls in all diversity in the context of economic empowerment. In addition, it identified key priorities and opportunities for promoting women's economic participation and advancement. There was strong consensus among key stakeholders on the importance of the development of the Fiji WEE NAP (2024-2029).
8. Divisional Expo (details below).

Table 4.5: Divisional Expo 2022 - 2023

Division	Date and Venue	Number of Women Participated	Number of Women Selected for the National Women's Expo	Total Sales
Northern	Savusavu	158	100	
Western	1-2/5/23 at Shirley Park, Lautoka	157	100	\$40,053.00
Eastern	23/5/23 at Ahau, Rotuma	31	22	\$11,192.00
Central	18-19/5/23 at Civic Center Carpark, Suva	183	100	\$73,865.80
Eastern	09/06/23 at Tikina Tavuki, Kadavu	73	31	\$16,955.00
Total		602	353	\$142,065.80

4.3 GENDER CLIMATE CHANGE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The Ministry for Women, Children, and Social Protection, in collaboration with its partners and contractors, is making continued progress toward completing the construction of the Fiji Barefoot College in Nadogo, Macuata. This facility is designed to empower women by providing training in solar maintenance, contributing to sustainable development and women's economic empowerment in the region.

4.4 WOMEN AND GIRLS LEADERSHIP PARTICIPATION AT ALL LEVELS

The Ministry for Women, Children, and Social Protection, in collaboration with its partners and contractors, is making continued progress toward completing the construction of the Fiji Barefoot College in Nadogo, Macuata. This facility is designed to empower women by providing training in solar maintenance, contributing to sustainable development and women's economic empowerment in the region.

4.4.1 Elimination of Violence Against Women Girls

The Ministry for Women, Children, and Social Protection has been actively championing awareness and empowerment through its initiatives during *Pinktober and Rural Women's Day*. As part of *Pinktober*, the Ministry's divisional officers organized events and campaigns to raise awareness about breast cancer, encouraging early detection and promoting health education among women. Simultaneously, the celebration of *Rural Women's Day* highlighted the invaluable contributions of rural women to their families and communities, focusing on empowering them through access to resources, training, and opportunities. These efforts reflect the Ministry's commitment to fostering health, equality, and sustainable development for women across all sectors.

Pinktober awareness was facilitated at Headquarters and four (4) divisions throughout the month of October. A total of ten (10) organizations within the umbrella of Soroptimist International were provided funding of \$1,000.00 to assist socialize Pinktober through breast cancer awareness. The following Pinktober commemoration was done:



Table 4.6: Pinktober Commemoration Activities

Division	Activity
✓ Central	Pinktober commemoration was merged with Rural Women's day on 17th October 2022.
✓ Western	Launch of Pinktober event for soroptimist clubs at Nalagi Hotel, Nadi on 4th October. Soroptimist club 1st pinktober event was held on 22/10/22 at Ba Multi-purpose Bure. Lautoka District women's forum for Pinktober event was held on 27th October at Disability Complex Conference Room.
✓ Northern	Pinktober awareness Labasa college awareness on cancer and screening was held on 12/10/22.
✓ Eastern	Preparation for Pinktober launch in Vunisea kadavu on 3/10/22. Vabea village Awareness program on 17/10/22. Vacalea Awareness program on 19/10/22. Closing of pinktober in Vunisea on 27th October 2022.

4.4.2 Fiji's 6th Periodic Report on the Convention on all Forms of Discrimination Against Women

In preparation for the submission of Fiji's 6th Periodic Report on the Convention on all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), two consultations were undertaken.

The *first consultation* held on 12th June, 2023 at Holiday Inn focused on the following:

- Introduce CEDAW to the key stakeholders from across Government;
- Introduce the List of Issues for the 6th State Report to participants;
- Cluster the issues for the relevant agencies / stakeholders to respond to; and
- Update the list of respondents in consultation with the group.

The CEDAW consultation was attended by 32 representatives from various government Ministries / Department. Of the total representatives attended, 29 were female and 3 male. The *second CEDAW consultation* was also held at the Holiday Inn in Suva on 26th July with a total of 38 participants of whom, 27 were female and 11 male.

4.4.3 International Women's Day

In partnership with the Labasa Women's Forum, the *International Women's Day 2023* was commemorated in Labasa. The event was officiated by the Assistant Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection; Hon. Sashi Kiran. International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on March 8 to recognize the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women while also advocating for gender equality. The theme for *International Women's Day 2023* was **"Embrace Equity,"** emphasizing the importance of creating a world that is inclusive, fair, and supportive of diverse women's experiences and needs. It highlights the ongoing struggle for gender parity and raises awareness about gender-based discrimination, unequal pay, limited opportunities, and other barriers women face. IWD provides a platform to amplify calls for change, including access to education, reproductive rights, and ending violence against women and girls.

4.4.4 Commission on Status of Women

The *Commission on the Status of Women* was held at the United Nations HQ in New York from the 6 - 17 March, 2023 attended by the Fiji Delegation led by the Hon. Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Lynda Tabuya. The CSW concluded its 67th session, approved a set of agreed conclusion focused on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the context of innovations, technology change and education in the digital age. The theme for CSW 67th in March was *Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.*

4.4.5 Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD)

Meeting with Gender Advisor (NZ) was held on 26th August, 2022 at Civic Towers, Level 5 Conference Room (Female – 8).

4.4.6 Pacific Resilience Standards Regional Workshop

Senior Women Interest officer Women Economic Empowerment attended 3 days workshop on the Pacific Resilience Standards Workshop and provided input on Women in Resilience programs.

4.4.7 Job for Nature Technical Working Group Meeting

Attended the verification meeting on the job for nature applications received with team world bank and others. Verified more than 100 applications.

4.4.8 Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRPB) and Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity Development (ICD) Training

In partnership between the Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation and the Ministry of Finance, the Gender Responsive Planning and Budgeting (GRPB) and Gender Transformative Institutional Capacity development (ICD) Training for the 2nd Cohort of Government Ministries was held from 22 - 23 March 2023 at the Warwick Hotel, Coral Coast. Approximately 10 government agencies attended with a focus on the Gender Analysis and planning for inclusion of a Gender Responsive Budgeting component in their 2023 - 2024 budget submission.

4.4.9 Gender Statistics and Research

Facilitate and coordinate the convening of the Kobo Tool Training for the Department of Women Staff.

- Convening of the Capacity Development Training for the Department staff from 16 - 20 January, 2023 at Naviti Resort.
- Training was facilitated by Ministry of Agriculture (Kobo Tool application), and UN Women (Ending Violence against Women Programme, Women's Resilience to Disaster and the Safety and Protection Cluster).
- Twenty four (24) officers attended the Capacity Building Training.



4.5 CHALLENGES

The Department for Women struggled with lots of challenges while implementing programs. Challenges faced were mental, physical and more administrative. Few challenges faced were:

- Insufficient staffing or lack of specialized expertise to implement programs effectively.
- High workload on existing staff impacts program efficiency and monitoring.
- High workloads, tight deadlines, and constant demands can lead to physical and emotional exhaustion.
- Balancing multiple roles or responsibilities often results in feelings of being overwhelmed.
- Traditional gender roles and societal expectations can create resistance to women empowerment initiatives.
- Advocacy efforts may face pushback in communities where patriarchal norms dominate.
- Limited awareness about programs among target groups, especially in remote communities.
- Challenges in mobilizing women to participate due to competing priorities, such as household responsibilities.
- Difficulty in tracking program outcomes and impact in isolated areas.
- Inconsistent data collection due to lack of resources or training in monitoring systems.

4.6 WAY FORWARD

Addressing these challenges requires strategic planning, enhanced partnerships, and increased resource allocation to ensure that women across Fiji can benefit equitably from the Department's initiatives.

- ✓ **Strengthen Collaboration and Partnerships:** Work closely with local communities, NGOs, and stakeholders to align efforts and resources for greater impact.
- ✓ **Invest in Capacity Building and Resilience Training:** Enhance staff skills through continuous training programs that focus on both technical and soft skills (e.g., project management, communication, gender sensitivity) and equip officers with tools to manage stress and build coping skills.
- ✓ **Enhance Resource Allocation:** Advocate for increased funding, particularly for resource-poor areas, to ensure the successful implementation and sustainability of programs.

5

Corporate Services Division

The **Corporate Services Division**, under the direction of the Permanent Secretary is responsible for Human Resources Management, Operations and Financial Management. It is tasked with overseeing staffing and training, optimizing operational processes and ensuring effective financial oversight to support the ministry's objectives.

5.1 HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

5.1.1 Ensures the efficient and effective execution of the Permanent Secretary's Constitutional Powers including:

- ✓ **Appointments**
Managing the recruitment and selection process to fill positions in accordance with the OMRS guidelines.
- ✓ **Discipline**
Administering disciplinary actions and ensuring compliance with organizational policies and regulations.
- ✓ **Termination**
Overseeing the process for staff termination in adherence to legal and procedural requirements.
- ✓ **Compliance**
Ensuring adherence to terms and conditions of employment as stipulated in contracts and regulations.
- ✓ **Training**
Enhancing professional development and improving skills, knowledge and productivity of staff.
- ✓ **Staff Welfare**
Implementing programs and policies to support staff health and well-being.



Table 5.1: Gender Distribution By Departments

Programmes	Male	Female	Total
Policy & Admin	43	54	97
Poverty Monitoring Unit	4	6	10
Institutional Services	14	4	18
Field Services	41	80	121
Senior Citizens	32	43	75
Women & Gender	11	24	35
Total	145	211	356

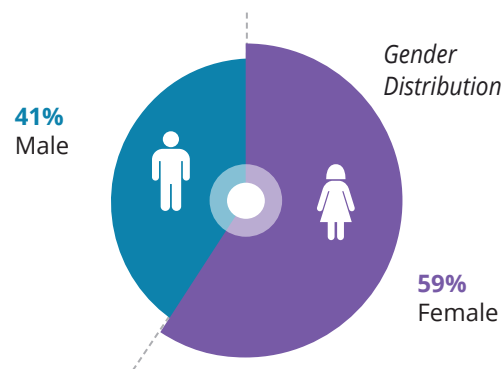


Table 5.2: Approved MWCPA Staff Establishment

Department	Established Staff	Total %	Government Wage Earners (GWE)	Total %	Total Staff
Policy & Administration	99	33.33	16	12.12	115
Poverty Monitoring Unit	12	4.04	3	2.27	15
Juvenile Center	12	4.04	11	8.33	23
Field Services	111	37.37	24	18.18	135
Golden Age Home	18	6.06	69	52.27	87
Women	45	15.15	9	6.81	54
Total	297	100.00	132	100.00	429

Table 5.3: Vacancies 2022 - 2023

Number of Vacancies	Positions Advertised	Positions Filled	Percentage Filled
169	169	105	62.13

Table 5.4: Disciplinary Actions 2022 - 2023

Total Disciplinary Cases	Cases Completed	Pending	Percentage Completed
14	13	1	92.85

The *Ministry's staff establishment* includes a detail account of the current workforce and highlights existing vacancies. It includes a record of disciplinary actions taken, details training attendance and summarizes staff exits encompassing resignations, terminations, retirements, and transfers. This comprehensive overview provides insights into staffing dynamics and personnel management throughout the year.

Table 5.5: Training Attendance 2022 - 2023

Types of Trainings	Trainings Attended	Attendance Rate	Percentage Attended
Number of Trainings Local	95	237	55.24

Table 5.6: Exits 2022 - 2023

Type of Exit	Number
Number of Resignations	59
Number of Terminations	4
Retirements	1
Transfers	46
Deaths	0

5.2 OPERATIONS

The department formulates the annual procurement plan, manages the board of survey following Fiji Procurement Regulation, and handles the sending and receiving of mail and courier services. It is also responsible for managing, maintaining and securing assets such as vehicles, buildings, equipment to ensure a comfortable and efficient working environment.

Table 5.7: Number of Vehicles

Types of Vehicle	Policy / HQ	Social Welfare	Women	Golden Age Home	ESU	Boys Centre	Total	%
Ministry Owned	5	8	1	2	0	0	16	27.12
China Aid Donation	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	5.08
Lease - Kia / Asco	14	19	2	1	4	0	40	67.80
Total	19	27	3	5	4	1	59	100.00

Figure 5.1: Monthly Fuel Utilizations FY 2022 - 2023

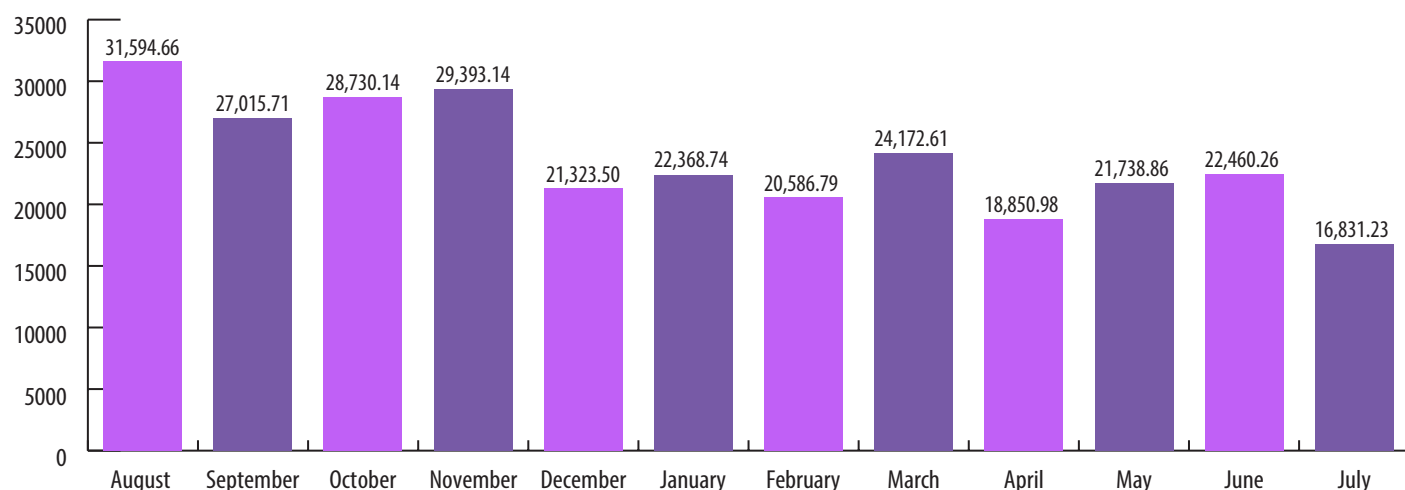
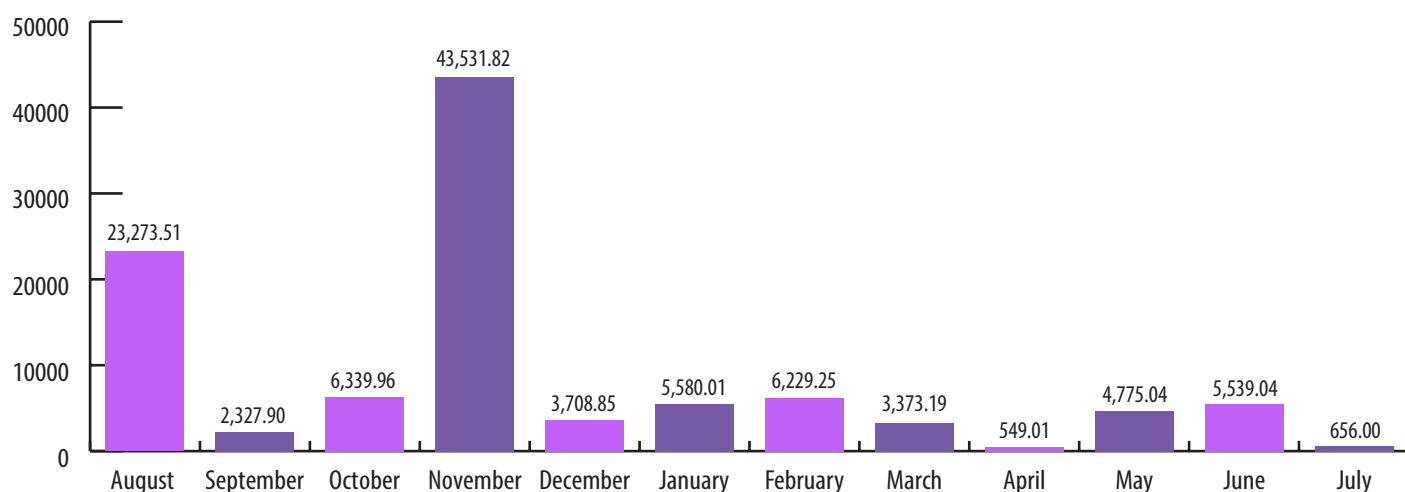


Figure 5.2: Repair & Maintenance FY 2022 - 2023



5.3 FINANCE MANAGEMENT

In accordance with the Financial Management Act and Regulations the CS ensures compliance with financial reporting requirements. This involves diligent monitoring and reporting on budgetary performance to uphold fiscal accountability and transparency. Additionally, the CS is tasked with the careful management of budgetary allocations through the preparations of the Ministry's budget proposals.

5.3.1 Budget Analysis from Accounts Unit

The Finance Department provided the Ministry with financial support through budget allocations, project specific funding and financial advice and oversight and the management of expenditures and reimbursements to ensure effective financial administration.



AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits



Level 1, Modyl Plaza
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Website: www.oag.gov.fj



File: 623

05 August 2024

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 2023

The audited financial statements of the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation for the year ended 31 July 2023 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

Finau Seru Nagera
AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

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

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 2023, 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 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.

Other Matter

The Ministry does not maintain a comprehensive list of recipients of benefits under the Social Protection Programmes and a database to include their detail information.

Responsibilities of the Management and those Charged with Governance for the 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.

Other Information

The Management of the Ministry are responsible for the Other Information. The other information comprises the Annual Report but does not include the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based upon the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

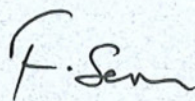
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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.



Finau Seru Nagera
AUDITOR-GENERAL



Suva, Fiji
05 August 2024

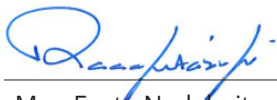
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

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 2023; 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: 29 / 07 / 2024



Mrs. Venina Duvuduvukula
Principal Accounts Officer

Date: 29 / 07 / 2024

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

	Note	31 July 2023 (\$)	31 July 2022 (\$)
REVENUE			
STATE REVENUE:			
Operating Revenue	3(a)	15,664	12,702
Total State Revenue		15,664	12,702
AGENCY REVENUE:			
Miscellaneous Revenue	3(b)	248	1,680
Total Agency Revenue		248	1,680
TOTAL REVENUE		15,912	14,382
EXPENDITURE			
OPERATING EXPENDITURE:			
Established Staff	3(c)	7,394,629	7,247,437
Government Wage Earners	3(d)	1,855,113	1,868,785
Travel & Communication	3(e)	614,948	405,425
Maintenance & Operations	3(f)	1,120,135	1,027,377
Purchase of Goods & Services	3(g)	4,015,792	3,483,694
Operating Grants & Transfers	3(h)	139,137,755	117,819,421
Special Expenditure	3(i)	1,771,688	646,409
Total Operating Expenditure		155,910,060	132,498,548
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:			
Capital Construction	3(j)	1,435,261	1,755,641
Capital Purchases	3(k)	179,920	13,498
Capital Grants & Transfers	3(l)	85,180	81,000
Total Capital Expenditure		1,700,361	1,850,139
Value Added Tax	3(m)	804,467	424,249
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		158,414,888	134,772,936

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

APPROPRIATION STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

SEG	ITEM	Budget Estimate (\$)	Appropriation Changes (\$)	Revised Estimate (a) (\$)	Actual Expenditure (b) (\$)	Lapsed Appropriation (a-b) Note 4 (\$)
OPERATING EXPENDITURE						
1	Established Staff	8,168,430	(9,072)	8,159,358	7,394,629	764,729
2	Government Wages Earners	1,966,234	115,583	2,081,817	1,855,113	226,704
3	Travel & Communication	379,000	254,000	633,000	614,948	18,052
4	Maintenance & Operations	1,150,000	3,940	1,153,940	1,120,135	33,805
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	4,371,868	(204,923)	4,166,945	4,015,792	151,153
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	126,683,162	12,723,453	139,406,615	139,137,755	268,860
7	Special Expenditure	1,968,000	(69,858)	1,898,142	1,771,688	126,454
Total Operating Expenditure		144,686,694	12,813,123	157,499,817	155,910,060	1,589,757
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
8	Capital Construction	1,800,000	(86,453)	1,713,547	1,435,261	278,286
9	Capital Purchase	250,000	(16,907)	233,093	179,920	53,173
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	100,000	-	100,000	85,180	14,820
Total Capital Expenditure		2,150,000	(103,360)	2,046,640	1,700,361	346,279
13	Value Added Tax	847,741	23,749	871,490	804,467	67,023
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		147,684,435	12,733,512	160,417,947	158,414,888	2,003,059

STATEMENT OF LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Loss of Money

There was no loss of money recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2023.

Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of revenue recorded for the financial year ended 31 July 2023.

Loss (other than money)

There was no loss (other than Money) recorded in the financial year ended 31 July 2023.

There was no board of survey carried out for the financial year ended 31 July 2023. However, the board of survey for the financial year ended 31 July 2023 was carried out in February and March 2024 which was approved by Ministry of Finance on 22 May 2024.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
TRUST FUND ACCOUNT STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

	Note	31 July 2023 (\$)	31 July 2022 (\$)
OPENING BALANCE		---	189,972
RECEIPTS:			
Revenue		---	---
Total Receipts		---	---
PAYMENTS:			
Bank Fees		---	---
HFH Fund returned to Ministry of Finance		---	189,972
Total Payments		---	189,972
CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31 JULY	(9)	---	---

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

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 to 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, focusing 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 implement 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 Instructions 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.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

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 Finance. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to the suppliers and the sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

The VAT payment as per the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures relates to VAT input claimed on payments made to the suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred and VAT payments to 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 \$2,962 or 23% in 2023 compared to 2022 due to commission which is deducted at source from insurance premium and other credit institutions payable.
- (b) The Miscellaneous Revenue decreased by \$1,432 or 85% in 2023 compared to 2022 is due to reduction in number of returned invalid bank accounts and decrease in accounts received from the Bank for Social Protection Programme recipients.
- (c) The Established Staff cost increased by \$147,192 or 2% in 2023 compared to 2022 due to new request of vacant positions with its FNPF contribution 7%.
- (d) The Government Wage Earners cost decreased by \$13,672 or 1% in 2023 compared to 2022 due to correct alignment of vacant positions against P2P and filling of vacant positions for the carers.
- (e) The Travel & Communication cost increased by \$209,523 or 52% in 2023 compared to 2022. The increase was due to the travelling undertaken by the Ministry's staff and increase in telecommunication cost. The increase is also due to engagement of taxi vendors for travel.
- (f) The Maintenance & Operations cost increased by \$92,758 or 9% in 2023 compared to 2022 due to increase of payment in expenditure for maintenance of the Ministry vehicles and fuel cost, Power Supply and Water Sewerage.
- (g) The Purchasing of Goods & Services increased by \$532,098 or 15% in 2023 compared to 2022 was based on commission charges for fees paid to Banks for monthly Social Protection Programme Pay out, purchase of IT equipment, Furniture and also the engagement of National Coordinator and Technical Assistants for Social Protection Programme (SPP) Reform.
- (h) The Operating Grants and Transfers cost increased by \$21,318,334 or 18% in 2023 compared to 2022 was due to increase in payment for Social Protection Programmes monthly pay out to the recipients and increase of E-ticketing Bus Fare Concessions for senior Citizens and Person living with Disability.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

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

- (i) Special Expenditures increase by \$1,125,279 or 174% in 2023 compared to 2022. This increase was due to the funds provided by DFAT for the Social Welfare Management Information System being utilised to procure infrastructure, outsourcing of Child Helpline and Domestic Violence Helpline. The increased expenditure also catered for Women's Divisional Craft Show.
- (j) Capital Construction cost decreased by \$320,380 or 18% in 2023 compared to 2022. This decrease was due to reduction of payment expenditure, pay out for Construction of Barefoot College and final settlement for refurbishment of aged care facility in Labasa.
- (k) Capital Purchase cost increased by \$166,422 or 1,233% in 2023 compared to 2022. This increase was due to procurement of furniture and fitting for refurbishment of Aged Care facility in Labasa.
- (l) The Capital Grants and Transfers increased by \$4,180 or 5% in 2023 compared to 2022 was due to funding to Fire Victims recipients is based on as and when fire occurs.
- (m) The Value Added Tax increased by \$380,218 or 90% in 2023 compared to 2022 mainly due to increase in VAT charge activities.

NOTE 4: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

No.	Expenditure	Revised Budget (\$)	Actual Expenditure (\$)	Savings (\$)	Percentage Savings (%)
(a)	Established Staff	8,159,358	7,394,629	764,729	9.37%
(b)	Government Wage Earners	2,081,817	1,855,113	226,704	10.89%
(c)	Purchase of Goods & Services	4,166,945	4,015,792	151,153	3.63%
(d)	Operating Grants and Transfers	139,406,615	139,137,755	268,860	0.19%
(e)	Special Expenditure	1,898,142	1,771,688	126,454	6.66%
(f)	Capital Construction	1,713,547	1,435,261	278,286	16.24%
(g)	Capital Purchase	233,093	179,920	53,173	22.81%

a) The savings under Established Staff (SEG 1) was due to the following:

- (i) Savings in Seg 1 is due to the high number of vacancies that existed in the Ministry in particular the Department of Women. Other factors that contributed to the savings was that Officers were appointed on steps 1 and 2 of the salary band however position were budgeted on Step 3.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

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

b) The savings under Government Wage Earners (SEG 2) was due to the following:

- (i) Child Savings in Seg 2 is the high number of vacancies that existed in the Ministry in particular the Department of Women. Other factors that contributed to the savings was that Officers were appointed on steps 1 and 2 of the salary band however position were budgeted on Step 3.

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

- (i) Technical Assistance - Social Protection Programme (SPP) Reform- \$84,262 was 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.

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

- (i) Child Protection Allowance savings of \$81,903 was due to additional fund provided to cushion the influx of CPA kinship care and Ministry implemented the approval in July but could not fully utilise the funds as at 31 July 2023.
- (ii) Women's institution saving of \$127,065 was due to incomplete tender process for construction of Women's Shelter.

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

- (i) Social Welfare Management Information System (DFAT) savings of \$59,173 was due to late engagement of software developer and availability of the designed digitization templates from the development partner in June 2023 which enabled the team to procure the support for 2 months only.

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

- (i) Construction of Barefoot College savings of \$278,286 was due to variation of project cost and extension of time for the completion of the project. Hence, the completion has been deferred to the next financial year resulting in savings as at 31 July 2023.

g) The savings under Capital Purchase (SEG 9) was due to the following:

- (i) Purchase of furniture - Aged Care Home (Labasa) savings of \$53,173 was due to inability to procure industrial or large capacity (above 15kg) washing machine as there was no supplier in country to supply the specified machine upon release of RIE.

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTE 5: DETAILS OF APPROPRIATION CHANGES

The Cabinet approved the re-deployment of Funds from Head 24- various allocations via Cabinet Decision 307/2023.

Journal No.	From	Amount (\$)	To	Amount (\$)
REDY02	SEG 6	445,068	Head 50	608,168
REDY02	SEG 7	59,740		
REDY02	SEG 8	86,453		
REDY02	SEG 9	16,907		
REDY02	Head 50	13,341,680	SEG 5	263,880
REDY02			SEG 6	13,054,051
REDY02			SEG 13	23,749

The Minister of Finance approved the following transfer of funds during the year.

Journal No.	From	Amount (\$)	To	Amount (\$)
V24001	SEG 4	67,266	SEG 1	48,157
	SEG 6	17,902		
	SEG 2	5,000	SEG 2	63,354
	SEG 7	21,343		

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

Journal No.	From	Amount (\$)	To	Amount (\$)
V24002	SEG 1	107,318	SEG 1	50,089
	SEG 2	65,197	SEG 2	122,426

The Permanent Secretary for Ministry approved the following Virement under delegation from the Minister of Finance.

Journal No.	From	Amount (\$)	To	Amount (\$)
DV2401	SEG 5	170,000	SEG 3	150,000
			SEG 4	20,000
DV2403	SEG 6	2,626,000	SEG 6	2,626,000
DV2404	SEG 6	4,000,000	SEG 6	4,000,000
DV2405	SEG 4	20,000	SEG 3	38,000
			SEG 4	100,000
	SEG 5	126,725	SEG 5	2,000
			SEG 7	6,725
DV2406	SEG 4	9,794	SEG 5	4,794
	SEG 5	6,900	SEG 3	30,000
	SEG 6	18,100		

Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued...)
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

Journal No.	From	Amount (\$)	To	Amount (\$)
DV2408	SEG 4	12,000	SEG 4	5,000
	SEG 5	11,300	SEG 3	32,000
	SEG 6	13,700		
DV2409	SEG 5	39,222	SEG 6	39,222
DV2410	SEG 3	21,000	SEG 3	25,000
	SEG 4	12,000	SEG 7	4,500
	SEG 5	121,450	SEG 6	124,950
DV2411	SEG 4	13,729	SEG 4	13,729

NOTE 6: OPERATING TRUST ACCOUNT

As at 31 July 2023, the Ministry had a credit balance of \$124,625 in the Operating Trust Account.

NOTE 7: REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNT

As at 31 July 2023, the Ministry had a balance of \$47,315 in the Revolving Fund Account. The balance was due to Accountable Advance issued to the officers which was not retired on time.

NOTE 8: DRAWINGS ACCOUNT

At balance date, the Ministry had a balance of \$40,115 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, 2023 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
& SOCIAL PROTECTION

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