

**Social Affairs Department**  
**Quarterly Statistical Bulletin**  
**Quarter 2 2022**

**Introduction**

This quarterly statistical bulletin aims to present the statistics of the Social Affairs Department for the second quarter of 2022. 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 Q2

| <b>Categories</b>                         | <b>Total Q2</b> |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>Sexual related cases</b>               |                 |
| Sexual abuse (confirmed)                  | 28              |
| Alleged sexual abuse(Under investigation) | 25              |
| <b>Other Abuse</b>                        |                 |
| Physical                                  | 26              |
| Alleged physical abuse                    | 10              |
| Neglect                                   | 3               |
| Alleged neglect                           | 5               |
| <b>Total Q2</b>                           | <b>97</b>       |

*Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section*

- 97 new cases were reported from April to June 2022 compared to 78 cases reported in the same period in 2021. This shows an increase of 19 in the number of cases reported.
- Compared to the previous quarter number of cases reported dropped by 6, with sexual abuse showing a reduction of 7 in cases reported.

- As at the end of June 2022, there was a total caseload of 996 at the Child Protection unit, with 751 low risk cases, 172 medium risk and 73 low risk. A total of 20 cases were closed during the second quarter.
- In terms of the court cases, 1 male was sentenced to 15 years’ imprisonment for sexual offence and another male was acquitted for an alleged sexual offence.

Table 2: Number of referral cases in Q2

|                                  | <b>Total Q2</b> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Family tribunal referrals</b> |                 |
| Custody, access & maintenance    | 68              |
| <b>Supreme court</b>             |                 |
| Adoption                         | 1               |
| Guardianship                     | 1               |

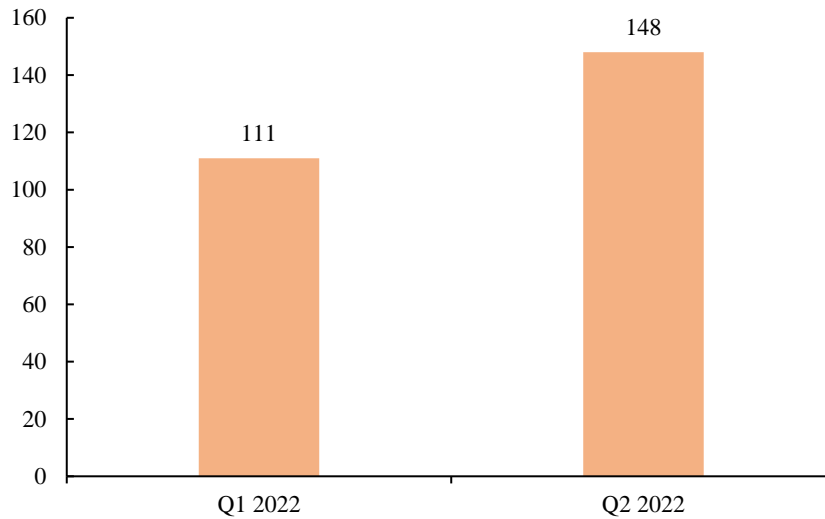
*Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section*

- There was an increase of 16 cases referred by the family tribunal compared to the same period last year.
- A slight reduction of 1 case was observed in cases referred by the supreme court in comparison to the same period last year.
- During the same quarter 1 child underwent the adaptation process with a foster family and 2 children were placed with adoptive families. In addition, three couples began their assessment process as prospective adoptive parents.
- As at June 2022 the total case load of the Legal Services unit totaled to 76, comprising of cases related to custody access and maintenance, guardianship, foster care and adoption.

**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 2022 and Q2 2022



Source: Legal Services & Child Protection section

- 148 cases were referred on Children’s Helpline. An increase of 68 cases was recorded compared to the same period last year.
- When compared to the previous quarter cases referred through the helpline increased by 37.

### 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 Q2

| Categories                     | Total Q2 |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Neglect                        | 26       |
| Alleged neglect                | 13       |
| Alleged Emotional Abuse        | 6        |
| Deviancy                       | 13       |
| Delinquency                    | 1        |
| Housing issues                 | 29       |
| Alleged elderly physical abuse | 1        |
| Mental Health                  | 3        |
| Sexually active                | 9        |

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Homeless             | 10         |
| Access               | 9          |
| Truancy              | 1          |
| Spousal conflict     | 37         |
| Family Conflict      | 74         |
| Disability           | 1          |
| Maintenance          | 5          |
| Hygiene              | 8          |
| Emotional abuse      | 5          |
| Drug                 | 7          |
| Elderly neglect      | 1          |
| Financial            | 14         |
| Teenage pregnancy    | 9          |
| Sexual play          | 4          |
| Alcohol              | 6          |
| Elderly abuse        | 15         |
| Elderly financial    | 1          |
| Breach of peace      | 9          |
| Alleged sexual abuse | 2          |
| Domestic violence    | 9          |
| <b>Total Q2</b>      | <b>328</b> |

- 328 new cases were registered from April to June 2022 compared to 103 reported in the same period in 2021. This represents an increase of 225 in cases reported. The most substantial increase was observed in the number of family conflicts reported.
- When compared to the previous quarter, cases increased by 30, with housing issue recording the highest increase.
- At the end of the second quarter the total caseload in the districts totaled 878, with 445 low risk cases, 360 medium risk and 73 high risk cases.
- The family support unit within the Community Social Work section had a total of 183, with 138 low risk, 30 medium risk and 15 high risk cases.
- The Community Social Work Section closed 95 cases during the second quarter.

### **Monitoring and Compliance Section**

#### Suitability Check of Childminders and Assistant Childminders

- The Suitability Check Panel conducted 3 working sessions in the second quarter of 2022.

- A total of 23 applicants were interviewed consisting of 12 childminders and 11 assistant child minders.
- The panel has disbursed a total of 16 suitability check outcome letters during the period. These were issued to 7 childminders and 9 assistant childminders.
- At the end of the quarter, 7 cases were still pending due to lack of information.

### **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 (Q2 2022)

| <b>Months</b>          | <b>Admission</b> |
|------------------------|------------------|
| April                  | 1                |
| May                    | 6                |
| June                   | 4                |
| <b>Total admission</b> | <b>11</b>        |

- Compared to the first quarter the number of admission increase by 2, with most of the admission being in the age range 20-49.