



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION,
SOCIAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL SOLIDARITY
(Social Integration Division)**

Annual Report on Performance

Financial Year 2022 - 2023



“Alleviating Poverty and Promoting Social Inclusion through Empowerment”

12 September 2023

About this Report

The Annual Report for the Financial Year 2022-2023 provides a comprehensive overview of the performance, achievements, and key developments of the Social Integration Division of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity during the fiscal year. It has been prepared following amendments made to the Finance and Audit Act in March 2015 and according to the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development.

This Report aims at providing to the public and stakeholders a detailed understanding of the financial standing, operational activities, strategic initiatives and the broader impact of our organization. The Report is, therefore, a mechanism of accountability in relation to resources provided by the National Assembly and services delivered thereon.

The Social Integration Division is committed to maintaining accountability and transparency in its operations and continually improving its reporting.

Guide to this Report

This Report is divided into four parts as follows:

Part I: The Social Integration Division (SID)

Part 1 sets out the Vision, Mission and provides an overview of the Social Integration Division (SID), its roles and functions, as well as its organizational structure. Departments and other Divisions falling under its aegis and their key functions are also briefly presented.

Part II: Achievements & Challenges

Part II describes mainly the major achievements of the Social Integration Division (SID), the status of the implementation of budget measures and a concise review of how the Division has performed during the Financial Year 2022-2023. It also includes the internal Key Performance Indicators which the SID has set for each of its delivery units. This Section also provides the actions and systems put in place in relation to risk management, citizen-oriented initiatives and good governance practices.

Part III: Financial Performance

Part III provides the financial highlights for the Financial Year 2022-2023 and an overview of the significant changes in financial results. It also includes a statement of revenue and expenditure of the Division.

Part IV: Way Forward

Part IV provides a situational analysis of the environment in which the Division operates, how it impacts on its service delivery, and the strategic direction to be adopted by the organisation to achieve its vision, objectives and desired outcomes.

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PART I: ABOUT THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION DIVISION

Vision and Mission

Vision

Eradication of extreme and chronic poverty and the creation of an inclusive and more equitable society.

Mission

To support and empower the vulnerable groups who are found eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius with a view to mainstreaming them in society and improving their quality of life in a sustainable manner through the provision of an effective and efficient service delivery, imbued in equity, fairness and impartiality.

Core Values



Figure 1: Core Values

Statement of the Accounting Officer

As we present the Annual Report of the Social Integration Division of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, it is with great pleasure and a sense of accomplishment that we reflect upon the strides made in fostering inclusivity, unity and empowerment within our society. This Report serves as a testimony to our unwavering commitment to building a stronger and more inclusive nation where every individual has equal opportunities to thrive and contribute.

Over the past year, the Social Integration Division has worked tirelessly to address the multifaceted challenges in the fight against poverty and to promote social justice. We have embarked on a journey to bridge gaps, break down barriers and create an environment where social integration is not only a vision but a tangible reality.

This Report offers a comprehensive overview of our endeavors and achievements during the fiscal year. It highlights the various initiatives, policies, and programs we have implemented to promote social cohesion and foster a sense of belonging among all citizens. From supporting marginalized groups to promoting social integration and strengthening community engagement, we have strived to **leave no one behind**.

One of our key actions has been the empowerment of vulnerable individuals and communities through education and skills development. We recognize that education is a powerful tool for social transformation and through targeted initiatives, scholarships, and vocational training programs, we have endeavored to equip our vulnerable citizens with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in a rapidly evolving society.


In our pursuit of social integration, we have also prioritized the well-being and protection of vulnerable households. We have implemented comprehensive Empowerment Programmes that provide essential support and services to individuals facing economic hardship, homelessness or poverty. Additionally, we have fostered partnerships with civil society organizations, NGOs, and other stakeholders to amplify our impact and create sustainable solutions.

I am immensely proud of the dedicated and passionate team at the Social Integration Division, who has worked diligently to drive positive change. Their unwavering commitment, innovative thinking and tireless efforts have been instrumental in realizing our goals and making a tangible difference in the lives of many.

However, our work is far from over. As we navigate the challenges of an ever-changing world, we recognize the need for continuous adaptation and innovation. This Annual Report also presents our future outlook, outlining our strategic priorities, objectives and initiatives for the coming year. We remain committed to building a society where diversity is celebrated, inclusion is embraced and everyone has an equal opportunity to prosper.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all our partners, stakeholders and the civil society for their unwavering support and trust. It is through collaboration and collective efforts that we can create a more harmonious and inclusive society.

I invite you to delve into the pages of this Report, which encapsulate our journey, achievements, and aspirations. Together, let us forge ahead with renewed determination, guided by the principles of social integration, as we strive to build a brighter and more inclusive future for all.



Ms M. N. Madhub
Senior Chief Executive

Roles and Functions of the Social Integration Division

The roles and functions of the Social Integration Division are as follows:

- To formulate policies and strategies to combat poverty and social exclusion
- To drive and coordinate initiatives for the social integration and sustainable development of vulnerable families
- To encourage and assist vulnerable households to undertake income earning activities to become economically independent
- To widen the circle of opportunities for the empowerment of the vulnerable families
- To eradicate absolute poverty and improve the living conditions of the poor
- To lay the foundation for sustainable human development and improve the life chances of children of poor families by providing a package of support programmes and opportunities for learning and development from a very early stage



Figure 2: Roles and Functions of the Social Integration Division

Gender Policy Statement

In light of the National Gender Policy 2022-2030 and International Conventions to which Mauritius is a signatory Party, this Gender Policy Statement highlights key measures taken at the national level to promote social integration and empowerment of households living in absolute poverty with regard to integrating gender perspective in national sustainable development policies and strategies, consistently with the mission of the Social Integration Division.

Its main aim is to identify some entry points that provide a framework for mainstreaming gender in policies, programmes and activities of the Division and make appropriate recommendations to promote the full and equal participation of women and men in the development process.

Achieving gender justice is a matter of basic human rights and is a fundamental principle of the Republic of Mauritius, as enshrined in its Constitution. Consequently, women and men must be guaranteed equal opportunities to participate equitably in the national development process. Mauritius being a signatory to multiple international and regional human rights instruments that protect women's rights, has also an obligation to adopt measures in favour of women to address gender gaps and inequalities.

While Mauritius has a good record of accomplishment regarding women's empowerment in terms of policies, legislation, institutional and infrastructural support as means to address gender inequalities, gender gaps still persist. The fundamental role of Government and development actors is to endow its citizens with an enabling environment where women and men are granted the best conditions under which they can develop their full potential.

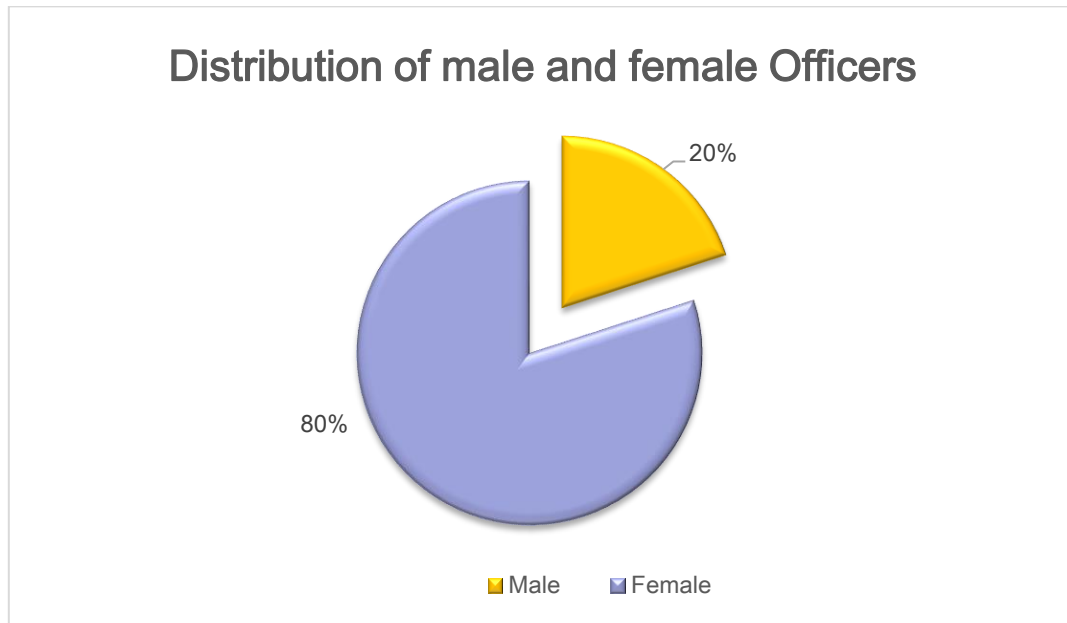
Government adopted the National Gender Policy 2022-2030, which embodies a vision and framework for a gender inclusive society. It lays the foundation for incorporating a gender-responsive approach in all developmental processes so as to attain full human development based on the principles of fairness and equity.

With a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the National Gender Policy, the Ministry has developed its own sector specific gender policy. It also undertakes to draw on the policy framework for revising /developing sectoral strategies to ensure coherence, and mainstream gender in programme design, performance indicators and budgetary allocations.

The Ministry's Gender Policy Statement reflects its commitment to mainstream gender in its sector specific schemes, programmes, activities and interventions, underpinned by the overall objective to promote gender equity, equality and social justice for the social integration and sustainable empowerment of vulnerable households.

Gender Disaggregated Data

With regard to gender distribution at the Division, out of 59 Officers in post at the end of the Financial Year 2022-2023, there were 12 male Officers, representing 20% and 47 female Officers, representing 80% of the personnel as depicted in the Table below.



Staffing Position	Male	Female
Number	12	47
Percentage	20%	80%

Table 1: Gender Disaggregated data on Staffing

Gender Distribution among Senior Officers

As regards gender distribution among senior officers in a position of decision making, there was

91 % female and 9 % male as follows:

Position	Male	Female
Senior Chief Executive	-	1
Permanent Secretary	-	1
Deputy Permanent Secretary	-	2
Assistant Permanent Secretary	-	3
Manager, Financial Operations	-	1
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	1	-
Assistant Manager Human Resource	-	1
Assistant Secretary General (Ex – NESC)	-	1
Total Number	1	10
Percentage	9%	91%

Table 2: Gender disaggregated data on senior officers at decision making level

Gender Equality and Empowerment Support

Having as mandate the eradication of poverty and the creation of an inclusive and more equitable society, this Division has always been empowering women to form part of the mainstream of the society.

Several programmes and projects are being implemented at the level of the Ministry through its implementing arm, the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF), with a view to achieving sustainable development and gender equality whilst ensuring equal access to all the Schemes, facilities and support services offered by the Division and the NEF.

The core mission of the Division is to support and empower the vulnerable households, who are found eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius. Strenuous efforts are made for the successful implementation of the Marshall Plan against Poverty with a view to promoting the integration of people living in absolute poverty in mainstream society and improving their quality of life in a sustainable manner.

Promoting gender equality and providing greater opportunities for young people are integrated themes that run throughout the Marshall Plan against Poverty and cut across all areas related to social protection, employment, education, health, environment, social housing and equity in service delivery, including Rodrigues.

The principles of equity and social justice require the Division to work to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity. The Division is therefore fully committed to channelling resources into processes that create a society that values women, men, girls and boys equally.

A range of empowerment support services in terms of Vocational Training, Employment and Livelihoods, Healthcare and Family Empowerment Programmes are also being provided by key line Ministries so that the participating households can have access to a wide array of services, including decent work through active labour market policies.

The Gender Policy Statement of the Social Integration Division therefore gives an overview of roles and functions of the Division and the different types of Empowerment Programmes and Schemes currently being implemented. The database of the Division makes provision for gender disaggregated statistics and gender-disaggregated indicators, which will be developed for monitoring and evaluation with respect to the various Empowerment Programmes and Schemes.

The number of beneficiaries, who have been provided with support under various Empowerment Schemes for the Financial Year 2022-2023, on a gender-wise basis, is shown below:

Scheme	Number of Beneficiaries		
	Female-headed Households	Male-headed Households	Total
Subsistence Allowance	3,164	2,308	5,472
School Premium	254	161	415
Waiving of Administration Fees	22	19	41
Total	3,440	2,488	5,928

Table 3: Gender Disaggregated data on average number of beneficiaries of Empowerment Schemes

Capacity-building on Gender Mainstreaming

Funds budgeted under the item "Gender Mainstreaming" for Financial Year 2022-2023 were used for the organisation of;

- (i) a training course in chips making for 28 female SRM beneficiaries. Relevant toolkits were also provided to the beneficiaries; and
- (ii) a one-day training course on entrepreneurship and life skills for 30 vulnerable women.

About Our People

The Senior Chief Executive is the Administrative Head of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity (Social Integration Division).

The Senior Chief Executive is assisted by the Permanent Secretary, two Deputy Permanent Secretaries, three Assistant Permanent Secretaries and officers from the Technical Cadre, Financial Operations Cadre, Human Resource Cadre, Procurement and Supply Cadre, Officers of the CISD, Statistics Mauritius, as well as officers belonging to the General Services.

The Technical Unit is responsible for the implementation of Empowerment Programmes Schemes, production of quarterly statistical reports, implementation of surveys/research studies and monitoring and evaluation of Empowerment Programmes and Schemes.

For Financial Year 2022-2023, the Division had a total of 64 funded positions. The Table below shows funded positions for the Financial Year 2022-2023 and the number of officers in post as at 30 June 2023.

Funded Positions for Financial Year 2022-2023

Grade	Funded Posts FY2022-2023	In Post as at 30 June 2023
Minister	1	1
Senior Chief Executive	1	1
Permanent Secretary	1	1
Deputy Permanent Secretary	2	1+1 (assigned duties of DPS)
Assistant Permanent Secretary	3	3
Head, Technical Unit	1	- Note: The officer is seconded to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
Psychologist	1	1
Assistant Secretary General (Ex-NESC)	1	1
Research Executive(Ex-NESC)	2	2
Research Analyst	1	1
Manager, Financial Operations	1	1
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	1	1
Financial Operations Officer/ Senior Financial Operations Officer	2	1
Assistant Financial Operations Officer	1	2

Grade	Funded Posts FY2022-2023	In Post as at 30 June 2023
Procurement and Supply Officer/ Senior Procurement and Supply Officer	1	1
Assistant Manager Human Resources	1	1
Human Resource Executive	1	1
Office Management Executive	1	1
Office Management Assistant	5	5
Office Supervisor	1	1
Management Support Officer	19	17
Confidential Secretary(Ex-NESC)	1	1
Confidential Secretary	3	2
Word Processing Operator	3	2
Head Office Auxiliary	1	1
Office Auxiliary/ Senior Office Auxiliary	5	5
Driver	2	2
General Worker	2	2
Total	65	61

Table 4: Funded positions as at 30 June 2023

Officers Paid by Other Ministries in post at the Social Integration Division as at 30 June 2023

Grade	Number in post	Paid by
Systems Analyst	1	Central Information Systems Division
Senior Statistical Officer	1	Statistics Mauritius
Computer Support Officer/Senior Computer Support Officer	1	Central Information Systems Division
Assistant Manager, Internal Control	1	Prime Minister's Office (Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity Division)
Total	4	

Table 5: Officers paid by other Ministries

Officials on Contract

Officials on Contract	Number In post
Adviser in Public Relation Matters	1
Intern under the Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP)	1
Interns under the "Service To Mauritius" Programme	2
Total	4

Table 6: Officials on contract**Senior Management Team (as at 30 June 2023)**

Designation	Contact Details
Senior Chief Executive	Miss Maheswaree Naraini MADHUB Phone: 2070632 Fax: 2129896 Email: mmadhub@govmu.org
Permanent Secretary	Mrs Jeanne LAN HING PO Phone: 2100783 Ext: 232 Fax: 2121673 Email: jlanhp@govmu.org
Deputy Permanent Secretary	Mrs Nooreena Oummay Salma HOSANY Phone: 201 2532 Ext: 222 Fax: 2100572 Email: shosany@govmu.org
Ag Deputy Permanent Secretary	Mrs Kabita NOTHOO Phone: 2083464 Ext: 243 Fax: 2100572 Email: knothoo@govmu.org
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mrs Deepti DABEE Phone: 260 0564 Ext: 246 Fax: 2081409 Email: dedabee@govmu.org
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mrs Saroja MAUMOONDEE-GALORE Phone: 213 5385 Ext: 261 Fax: 2081409 Email: smaumoondede-galore@govmu.org
Assistant Permanent Secretary	Mrs Reshma Devi PURGUSS-RAMJADA Phone: 2600563 Ext: 242 Fax: 208 1409 Email: rpurguss-ramjada@govmu.org

Manager, Financial Operations	Mrs Nargis Banu SAUMTALLY Phone: 213 0772 Fax: 213 0765 Email: nsaumtally@govmu.org
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	Mr Ambedkar TEELUCKDHARRY Phone: 213 0772 Fax: 213 0765 Email: amteeluckdharry@govmu.org
Assistant Manager, Human Resources	Mrs Shehnaz SAHEBALLY Phone: 213 0768 Fax: 2130765 Email: ssahebally@govmu.org
Assistant Secretary General (Ex-NESC)	Mrs Daisy Rani BRIGEMOHANE Phone: 213 8074 Fax: 208 1409 Email: dbrigemohane@govmu.org
Procurement and Supply Officer/Senior Procurement and Supply Officer	Mrs Nazianah Bibi THANDARAYAN Phone: 213 0772 Fax: 213 0766 Email: bnthandarayan@govmu.org

Table 7: Senior Management Team

Organisational Chart

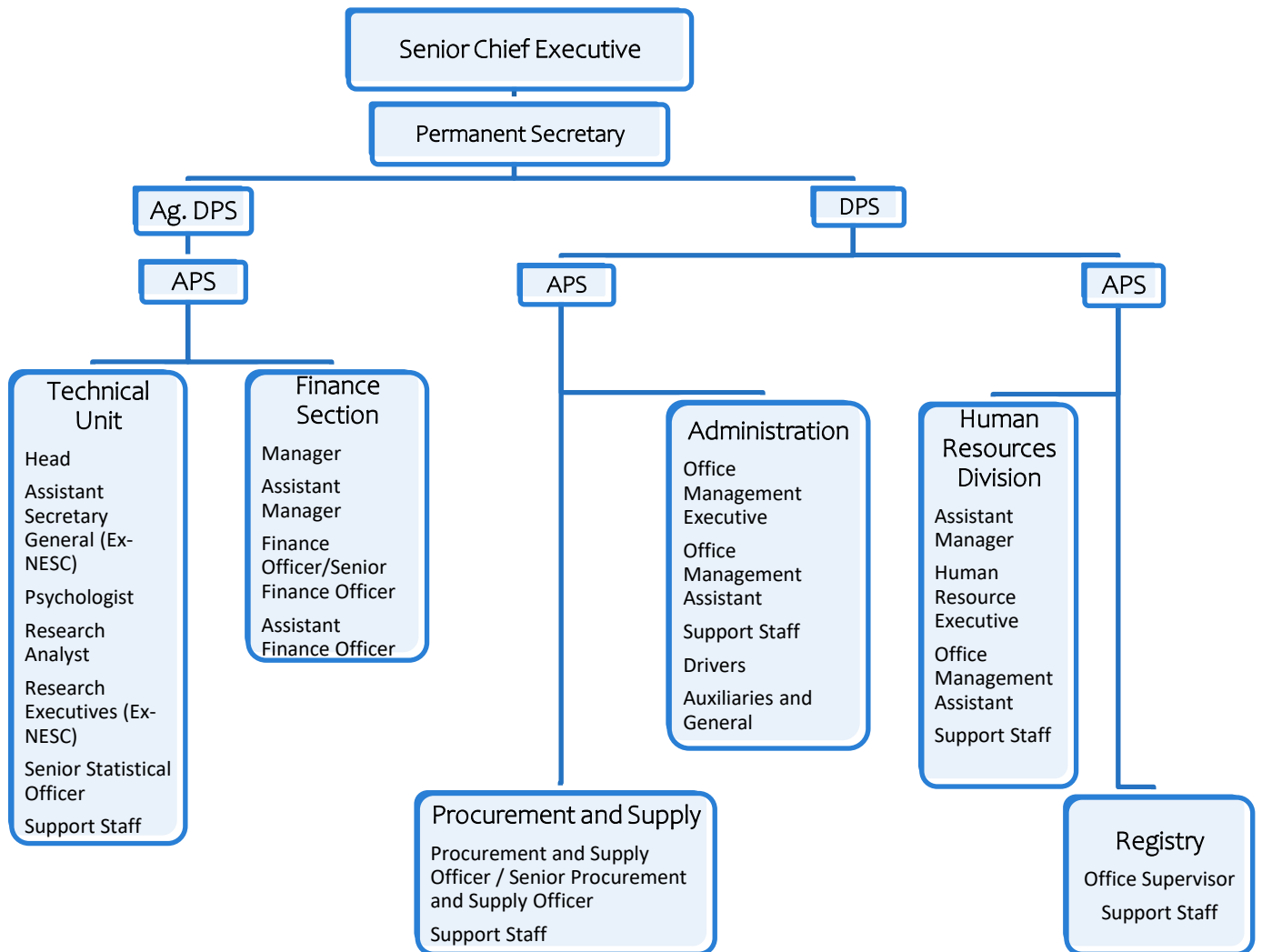


Figure 3: Organisational Chart

Staff Welfare

The Staff Welfare Association of the Division was set up in April 2018 and was last reconstituted with a new President on 13 April 2022. As at date, the Staff Welfare Association comprises 37 members. Several activities have been organised during the Financial Year 2022-2023, including the following:

- Participation in the Civil Service Kermesse
- Team Building Activity at Veranda Hotel, Pointe aux Biches
- Independence Day Celebrations
- Art Exhibition

(i) Participation in the Civil Service Kermesse 2022

The Staff Welfare Association of the Social Integration Division was awarded the 2nd prize in the Best Food Stall Competition in the Civil Service Kermesse 2022.

(ii) Art Exhibition by Staff of the Division

On the occasion of the World Art Day 2023 which is annually celebrated on 15 April, the Staff Welfare Association of this Division organised an Art Exhibition with a view to showcasing the talents of the staff of the Division in various areas such as Photography, Do-It-Yourself, painting, wooden craft, collage, embroidery, artisanal, poem, calligraphy, amongst others. The Art Exhibition was an occasion to show the hidden talents of each and every one and promote an atmosphere of togetherness in the workplace.

PART II: DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER BODIES FALLING UNDER THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION DIVISION

The National Empowerment Foundation (NEF)

The National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) is the implementing arm of the Social Integration Division. It is a not-for-profit, State-owned Company set up under the Companies Act and is managed by a Board of Directors. The day-to-day running and administration of the affairs of the Foundation falls under the responsibility of a Chief Executive Officer, who is answerable to the Board.

The core function of the NEF is to ensure the case management of the families eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM) as per the Marshall Plan Social Contract and to deliver a range of empowerment support services namely:

- (i) Assessing the needs of families found eligible under the SRM;
- (ii) Implementing Empowerment Programmes and Schemes;
- (iii) Providing social support and counselling to SRM beneficiaries (Case Management Approach);
- (iv) Monitoring of the Marshall Plan Social Contract signed by households and track their progress to ensure their graduation out of poverty;
- (v) Keeping under review any change in the social or economic status of any person who is receiving support; and
- (vi) Monitoring and evaluating of Empowerment Programmes/Schemes.

The National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF)

The National Social Inclusion Foundation (formerly known as the National CSR Foundation) was established by Government on 30 December 2016 and is incorporated under the Foundation Act 2012. Its aim is to ensure greater accountability and transparency in the use of CSR funds and to generate better social outcomes.

Following the announcement in the Budget Speech 2018- 2019 for a coordinated approach with regard to funding of NGOs, the Foundation is the central body to receive and allocate public funds to NGOs as from 01 January 2019.

Its governance structure consists of a multi-stakeholder composition of representatives from the public sector, private sector, civil society and academia.

The mandate of the National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF) is to undertake programmes and projects for the benefit of individuals and families registered under the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM), as well as vulnerable groups as defined in its Charter.

The 10 priority areas of intervention of the NSIF are:

- (i) Socio-economic development as a means for poverty alleviation;
- (ii) Educational support and training;
- (iii) Social housing;

- (iv) Supporting people with disabilities;
- (v) Dealing with health problems;
- (vi) Family protection including gender-based violence;
- (vii) Leisure and sports;
- (viii) Environment and sustainable development;
- (ix) Peace and nation-building; and
- (x) Road safety and security.

The objectives of the Foundation are, *interalia*, to:

- (i) Establish and update a register of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/ Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) in specific priority areas to allocate funds;
- (ii) Request and examine call for proposals for the implementation of programmes and projects by NGOs/NPOs;
- (iii) Monitor and evaluate programmes and projects funded by the Foundation;
- (iv) Serve as a platform for coordination and communication among stakeholders;
- (v) Liaise with Ministries when required to support project implementation by NGOs/NPOs and
- (vi) Promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015- 2030.

Major Achievements

The major achievements of the Division for the Financial Year 2022-2023 are as follows:

Subsistence Allowance

- The Subsistence Allowance is an income support paid on a monthly basis to the beneficiaries living below the absolute poverty threshold to ensure that the basic needs of the families are met.
- As at 30 June 2023, there were **5,472** households representing **21,306** beneficiaries, who were eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM) and have signed the Marshall Plan Social Contract. These were distributed as follows:
 - 2,752 households in Mauritius; and
 - 2,720 households in Rodrigues
- A total amount of Rs 202,739,328 was disbursed during the Financial Year 2022-2023.

Child Allowance

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide a Child Allowance in respect of children of households as an incentive to encourage them to attend school regularly.
- A total of **5,135** beneficiaries, including **2,505** beneficiaries in Mauritius and **2,630** beneficiaries in Rodrigues, have benefitted from the Scheme for an amount of Rs **47,420,971** during Financial Year 2022-2023.

School Premium Scheme

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide a School Premium in relation to a child having passed the National Certificate of Education Examinations, or the School Certificate (SC) examinations or its equivalent General Certificate of Education (GCE) Ordinary, or the Higher School Certificate (HSC) examinations or its equivalent Advanced Level (A Level) as an incentive for them to pursue their studies and achieve higher levels of education.
- A total of **415** children (191 in Mauritius and 224 in Rodrigues) benefitted from the Scheme as follows:
 - 240 children benefitted from the Scheme for having completed the National Certificate of Education;
 - 144 children benefitted from the Scheme for having completed the School Certificate;
 - 23 children benefitted from the Scheme for having completed the Higher School Certificate; and
 - 8 students benefitted from the Scheme for having completed their undergraduate Examination.
- A total amount of Rs 8,325,000 was disbursed under this Scheme during Financial Year 2022-2023.

Figure 4: Subsistence Allowance, Child Allowance & School Premium Schemes

Crèche Scheme

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide a Crèche allowance up to a maximum of Rs 2,000 monthly to registered Day Care Centres, in respect of children of SRM eligible households, as an incentive for their admission into registered institutions and to encourage unemployed mothers to take up employment or to undergo training.

Free Examination Fees Scheme

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide an opportunity to children of households to have a second attempt, free of charge, at the examinations for the School Certificate (SC) or its equivalent General Certificate of Education (GCE) Ordinary, or Higher School Certificate (HSC) or its equivalent Advanced Level (A Level) to improve their educational performance.

Waiving of Administration Fees Scheme

- The Budget Speech 2022-2023 made provision for a new measure in respect of the waiving of administration fees for full-time courses at MITD and other recognised public tertiary institutions for children from eligible SRM households.
- 41 students (34 beneficiaries from Mauritius and 7 from Rodrigues) have benefitted under this Scheme for a total amount of Rs 264,300 during Financial Year 2022-2023.

Figure 5: Crèche Scheme, Free Exams Scheme and Waiving of Administration Fees Schemes

School Materials

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide school materials such as bags, uniforms, shoes, copybooks and stationery to children of households as an incentive to motivate them to attend school. The child should be aged not less than 3 years nor more than 23 years and attends a registered school or institution.
- Some **11,541** children, including, **7,362** in Mauritius and **4,179** in Rodrigues have benefitted from this Scheme. A total amount of **Rs 56 Million** has been disbursed under the Scheme for Financial Year 2022-2023.

Free Sanitary Towels to students of Grade 6 to Grade 13 Classes

- The objective of the Scheme is to, inter alia, increase access of teenage girls to sexual and reproductive health products and increase their retention in school, transition to higher levels of learning.
- From July 2022 to September 2022, two packets of sanitary pads were distributed to girls of Grades 6 to 13 classes.
- As from October 2022, an average of **738** beneficiaries in Mauritius and **800** beneficiaries in Rodrigues have benefitted from a Cash Grant of Rs 100 on a monthly basis under the Scheme at a total cost of **Rs 2.5 Million**.

Free Optical Glasses

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide optical glasses to students aged up to 21 years old from eligible SRM households having visual impairments with a view to further supporting their families and contributing towards the academic performance of the students.
- A total of **666** children from SRM families (**599** in Mauritius and **67** in Rodrigues) have been screened and 457 beneficiaries in Mauritius and 61 in Rodrigues were provided free optical glasses at the unit cost of **Rs 5,000** during Financial Year 2022-2023.

Figure 6: School Materials Scheme, Free Sanitary Towels Scheme and Free Optical Glasses Scheme

Special Scheme / Start-up Kit for the Unemployed

- The objective of the Scheme is to provide short-term tailor-made training courses to unemployed SRM beneficiaries in some specific sectors in order to enable them to acquire the required skills to get empowered and to either start a small business or become employable.
- Start-up Kits/Tool kits and a monthly stipend of **Rs 5000** and travelling allowance of **Rs 1,000** are provided to beneficiaries who complete 90% attendance for MITD courses.
- A total **283** beneficiaries, comprising **214** beneficiaries from Mauritius and **69** beneficiaries from Rodrigues, have attended and completed training courses under the Scheme.
- Training on Beauty Therapy is ongoing for **30** beneficiaries, which will end on 15 July 2023.

Figure 7: Special Scheme for the Unemployed

Summary of Training Courses dispensed to SRM Beneficiaries during Financial Year 2022-2023

Mauritius

SN	Training	Number of beneficiaries
1	Introduction to Crop Production	17
2	Pickle Making	19
3	Basic Pastry preparation	18
4	Essential of Housekeeping	10
5	Fabrication of Aluminium Opening	12
6	Pastry Preparation	6
7	Hair Dressing	6
8	Essentials in Beauty Therapy	10
9	Initiation to transforming food systems to new techniques of food production	78
10	Digital marketing	18
11	Referral for training	20
TOTAL		214

Rodrigues

SN	Training	Number of beneficiaries
1	Manufacturing of furniture using pallets	12
2	Macramé	18
3	Ladieswear	12
4	Basic Masonry	12
5	Entrepreneurship	15
TOTAL		69

Table 8: List of Training Courses

Provision of Free Diapers

- The Budget Speech 2022-2023 made provision for diapers to be provided to infants of SRM households up to the age of **1 year old**.
- A Cash Grant of Rs **1,000** is credited to the bank account of eligible SRM households on a monthly basis, in favour of infants up to the age of 1 year old, for the purchase of diapers.
- For Financial Year 2022-2023, an average of **278 infants** (113 infants in Mauritius and 165 infants in Rodrigues) have benefitted from the Scheme on a monthly basis.

Figure 8: Provision of Free Diapers Scheme

Life Enhancement Education Programme (LEEP)

- Life Skills Training under the Life Enhancement Education Programme is a curriculum for building skills for work, health and life adapted for the beneficiaries that helps adults prepare for success in work, health and life.
- There following **13** modules are addressed during the sessions:
 - Self Esteem;
 - Intra/Interpersonal Skill';
 - Knowing the Family;
 - Sexuality, Communicable and Non Communicable Diseases;
 - Importance of Education and Family Budgeting;
 - Being a Moral and Responsible Citizen;
 - Gender Equality;
 - Home, Maintenance;
 - Work and Entrepreneurship Skills;
 - Food Hygiene & Food Wastage;
 - Addiction;
 - Mental Health; and
 - Parenting.

Figure 9: Life Enhancement Education Programme (LEEP)

SN	District/Region	Number of beneficiaries
1.	Black River	11
2.	Flacq	15
3.	Plaine Wilhems	15
4.	Savanne	15
5.	Riviere Du Rempart	15
6.	Grand Port	15
7.	Pamplemousses	15
8.	Rodrigues	184
Total		285

Table 9: Beneficiaries of Life Enhancement Education Programme

Medical Screening

Improving the health outcomes for women and girls makes it compulsory for beneficiaries to show evidence of current medical card records with proof of vaccination/immunizations for all family members, regular prenatal and postnatal check-ups and preventive medical care.

Medical screening exercises are conducted throughout the island for the benefit of SRM households in respect of the following:

- Diabetes screening
- Personal hygiene
- Aids counselling and screening
- Breast and prostate cancer screening & awareness
- Family planning counselling, ECG, bone marrow testing
- Nutritional and general awareness and screening
- Distribution of sanitary pads
- Distribution of sanitizers & hygiene kits
- Eye check up
- Blood test
- Body Mass Index

As at 30 June 2023, a total amount of **Rs 375,000** has been disbursed to NEF.

Some **2,320** beneficiaries have benefitted from medical screening (**2,037** beneficiaries in Mauritius and **283** beneficiaries in Rodrigues) as detailed in the Table below:

SN	District	Number of beneficiaries
1	Plaine Wilhems	240
2	Savanne	217
3	Grand Port	117
4	Pamplemousses	157
5	Port Louis	193
6	Black River	403
7	Riviere du Rempart	105
8	Moka	150
9	Flacq	455
10	Rodrigues	283
TOTAL		2,320

Table 10: Medical Screening

Recreational Activities

- The Scheme consists of the organization of recreational activities for SRM beneficiaries across the island during school holidays.
- Mauritius
 - A total of **953** beneficiaries across the island in Mauritius participated in a One-Fun Day activity at Mont Choisy beach and Flic en Flac and visited La Vanille Nature Park.
- Rodrigues
 - **111** beneficiaries participated in the two recreational activities held on the beaches of Ile Michel and Grand Baie in Rodrigues in November 2022. The activities organized included a Dancing and Song competition, Bouncing castle, Sand castle competition, among others.

Unveiling Talents

- This Scheme consists of the organisation of activities aiming at showcasing the hidden talents of SRM beneficiaries. Unveiling Talents activities include, inter-alia, singing, dancing, Instrumental Music, slam, futsal and martial arts. Sports, particularly football, is increasingly recognized as a means for promoting social inclusion.
- Unveiling talent activities were organized in the Community Centre of Anse Aux Anglais during the school holidays in April 2023 for **101** primary children from Rodrigues. The activities organized during the two days included drawing competition, painting competition and workshops in connection with making of Easter eggs.

Figure 10: Recreational Activities and Unveiling Talents

Fully Concrete Housing (FCH) Scheme

- This Scheme provides for the construction of a fully concrete housing unit for SRM eligible households who own a plot of land but do not have the required funds to construct a housing unit. The size of the FCH unit depends on the size of land but is limited to 50 m2.
- The National Empowerment Foundation has constructed and handed over a total of 296 Fully Concrete Housing units to eligible SRM households since 2016 to date.
- In Financial Year 2022-2023, 38 fully concrete housing units were constructed.

Figure 11: Fully Concrete Housing Scheme

District	Number of FCH units completed since 2016	Number of FCH units completed in FY 2022-2023
Port Louis	48	10
Pamplemousses	48	4
Savanne	40	2
Black River	23	3
Moka	20	1
Plaines Wilhems	27	3
Rivière Du Rempart	17	1
Flacq	42	5
Grand Port	31	9
Total	296	38

Table 11: Number of Fully Concrete housing units constructed (2016-2023)

10% NHDC Scheme

- Under this Scheme, the NEF acquires a maximum of 10% of all NHDC housing units of up to 60 m² constructed across the island. The housing units are allocated to beneficiaries of the NEF, who are landless, so that they may be provided with decent housing facilities to facilitate their empowerment process.
- A total of 261 NHDC housing units have been acquired by the NEF for eligible SRM households during Financial Years 2019-2020 to 2022-2023.
- In Financial Year 2022-2023, a total of 95 housing units at Dagotiere and Mare Tabac were handed over to beneficiaries.
- Another 28 housing units at Wooton have been acquired under the Scheme.

Figure 12: 10% NHDC Scheme

Locations where NHDC housing units have been acquired are shown in the Table below:

Sites	Number of NHDC housing units
Mme Azor 1	6
Mme Azor 2	6
Camp de masque	9
Cottage	8
Piton	9
16eme Mille	4
Souillac	5
Camp Le Vieux	6
Chebel	9
Montagne Longue	6
St Julien	20
Bassin	10
Petite Julie	18
Chebel	10
Gros Cailloux	12

Sites	Number of NHDC housing units
Dagotiere	65
Mare Tabac	30
Wooton	28
TOTAL	261

Table 12: Location of NHDC housing units acquired

"Upgrading of Houses" Scheme

- The "Upgrading of Houses" Scheme, makes provision for the implementation of minor renovation works to existing housing units of SRM eligible households and for victims of fire and natural disasters by the NEF up to a maximum ceiling of Rs 130,000.
- A budget of Rs 3 Million was provided in the Financial Year 2022-2023.
- In Financial Year 2022-2023, 22 projects were completed and 3 projects were ongoing.

Figure 13: "Upgrading of Houses" Scheme

Other Achievements

A. Studies and Surveys

The Division is conducting a study on the impact of training provided to beneficiaries under the Social Register of Mauritius. The objectives of the study are the following:

- (i) whether training courses are meeting the expectations of the beneficiaries as per the training needs analysis;
- (ii) whether the beneficiary has been able to engage in an income-generating activity in the same sector or field of training provided;
- (iii) the reasons, if any, as to why some beneficiaries have not completed the training course or attended all the sessions;
- (iv) the consequences with respect to their MPSC since the training agreement is also linked to the MPSC
- (v) has the scheme been beneficial towards achieving the economic empowerment of households and how far such empowerment is sustainable;
- (vi) the challenges in providing training courses to beneficiaries;
- (vii) whether the toolkit/start-up kits provided are effectively being used by beneficiaries;
- (viii) whether the beneficiaries are satisfied with the training course;
- (ix) the challenges faced by the beneficiaries in attending the training courses
- (x) the challenges faced by the beneficiaries to start a business post training
- (xi) whether beneficiaries have been able to graduate out of poverty as a result of the training provided and placement facilities for certain training courses and how far they have sustained after their exit from the Social Register of Mauritius; and
- (xii) propose any recommendations and measures for the Ministry in its future orientation towards economic empowerment of beneficiaries.

The contract was awarded in April 2023 and the Study is expected to be completed by October 2023.

B. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Mauritius Prison Service

On 23 July 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Division and the Mauritius Prison Service on 'Collaborative Training and Social Integration of Detainees'. The MoU was valid for a period of 2 years and both Parties had agreed to establish a cooperative relationship to pursue the economic empowerment and reinsertion of detainees with a view to facilitate their reintegration in society through:

- (i) treatment and rehabilitation services of detainees involved in substance abuse;
- (ii) the reintegration of detainees into mainstream society;
- (iii) sensitisation campaign with public to accept ex-detainees as part of society by working in close collaboration with organisations within the civil society;
- (iv) provision of life skills training in prison with detainees who will be released shortly;
- (v) Implementation of specific programmes aiming at starting a micro business and / or employment.

The MoU was renewed on 20 December 2022 for a further period of 2 years. A Coordination/Implementation Committee has been set up at the level of this Division and Technical Sub-Committees have been set up at the level of the National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF) for the implementation of Programmes for detainees.

C. National Database for Vulnerable Groups

Provision was made at paragraph 307 of the Budget Speech 2020-2021 for the setting up of a National Database for Vulnerable Groups with a view to enhancing policy effectiveness against poverty.

The Budget Speech 2021-2022 also made provision for households earning a monthly income between **Rs 10,500 to Rs 14,000** to be eligible to register for support in kind under the National Database for Vulnerable Groups.

As at 30 June 2023, there were **2,025** households (Mauritius **1731**, Rodrigues **294**) comprising a total of **7078** beneficiaries (**6,105** in Mauritius and **973** in Rodrigues), who were eligible under the National Database for Vulnerable Groups.

Following the measure announced in the Budget Speech 2023-2024, the eligibility threshold for the National Database for Vulnerable Groups has been reviewed:

- (i) from Rs 4,000 to Rs 4,600 for an adult; and
- (ii) from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,220 for a child.

Households earning a monthly income above Rs 14,650 and not exceeding Rs 18,860 will be eligible for support in kind under the National Database for Vulnerable Groups.

D. Psychological Support

People living in absolute poverty have to face numerous challenges in their daily lives. Unfortunately, those challenges are not confined to socio-economic ones but may be psychological.

In view of mitigating such challenges, the Social Integration Division maintained the provision of psychological support to the beneficiaries registered on the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM). Field workers from the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF), through case management, identify and refer the cases of beneficiaries requiring psychological support to this Ministry. The Psychologist of the Ministry subsequently attends to the referred cases on as and when required, through home visits where the psychological needs of the families are addressed, and counselling is dispensed. Interventions may consist of stress and anxiety management, bridging communication gaps, improving coping skills, career counselling and short-term therapies to mitigate depressive thoughts.

For the Financial Year 2022-2023, 199 beneficiaries across the island benefitted from psychological support of the Ministry. As per gender, it is worth noting that from these 199, 116 were female beneficiaries and 83 were male beneficiaries. The trend shows that female beneficiaries are more inclined to seek support.

The Psychologist of the Ministry also made an intervention in Rodrigues from 27 to 30 September 2022. 11 beneficiaries benefitted from individual counselling sessions. In addition, **25 beneficiaries** attended a Mental Health Awareness session aimed at equipping them with enough knowledge to help them cater for their own well-being. A **Mental Health at Work** session was also held with staff of NEF Rodrigues where different ways to manage stress at work were discussed.

E. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Social Integration Division of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity and the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC)

The Social Integration Division of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity of Mauritius signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), which makes provision for cooperation and technical assistance between the two countries in the field of poverty reduction and social development.

The MOU with the IPRCC was signed for the first time in 2015 for a period of three years. The MOU was further renewed in October 2019 for a period of three years. With a view to further consolidating the existing cooperation between the two sides, and to sustain the benefits and momentum of progress associated with the MOU in the field of poverty reduction and development, the MOU was renewed in November 2022 for another period of three years.

The new MOU, inter-alia, makes provision for the consolidation of existing cooperation and exchanges between the two institutions in the following areas:

- (i) poverty reduction, development and cooperation research;
- (ii) human resource development and capacity building;
- (iii) sharing of experience and knowledge on poverty reduction and development; and
- (iv) promotion of bilateral exchanges and cooperation under the framework of the Africa-China Alliance for Poverty Alleviation.

F. Africa-China Alliance for Poverty Alleviation

In November 2022, Mauritius, through the Social Integration Division, joined the Africa-China Alliance for Poverty Alleviation (ACAPA) as a member. The ACAPA is an offshoot of the IPRCC, which was co-launched by the IPRCC together with 29 domestic and international institutions in Beijing, in the context of the “Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Poverty Reduction and Development” Conference. Its purpose is to unite more forces and promote exchanges and cooperation between China and Africa in poverty reduction and development.

The main objectives of ACAPA are, inter-alia, the following: -

- (i) experience sharing in terms of participation in seminars and dialogues, release of newsletters and organisation of field trips;
- (ii) capacity building to target the youth, women and rural maker activities in Africa and China;
- (iii) policy consultations to alleviate poverty and promote social development through policy recommendations; and
- (iv) enhancing cooperation between China and African countries through the launching of pilot demonstration programmes/rural product promotion.

G. Citizen Support Portal

The Citizen Support Portal (CSP), an online platform under the aegis of the Citizen Support Unit (CSU), has made its mark in the transformation of the public sector by reviewing the role of Ministries/Departments, in relieving the difficulties encountered by citizens in their daily lives in a faster and more efficient way to enhance the performance and service delivery of the public sector.

From July 2022 to June 2023, a total of 137 tickets were registered and resolved by the Division and the National Empowerment Foundation on the CSU Portal as shown in the Table below:

		Ticket Status	
		Closed	Resolved
Total number of tickets received	137	137	137
<i>Including</i>	Complaints	91	91
	General inquiry	44	44
	Query	0	0
	Suggestion	2	2

Table 12: CSU Complaints

Status on Implementation of Budget Measures

SN	Budget Para	Budget Measures	Status as at 30 June 2023
1	414	<p>For beneficiaries under the Social Register of Mauritius: -</p> <p>(a) Increasing the minimum monthly Subsistence Allowance from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000;</p> <p>(b) Increasing the monthly Child Allowance from Rs 957 to Rs 1,046;</p> <p>(c) The administration fee for full time courses at the MITD and other recognized public tertiary is being waived;</p> <p>(d) Free diapers will be provided for infants aged up to one year; and</p> <p>(e) The Basic Invalidity Pension will not be accounted in the income eligibility threshold.</p>	<p>Implemented. Scheme is ongoing.</p> <p>Implemented. Scheme is ongoing.</p> <p>Implemented. Scheme is ongoing.</p> <p>Implemented. Scheme is ongoing.</p> <p>Implemented. Scheme is ongoing.</p>

Table 13: Implementation of Budget Measures

Status on Implementation of Key Actions

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target in Financial Year 2022-2023	Achievement as at 30 June 2023
Empowerment of SRM households	Number of households empowered and successfully moved out of the SRM	400	532
Educational Support to SRM beneficiaries	Number of children supported	9,500	11,541
Support to NGOs	Number of projects supported by the National Social Inclusion Foundation	275	273

Table 14: Status of Implementation of Key Actions

Risk Management, Citizen Oriented Initiatives and Good Governance

Risk Management Measures

In line with the provision made at paragraph A.15(c) of the Annex to the Budget Speech 2021-2022 for the establishment of a formal **Risk Management Framework** to better manage and mitigate risks, and in accordance with the Circular No. 8 of 2021 issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and Development on 28 December 2021 and its accompanying guidelines, the Social Integration Division has formalised its Risk Management Policy.

Furthermore, the **Risk Management Committee** was set up and a working session was held with the team of Officers of the Internal Control Cadre assisting Ministries/Departments for the establishment of the Risk Management Framework to enable Head of Sections to better understand the core aspects of the Guidelines and the approach to adopt in setting out the overall architecture for the management and mitigation of risks across all sections and units of the Ministry.

Working sessions were held whereby the different Sections and Units have identified and assessed all risks. All the submissions were compiled and a draft Risk Management Framework has been accordingly worked out.

Good Governance

The Social Integration Division complies with the principles of Good Governance and ensures transparency and accountability in its decision-making process. Some examples of measures pertaining to good governance at the level of the Division included the setting up and functioning of various Committees at the level of the Division to ensure compliance with good governance frameworks, namely:

- the Anti-Corruption Committee,
- the Occupational Safety and Health Committee,
- the CSU Coordination Committee,
- the Audit Committee,
- the Public Sector Business Transformation Implementation Committee, and
- the Training Committee, amongst various others, which are conducted on a regular basis.

Anti-Corruption Committee

One meeting of the Anti-Corruption Committee was held during Financial Year 2022-2023.

Two Corruption Risk Assessments, namely “**Payment of Subsistence Allowance**” and “**Payment of Child Allowance**” have been identified for Financial Year 2020-2021 and implemented during Financial Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 as per Circular Letter No. 40 of 2021 from the MPSAIR with a percentage of achievement of 100% with regard to “Payment of Subsistence Allowance” and 87.5% with regard to “Payment of Child Allowance”. The implementation target of 75% has thus been achieved.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee at the Ministry is chaired by the Deputy Permanent Secretary and has as members, an Assistant Permanent Secretary and the Assistant Secretary-General (ex NESC). The duties of Secretary is performed by an Office Management Assistant. During Financial Year 2022-2023, the Audit Committee of this Ministry had seven (7) meetings.

The objectives of the Audit Committee are, *inter alia*, to:

- (i) assist the Accounting Officer in maintaining sound control systems and in promoting good governance;
- (ii) oversee compliance with financial, administrative and procurement regulations;
- (iii) ensure that the criticisms and weaknesses levelled against the Ministry/ Department by the Director of Audit, the Public Accounts Committee and the Internal Control Unit are reduced progressively; and
- (iv) assess the risk management system in place in Ministries/Departments and identify procedures that would avoid or mitigate the impact of those risks.

As per the last Quaterly Report of the Audit Committee, achievements were reported as follows:

SN	Details	No of Recommendations in Action Plan	Number of Actions Taken/Implemented	% Achievement
1	National Audit Office Report	12	12 (Actions have been initiated on all recommendations made but some actions are still ongoing)	98.4%
2	Public Accounts Committee	1	1	0%
3	Internal Control Unit Reports 2020-2021	3	3	100%
4	Risk Management Framework	4	4 (Actions have been initiated on all recommendations made but the Risk Management Framework has not yet been approved)	93.7%
5	Fraud and Misconduct	1	Completed and ongoing	100%
6	Annual Report	1	Completed	100%
7	Governance Structure	1	Completed and ongoing	100%
8	Values and Ethics	1	Completed and ongoing	100%
9	Audit Committee	1	Monitoring of the financial statements of the NEF is ongoing	100%
10	OPSG Report on Review of Grant Disbursement and Monitoring Procedures at NEF and SID	70	Completed and ongoing	100%

Table 15: Audit Committee KPIs

Occupational Safety and Health Committee

An Occupational Safety and Health Committee was set up, under the chair of the Deputy Permanent Secretary, and consists of representatives of the employee's side and employer's side.

The mandate of the Committee is to ensure an environment free of hazards as far as is reasonably practicable and to promote co-operation between the employer and the employees in achieving and maintaining safe and healthy working conditions and enhancing the work environment.

A Safety and Health Policy was also endorsed by Management on 03 November 2022 in accordance with Section (6) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005.

During Financial Year 2022-2023, six (6) meetings of the Safety and Health Committee and six (6) meetings of the Occupational Safety and Health Management System were held.

Health and Safety Week 2023

A Health and Safety Week in the Public Service was launched in April 2023 to mark the World Day for Safety and Health at Work commemorated on 28 April 2023. The 2023 theme chosen for the World Day for Safety and Health at Work was *"A safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental principle and right at work"*.

In this context, a series of activities were organised from 21 to 27 April 2023 at the level of the Social Integration Division to promote a safe and healthy working environment and ensure prevention of occupational accidents, which included the following:

- (i) Activity-based two (2) hour session by the Psychologist of this Division;
- (ii) Training in "First Aid Policy";
- (iii) Awareness session among members of the Safety and Health Committee on the amendments brought to the Occupational Safety and Health Act; and
- (iv) Health Promotion such as Breast and Cervical Cancer screening together with the Social Security and National Solidarity Division.

Training Committee

In line with Circular Letter 38 of 2015, emanating from the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, this Ministry set up its Training Committee with a view to identifying performance gaps and training needs of the staff.

One meeting was held during Financial Year 2022- 2023. 98% of the budget allocated for the purpose of training was spent.

The staff of the Division were provided training on courses during Financial Year 2022- 2023 as follows:

SN	Training	Number of Officers
1	Advanced Microsoft Excel	6
2	Writing Effective Minutes of Meeting	2
3	First Aid	2
4	Computerised Registry System	9
5	Registry Procedure	2
6	Public Sector Financial Management	1
7	Code of Ethics for Public Officers	2
8	Occupational Safety and Health for Handy Worker/General Worker in the Public Sector	1
9	Induction Course for Office Supervisor	1
10	Safety and Health at the Workplace	6
11	Training on Awareness raising and Sensitisation session regarding Stockholm	2
12	Level 1 - Workmen's Class	1
13	Level 2- Support Staff	11
14	Level 3 - Frontline/ Supervisory/ Technical Grade	16
15	Level 4 - Middle Management Professionals	2
16	Fire Safety & Risk Management	13
17	Safety and Health in Practice	6
18	Implementing OSH Management System - A Practical Approach	5
19	Professional Development Programme for Office Auxiliary/ Senior Office Auxiliary / Head Office Auxiliary	1
20	Managing Key Performance Indicators for the Management Information System	2
21	Core HR Module Training	3
22	Operations and Process Management for Support Staff	1
23	Fire Safety and Fire Risk Management for Fire Wardens	2
24	Occupational Safety and Health for Office Management Executive/ Office Management Assistant in the Public Sector	1
25	Induction Course for Word Processing Operator	2

26	Induction Course for Office Management Assistant	1
27	Induction Course for Management Support Officers	2
28	Fire Safety Awareness	46
29	Awareness Session on Risk Assessment	49
30	First Aid Policy & Injury Protocol	50
31	Interactive Sessions on "Self Awareness"	38

Table 16: Training Courses dispensed to staff

Public Sector Business Transformation Implementation Committee

In line with Circular Letter No. 90 of 2017 emanating from the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, the Division has accordingly set up its Transformation Implementation Committee with a view to overseeing, monitoring and evaluating Business Transformation Initiatives and Key Performance Indicators.

Key Performance Indicators

During Financial Year 2022-2023, the following **Key Performance Indicators** were implemented:

(i) The utilization of Training Budget by Ministries and Departments

97.4% of budget allocated for training was utilized

(ii) Implementation of Phase III of the e-HR

The number of employees who are live on the Leave Management System (LMS) (excluding change in posting, contract officers and trainees) is 61, representing 98% of the employees.

(iii) Compliance of buildings housing Public Officers with Fire Safety Requirements

The two leased buildings which house the officers of this Division are Air Mauritius Building and Victoria House and details regarding issue of Fire Certificate thereof, are as follows:

Air Mauritius Building

- Fire Certificate was issued on 13 October 2020 to MEDCOR Ltd and same is valid up to 12 October 2023; and

Victoria House

- Fire Certificate was issued on 19 April 2023 to Jolima Ltd and same is valid up to 18 April 2026.

(iv) Filling of Vacancies

As at 30 June 2023, the post of Monitoring and Evaluation Officer was yet to be filled at the level of this Division.

The post has been filled in August 2023.

(v) Good Governance

The National Empowerment Foundation and National Social Inclusion Foundation have implemented two CRAs each and they are as follows:

National Empowerment Foundation

- Cash Office
- Cash and Investment Management

National Social Inclusion Foundation

- Monitoring and Evaluation of NGO Programmes
- Procurement Procedures

Status of Implementation of Recommendations of the Director of Audit

The status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Director of Audit are regularly followed up by the Audit Committee of the Ministry. As at 30 June 2023, the status was as follows:

SN	Issues raised by the Director of Audit	Status of Action taken/Implementation Date
1	Proper Monitoring of Social Housing for Vulnerable Groups	<p>A Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee (PIMC) has been set up at the level of the Ministry and meets every months to ensure a more effective and optimized monitoring of Social Housing Projects.</p> <p>Monthly reports on progress of Social Housing Projects are ensured.</p>
2	Award of Contracts for FCH and Purchase of NHDC Housing Units	<p>The following housing units have been purchased from the NHDC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 12 units at Gros Cailloux in October 2022 (ii) 65 units at Dagotière in May 2023 (iii) 30 units at Mare Tabac in June 2023 <p>Regarding the 28 Units at Wooton, commissioning has been carried out on 24 May 2023 and it is expected that handing over of keys will take place during the first week of August 2023.</p>
3	Funds disbursed to NEF not utilised/committed.	<p>The SID is ensuring more effective monitoring on projects and making disbursements of funds to NEF only upon submission of required documents.</p> <p>The requirements as laid down under the Memorandum of Understanding signed with NEF are being closely followed up by the Finance Section on a monthly basis.</p>
4	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	<p>The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework has been established and handed over to NEF for implementation.</p> <p>Training in the setting up of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework has been provided to officers of the Ministry and the National Empowerment Foundation on monitoring of compliance of conditions enumerated in the Marshall Plan Social Contract.</p> <p>A refresher course has been conducted with all field staff in the month of June 2023.</p>

SN	Issues raised by the Director of Audit	Status of Action taken/Implementation Date
		<p>The vacancy was reported to the Public Service Commission on 16 November 2022.</p> <p>The post of Monitoring and Evaluation Officer was advertised on 11 January 2023 with the closing date of 31 January 2023. Interviews had been scheduled for 4, 5, and 6 July 2023.</p>
5	The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit set up by the SID was not operational mainly due to M&E indicators	<p>The functions of Monitoring and Evaluation are currently being overseen by the staff at the level of the Technical Unit.</p> <p>A set of M&E Indicators have already been defined. Based on the indicators, a master database on all Schemes and Programmes have been compiled.</p> <p>Staff of the Technical Unit of the Division as well as those of NEF have received training on M&E.</p>
6	Two important aspects, namely the evaluation of households with regard to their obligations (mentioned in the social contract), and the integration of the SRM with other Government registers/systems in operation at other relevant institutions, were overlooked in the process for recertification of beneficiaries.	<p>At the end of the MPSC, an assessment of the compliance to terms and conditions is carried out by the NEF and if found compliant, the MPSC is extended for an additional period of 12 months.</p> <p>With regard to the integration of the SRM system with other Government registers and systems in operation, consideration is presently being given for the SRM database to be enhanced to provide accurate and reliable information and also for its link to the proposed Single Integrated Registry.</p> <p>The integration of the SRM with other Government registers and systems in operation is being looked into.</p>
7	Proxy Means Test (PMT)	Consideration will be given to review the PMT2 once the Household Budget Survey is completed in December 2023.
8	Provision of Tablets to SRM Children - Equipment purchased in Excess of Requirement	The SRM database does not provide information on the Grade classes which students are currently attending. Thus, the age bracket of the children attending Grade 10 to 13 classes found

SN	Issues raised by the Director of Audit	Status of Action taken/Implementation Date
		<p>in the SRM database was taken into account. The NEF had also confirmed the number of children presently attending schools.</p> <p>As at 30 June 2023, out of 1500 tablets, 1,427 tablets have been issued and 63 tablets remain to be distributed. The Foundation had proceeded with the distribution of the remaining tablets to the SRM students.</p>
9	Implementation of New Schemes – Issues with Certification of Claims	<p>The National Empowerment Foundation has been requested to henceforth ensure that the SRM number of beneficiaries are included in the certified claims, failing which funds would not be disbursed to them.</p> <p>The Finance Section now ensures that SRM number of beneficiaries are included in the certified claims made by the NEF prior to making recommendations for disbursement of funds.</p>

Table 17: Status of Implementation of Recommendations of the Director of Audit

PART III- FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Financial Highlights

The total budget of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity (Social Integration Division) for Financial Year 2022-2023 stands at **Rs 639,400,000** compared to the Budget 2021-2022, which was **Rs 668,500,000**. The Budget 2022-2023 is divided into two segments as follows:

- **Sub-Head 09-101: General**

Recurrent Expenditure: Rs 53,900,000

- **Sub-Head 09-102: Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment**

Recurrent Expenditure: Rs 562,500,000

Capital Expenditure : Rs 23,000,000

The figure below provides an illustration of expenditure incurred by the Social Integration Division under Vote 9-1:

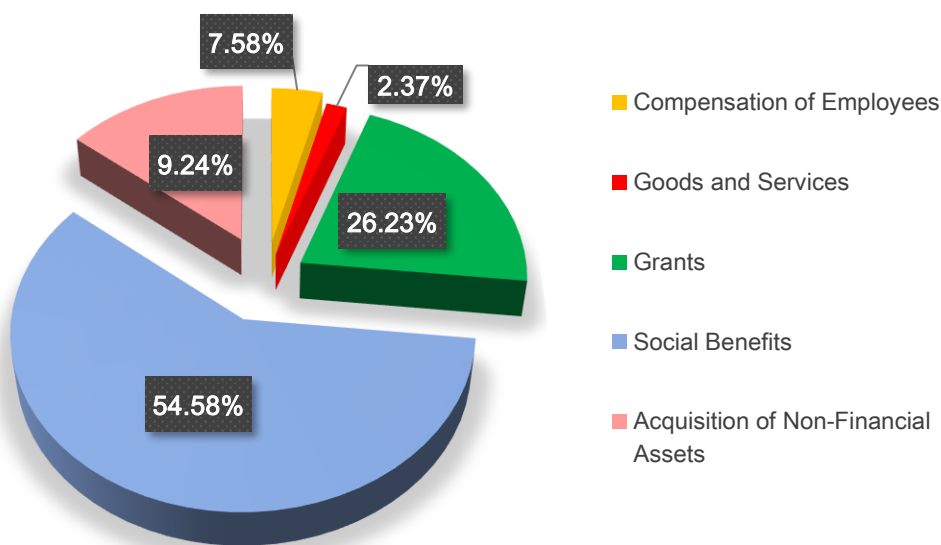


Figure 14: Expenditure for Financial Year 2022-2023

Analysis of Major Changes

Expenditure

The budgeted amount for **social benefits** for Financial Year 2022-2023 was Rs 393,800,000.

Statements of Revenue & Expenditure

Statement of Revenue

The Social Integration Division does not collect revenues.

Statement of Expenditure

Table 19 below provides a summary of total expenditure incurred by the Social Integration Division under Vote 9-1 which includes Sub-heads 09-101: General and 09-102: Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment.

Statement of Expenditure for FY 2022-2023 under Vote 9-1		
Head/Sub Head of Expenditure	2022-2023 Estimates (Rs)	2022-2023 Actual (Rs)
9-1 MINISTRY OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION, SOCIAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL SOLIDARITY (SOCIAL INTEGRATION DIVISION)		
9-101: GENERAL	53,900,000	49,053,119
Allowance to Minister	2,400,000	2,400,000
Compensation of Employees	39,405,000	34,601,099
Goods and Services	12,095,000	12,052,020
9-102 POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND EMPOWERMENT	585,500,000	500,597,000
Recurrent Grant	168,700,000	163,558,105
Social Benefits	393,800,000	314,798,122
Other Expenses	-	-
Capital Grant	23,000,000	22,240,773
TOTAL EXPENDITURE for Vote 9-1	639,400,000	549,650,119

Table 18: Statement of Expenditure for Financial Year 2022-2023

PART IV – WAY FORWARD

Trends and Challenges

The SWOT analysis of the Division was based on external and internal factors such as:

- 1) Social;
- 2) Economic;
- 3) Environmental;
- 4) Institutional drivers; i.e. governance, structures, strategy, etc.; and
- 5) Institutional performance, that is, public service provision (efficiency and effectiveness).

According to the analysis conducted, a list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are summarized in the chart below:



Figure 15: SWOT Analysis

Challenges

The key challenges that the Social Integration Division faced during the Financial Year 2022-2023 were the following:

- (i) Setting up appropriate coordination mechanisms with the stakeholders concerned for better monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Marshall Plan;
- (ii) Ensuring a proper monitoring of beneficiaries through case management visits and evaluation of the Schemes and support provided to them;
- (iii) Ensuring that adequate monitoring and evaluation of our empowerment programmes are effected to meet the set objectives;
- (iv) Limited technical human resources at the level of the Division;
- (v) Carrying out an impact analysis of the implementation of the Marshall Plan against Poverty in order to come up with improved policies for sustained eradication of poverty over the next five years; and
- (vi) Carrying out an assessment/impact analysis of the lifeskills training under Life Enhancement Education Programme (LEEP) so as to come up with an enhanced programme for monitoring SRM beneficiaries in a sustainable manner.

Strategic Direction

The strategic direction of the Ministry includes the following strategies:

- (i) Empowerment of vulnerable families and promoting social inclusion through education, capacity building, employability, decent housing, enhancement of their living environment and improvement of their livelihood;
- (ii) Adopt and implement holistic, coherent, participatory and time-bound strategies in the fight against poverty through community-based approach and with the engagement of all key stakeholders;
- (iii) Promote sustainable human development and improve the life chances of children of poor families by providing support programmes and widening the circle of opportunities for learning and development.
- (iv) Harmonize and streamline the various assistance schemes for social protection;
- (v) Review the methodology and legislations governing social benefits to enhance the effectiveness of Empowerment Schemes;
- (vi) Implement an integrated IT system for a modernized service delivery;
- (vii) Consolidate the case management approach at the NEF for a more holistic support to SRM households;
- (viii) Promote a culture of monitoring and evaluation by setting up an integrated Management Information System for informed policy decisions and using mobile technology for better outreach to poor people and setting up of a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in the Ministry;
- (ix) Enhance collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders by establishing a coordinated approach through Community Working Groups and enable a more effective support to the vulnerable groups;
- (x) Bridging the gap (Digital device and technological innovation); and
- (xi) Capacity Building to align our human resources with our strategic objectives.