

Social Affairs Department
Quarterly Statistical Bulletin
Quarter 1 2020

Introduction

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the first quarter of 2020. Information is gathered from the Legal Services and Child Protection section, Community Social Work section and the Night shelter.

Social Services

Legal Services & Child Protection Section

The Child protection unit deals with any cases related to children aged between 0-14 years old. As part of the investigating process and intervention plan, the unit undertakes home and school visits as well as counselling sessions.

The Legal Services Unit's main responsibility is to handle cases referred by the Supreme Court and Family Tribunal for investigation and submission of reports to address children related issues of custody, access, maintenance, adoption, guardianship and mediation for reconciliation in divorce matters.

Table 1: Number of abuse cases reported in Q1

Categories	Total Q1
Sexual related cases	
Sexual abuse (confirmed)	24
Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation)	3
Sexual play	1
Indecent act	6
Sexual exposure	6
Other Abuse	
Physical	32
Alleged Physical abuse	6
Neglect	1
Total Q1	79

Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- There was an increase of 7 in the number of cases reported when compared to the same period in 2019.As can be observed in the table above most cases reported were related to physical and sexual abuse of children.

Table 2: Number of referral cases in Q1

	Total Q1
Family tribunal referrals	
Custody, access & maintenance	63
Supreme court	
Adoption	5

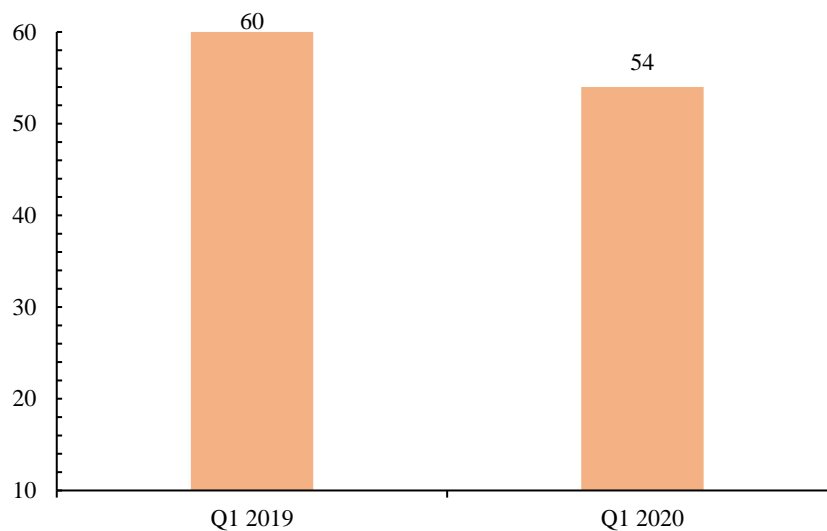
Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- In comparison to the same period last year the number of referral cases from the Family Tribunal increased by 26.

Children’s Helpline

Social Services introduced the 3-digit helpline operated on a daily basis up to 11.00pm. The helpline is manned on a rotational basis by social workers of the two main sections, Community Social Work Section and Legal and Child Protection Section.

Figure 1: Number of cases referred through helpline in Q1 2019 and Q1 2020



Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- Compared to the first quarter of 2019 the number of cases received through the children’s helpline in quarter 1 of 2020 declined by 6.

Community Social Work Section

Community social work promotes the wellbeing of the community. It encompasses a variety of components focusing on economic needs, educational concerns, family challenges, collaborative and creative solutions at community level. It further emphasizes on advocacy, analysis planning and implementation of activities to support families and alleviate the difficult situation they are going through.

Table 3: Number of cases reported at the Community Social Work section in Q1

Categories	Total Q1
Neglect	8
Alleged neglect	12
Delinquency	3
Deviancy	4
Semi orphan benefit	1
Housing issue	3
Alleged physical abuse	2
Behavioural issue	1
Homeless	1
Access	1
Spousal conflict	9
Family conflict	8
Elderly Housing	4
Elderly hygiene issues	1
Elderly with mental health issues	1
Approved scheme benefit	1
Drug related issues	1
Sexually active	1
Incarcerated parents	1
Total Q1	63

Source: Community Social Work Section

- A significant reduction in the number of cases reported at the Community Social Work section was recorded in the first quarter of 2020. A total of 63 cases was reported compared to 198 cases reported in the same period in 2019.

Night Shelter

The mission of the night shelter is to cater for those individuals identified as being homeless due to their dysfunctionalities. The main aim is to provide psychosocial support and skills thus promote reintegration within their families and society.

Table 4: Night shelter admissions (Q1 2020)

Months	Admission
January	3
February	4
March	2
Total admission	9

Source: Night Shelter

- At the start of the quarter there was already 21 service users at the night shelter. Most of the new admissions in the first quarter were in their early forty's.