



**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION,  
SOCIAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL SOLIDARITY  
(SOCIAL INTEGRATION DIVISION)**

**ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE**

**FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020**



*...Alleviating Poverty & Promoting Social Inclusion through Empowerment*

## About this Report

This is the Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity (Social Integration Division) for the fiscal year 2019-20 following amendments made to the Finance and Audit Act in March 2015. The Report has been prepared according to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

The Report is a mechanism of accountability in relation to resources provided by the National Assembly and services delivered thereon. It also provides information for all stakeholders and the public at large.

The Ministry is committed to maintaining accountability and transparency in its activities and continually improving its reporting.

## Guide to this Report

**This Report is divided into four parts.**

### **Part I: About the Social Integration Division**

Part 1 sets out the vision, mission and overview of the Division, 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, status on the implementation of budget measures and a review of how the Social Integration Division has performed during the previous year including the additional internal Key Performance Indicators that it has set for each of its delivery units. This section also provides the actions and system put in place in relation to risk management, citizen oriented initiatives and good governance practice.

### **Part III: Financial Performance**

Part III provides the financial highlights for the previous year and an overview of the significant changes in financial results. It also includes statement of revenue and expenditure.

### **Part IV: Way Forward**

Part IV provides a situational analysis of the environment in which the Division operates and which impacts on its service delivery. It also includes the strategic directions to realize its vision, objectives and desired outcomes.

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## PART I – ABOUT THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION DIVISION



### VISION

### MISSION

### OUR CORE VALUES

Our vision is the eradication of extreme and chronic poverty and the creation of an inclusive and more equitable society.

To support and empower the vulnerable groups who are registered and 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.

- Integrity
- Inclusivity and Equity
- Excellence in Service Delivery
- Team Work and Loyalty to Serve with Passion
- Dedication and Readiness to Help
- High sense of Professionalism
- Customer Focus

## ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE 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 families 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.



## SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Title	Contact Details
Permanent Secretary	<b>Mrs Rajwantee RAMRUKHEEA</b> <i>Phone: 210 0783      Ext: 232      Fax:212 1673</i> <i>Email:rramrukheea@govmu.org</i>
Deputy Permanent Secretary	<b>Mrs Jeanne LAN HING PO</b> <i>Phone: 208 3464      Ext: 243      Fax: 210 0572</i> <i>Email:jlanhpo@govmu.org</i>
Deputy Permanent Secretary	<b>Mr Sheik Farhad VYDELINGUM</b> <i>Phone: 201 2532      Ext: 222      Fax:210 0572</i> <i>Email:fvydelingum@govmu.org</i>
Assistant Permanent Secretary	<b>Mr. Yaneez NOJIB</b> <b>Phone: 260 0564</b> <i>Fax: 208 1409</i> <i>Email:ynojib@govmu.org</i>
Assistant Permanent Secretary	<b>Mr Eranand BUHOOA</b> <i>Phone: 260 0563</i> <i>Fax: 208 1409</i> <i>Email:ebuhooa@govmu.org</i>
Assistant Permanent Secretary	<b>Mrs Saroja MAUMOONDEE-GALORE</b> <i>Phone: 213 5385</i> <i>Fax: 208 1409</i> <i>Email:smaumondee-galore@govmu.org</i>
Manager, Financial Operations	<b>Mrs Lalita SEETAMONEE</b> <i>Phone: 213 3784</i> <i>Fax: 213 0765</i> <i>Email: lseetamonee@govmu.org</i>
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	<b>Mr Ambedkar TEELUCKDARRY</b> <i>Phone: 213 0771</i> <i>Fax: 213 0765</i> <i>Email: amteeluckdarry@govmu.org</i>
Assistant Manager, Human Resources	<b>Mrs Shehnaz SAHEBALLY</b> <i>Phone: 213 0768</i> <i>Fax: 213 0765</i> <i>Email:ssahebally@govmu.org</i>
Coordinator	<b>Mr. Ramakrishna APPADOO</b> <i>Phone:213 5387</i> <i>Fax: 208 1409</i> <i>Email:rkappadoo@govmu.org</i>

# DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER BODIES FALLING UNDER THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION DIVISION

## 1. NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION (NEF)

The National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) is the executive arm of the Social Integration Division and operates under its aegis.

NEF is a not-for-profit Government Owned Company which is managed by a Board of Directors. The day-to-day running and administration of the affairs of the organisation falls under the responsibility of a Chief Executive Officer, who is answerable to the Board.

The main objective of the NEF is to ensure the case management of the families eligible under the SRM as per the Marshall Plan Social Contract and to deliver a range of empowerment support services namely:

- ❖ Identifying persons living in absolute poverty and assessing their needs;
- ❖ Implementing and harmonising any integration and empowerment programme or scheme;
- ❖ Providing social support and counselling to people living in absolute poverty (Case Management Approach);
- ❖ Monitoring of Social Contract signed by beneficiaries to track graduation of the poor out of poverty trap;
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluating any empowerment programme or scheme; and
- ❖ Keeping under review any change in the social or financial status of any person who is receiving support.

## **2. THE NATIONAL SOCIAL INCLUSION FOUNDATION (NSIF)**

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

The main mandate of the National Social Inclusion Foundation is to undertake programmes and projects for the benefit of individuals and families registered under the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM) and of vulnerable groups as defined in its Charter. The 10 priority areas of intervention are as follows:

- ❖ Socio-economic development as a means for poverty alleviation;
- ❖ Educational support and training;
- ❖ Social housing;
- ❖ Supporting people with disabilities;
- ❖ Dealing with health problems resulting from substance abuse and poor sanitation;
- ❖ Family protection including gender-based violence;
- ❖ Leisure and sports;
- ❖ Environment and sustainable development;
- ❖ Peace and nation-building; and
- ❖ Road safety and security.

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 1 January 2019.

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



The objects of the Foundation are to:

- ❖ Establish and update a register of NGOs/NPOs in specific priority areas to allocate funds;
- ❖ Request and examine call for proposals for the implementation of programmes and projects by NGOs/NPOs;
- ❖ Monitor and evaluate programmes and projects funded by the Foundation;
- ❖ Serve as a platform for coordination and communication among stakeholders;
- ❖ Liaise with Ministries when required to support project implementation by NGOs/NPOs and
- ❖ Promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030.

### **3. DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION PROGRAMME (DCP)**

The Decentralised Cooperation Programme (DCP), funded by the European Union, aims at enhancing the capacity of Non-State Actors (NSAs) to deliver projects that have an impact on poor communities. However, experience has shown that there is still need for NSAs to improve their capacity to manage their organisations and projects effectively.

We are actually implementing the 3rd part of DCP, namely DCP III, which will end by 30th June 2020, inclusive of the closure phase.

The purpose of the DCP is to build capacity for the NGOs to access resources and use them effectively towards their goals of poverty reduction. This is in line with Government's four-pillar strategy for NSAs as follows:

- ❖ Building the capacity of NSAs/NGOs;
- ❖ Resource mobilisation;
- ❖ Setting up a professional corps of social collaborators (volunteers); and
- ❖ Establishing an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system for NSAs/NGOs in the use of funds and results obtained.

## ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

- ❖ The Permanent Secretary is the Administrative Head of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity (Social Integration Division). She is assisted in her functions and duties by two Deputy Permanent Secretaries, three Assistant Permanent Secretaries and officers from the Technical Cadre, Financial Operations Cadre, Human Resource Cadre, Procurement and Supply Cadre, System Analyst, as well as officers belonging to the General Services.
- ❖ For the Financial year 2019/2020, the Division had a total of 61 funded positions. Table 1 shows the funded position for financial year 2019/2020 and the number of officers in post as at 30 June 2020.

**Table 1: Funded position as at 30 June 2020**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Funded 2019/2020</b>	<b>In Post as at 30/06/2020</b>
Permanent Secretary	1	1
Deputy Permanent Secretary	1	1 + 1 (One officer is being paid by the GIS)
Assistant Permanent Secretary	3	3
Assistant Secretary General (Ex-NESC)	1	1
Research Executive(Ex-NESC)	2	2
Coordinator	1	1
Research Analyst	1	1
Psychologist	1	1
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	1	0
Manager, Financial Operations	1	1
Assistant Manager, Financial Operations	1	1
Financial Officer/Senior Financial Officer	2	2
Assistant Financial Officer	1	1
Procurement and Supply Officer/ Senior Procurement and Supply Officer	1	1
Internal Control Officer/Senior Internal Control Officer	1	1
Office Management Executive	1	1
Office Management Assistant	5	4
Office Supervisor	1	0 (One officer retired on 30 June 2020)

Grade	Funded 2019/2020	In Post as at 30/06/2020
Management Support Officer	15	14
Confidential Secretary(Ex-NESC)	1	1
Confidential Secretary	4	3 (One officer retired on 30 March 2020)
Word Processing Operator	3	3
Receptionist/Telephone Operator	1	0
Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary	5	4 (One officer retired on 28 May 2020)
Driver/Office Attendant (Ex-NESC)	1	1
Driver	3	2
General Worker	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>53+1</b>

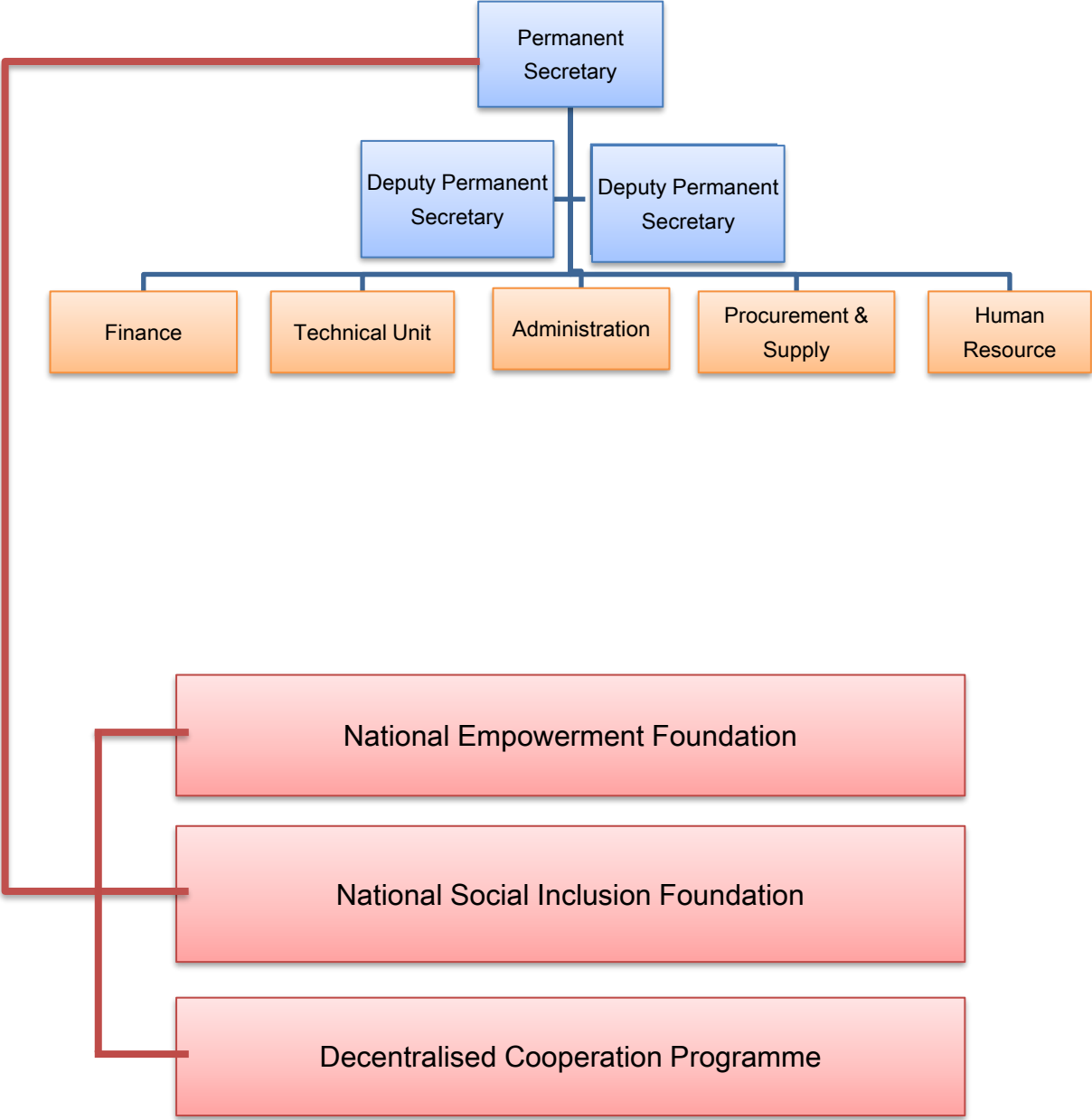
❖ **Officers paid by other Ministries:**

Grade	No in post	Paid by
Deputy Permanent Secretary	1	Government Information Systems Division
AMHR	1	Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms
Senior Statistical Officer	1	Statistics Mauritius
System Analyst	1	Central Information Systems Division
Computer Support Officer/Senior Computer Support Officer	1	Central Information Systems Division
Head Office Auxiliary	1	Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms

❖ **Employees on contract:**

Employees	No in post
Adviser in Public Relation Matters	1

# ORGANISATIONAL CHART

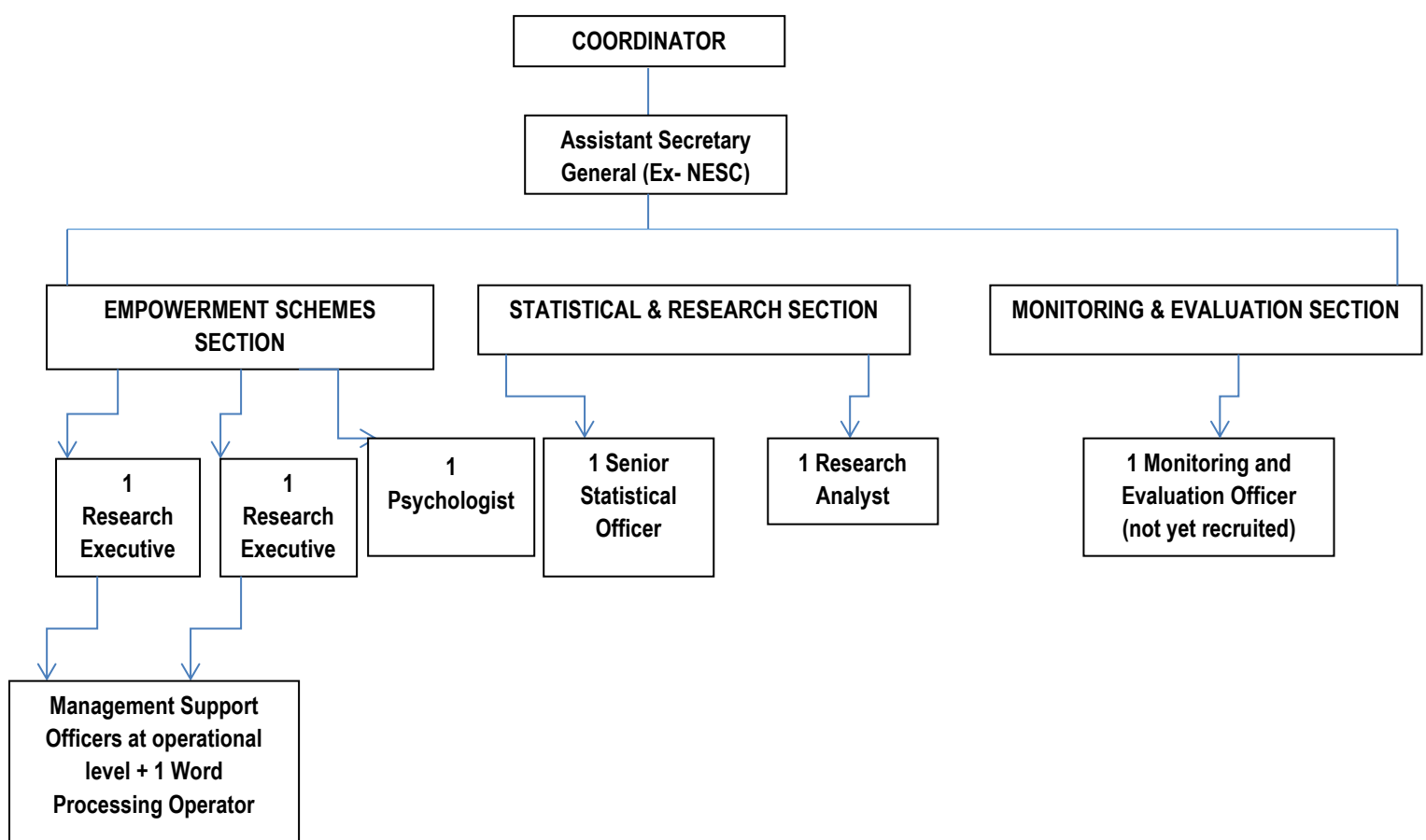


## TECHNICAL UNIT OF THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION DIVISION

The Technical Unit of the Division was restructured in July/August 2018 comprising of Officers of Technical Cadre.

The Coordinator is heading the Technical Unit of the Social Integration Division and is assisted by the Assistant Secretary General (Ex-NESC) in the day to day management of the Unit.

The Organigram is as follows:



The Technical Unit comprises three sections, namely the Empowerment Scheme Section (ESS), which is headed by two Research Executives, the Statistical and Research Section (SRS), which is headed by a Research Analyst and a Monitoring and Evaluation Section.

The Technical Unit is responsible for the monitoring and coordination of the Empowerment Schemes programmes of the Social Integration Division.

The Technical Unit coordinates fully with organizations operating under the aegis of the Ministry such as the National Empowerment Foundation and the National Social Inclusion Foundation.

# HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE OF STAFF AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE INITIATIVES

❖ The Ministry has set up the:

(i) **Safety and Health Committee** in accordance with Section 21 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act which stipulates that

*“every employer of 50 or more employees shall establish a Safety and Health Committee”; and*

(ii) **COVID-19 Response Team** with a view to better respond to any health risk that may arise in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ❖ **WORK FROM HOME SCHEME**

In line with the directives from the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms, officers were invited to apply for Work from Home Scheme in the wake of COVID-19.

## ❖ **STAFF WELFARE:**

The Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment Staff Welfare Association (MSIEESWA) was set up in October 2019.

Several activities have been organised during the financial year 2019-2020, including the following:

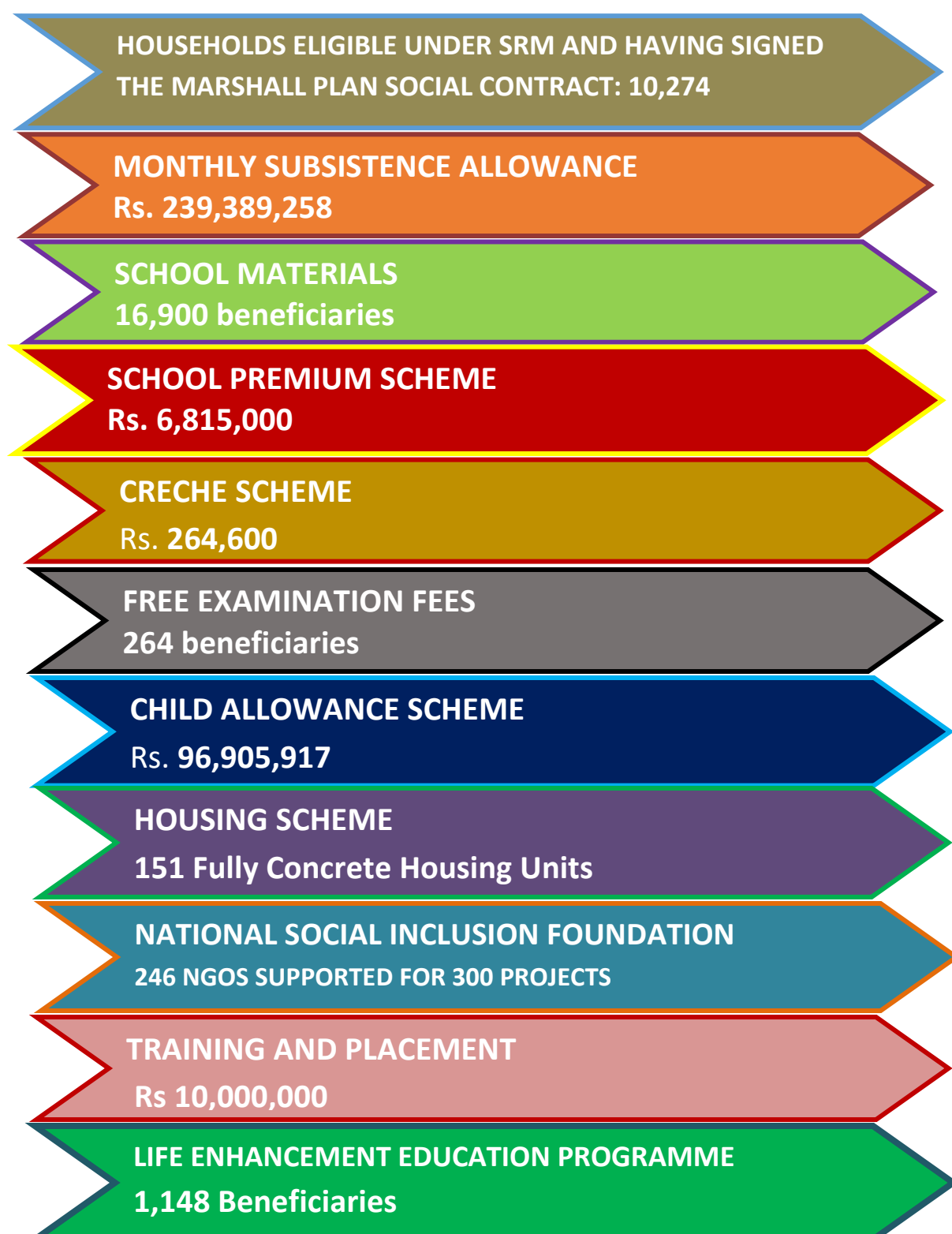
- A talk on “A Sound Mental Health at Work” on the occasion of the world Mental Health Day on 24 October 2019;
- The first newsletter was published on 30 October 2019;
- A talk and a diabetes screening was conducted by Mrs. R. Balloo from the NGO Diabetes Safeguard on 28 November 2019 in the context of the World Diabetes Day,
- 26<sup>th</sup> Civil Service Kermesse 2019;
- Get togethers to celebrate Christmas and New Year 2020 and on the occasion of the Independence Day.



## PART II – ACHIEVEMENT AND CHALLENGES

### Major Achievements

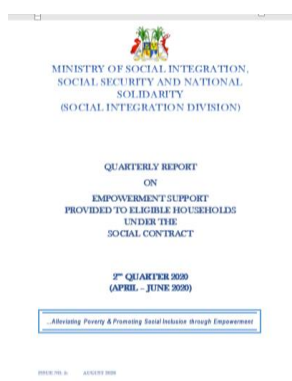
The major achievements of the Division for the financial year 2019-2020 are as follows:



## HOUSEHOLDS ELIGIBLE UNDER SRM AND HAVING SIGNED THE MARSHALL PLAN SOCIAL CONTRACT: 10,274

Social Contracts received from NEF are sorted and classified according to batches and subsequently in ascending order of their last 4 digits. A Movement of Social Contracts Book is being used since June 2019 to record all movements of Social contracts from the classified Registry and same is monitored by one officer of the Empowerment Scheme Section.

## QUARTERLY REPORT



A report on the “Empowerment Support for SRM Eligible Households under the Social Contract” is being issued on a quarterly basis since the first quarter of 2019.

## REGISTRATION SRM

As from 1st October 2018, the registration of SRM beneficiaries is being carried out at the local offices of MSS. After the Registration and eligibility determination, the results are sent to this Ministry for further action (issuing of eligibility notices, follow up by NEF upon signature of contracts).

## **SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE**

The Subsistence Allowance is an income support that is being 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.

## **EXTENSION OF THE SCHOOL PREMIUM SCHEME TO TERTIARY LEVEL**

The School Premium Scheme was introduced in the Budget Speech 2016-17 and became effective as from March 2017. The objective of the Scheme is to encourage students from poor families, who are eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM) to achieve higher levels of education. A one-off cash award, by means of a voucher, is given to beneficiaries of the Scheme as follows:

- Rs 15, 000 for successfully completing grade 9 under the nine-year schooling;
- Rs 25, 000 for successfully completing the School Certificate examination or its equivalent General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level; and
- Rs 35, 000 for successfully completing the Higher School Certificate examination or its equivalent General Certificate of Education Advanced Level.

In the Budget 2019-20, the School Premium Scheme was extended to tertiary students of SRM eligible families. A cash award of Rs 40,000 is offered to those who have successfully completed their tertiary studies.

## TRAINING SCHEME FOR UNEMPLOYED BENEFICIARIES

As part of the ongoing training courses provided to unemployed SRM household beneficiaries, a project on **“Empowerment of vulnerable women through Entrepreneurship-Capacity and skills building initiatives”** was implemented with the collaboration of the New Zealand High Commission. The project comprised the provision of training in Eco-Bag Making (Advanced Level) to 100 women-headed families (60 from Mauritius and 40 from Rodrigues) for skills and capacity building. Thereafter, the 100 beneficiaries were provided with a sewing machine and provided with support for business registration in order to enable them to start their respective home-based entrepreneurship activities for the sale of eco-bags and to participate in local expo-sales.

## SIMIS AND CHILD ALLOWANCE MODULE

The Social Integration Division has an existing computerised system, namely the Social Integration Management Information System (SIMIS), which was implemented in 2016. The Social Security and National Solidarity Division records potential beneficiaries from the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM) forms, performs the Proxy Means Test (PMT) to determine eligibility and updates records of existing beneficiaries. After PMT processing, the eligible and non-eligible cases are pushed to the SIMIS database. Families found eligible under the SRM have to sign a Marshall Plan Social Contract before they can benefit from the payment of a monthly Subsistence Allowance.

SIMIS has been enhanced to cater for the payment of Child Allowance (CA). The CA is payable to eligible families, assessed through the PMT in favour of a maximum of three (3) school-going children, aged between 3 and 23, who satisfy a school attendance criterion of 90 % for normal children and 75 % for disabled children.

Phase 1 of the CA Module allows the Social Integration Division to push eligible children to educational institutions in Mauritius and Rodrigues for school attendance.

Based on the information pulled from the different educational institutions, payment of CA is processed and generated by SIMIS.

Phase 2 of the CA Module allows users to perform additional functions within the CA module namely school transfers, manage payment scenarios such as arrears.

## **SMS AND IMIS PROJECTS OF NEF**

### **Setting up of Integrated Management Information System (IMIS)**

In line with the recommendations stipulated in the Marshall Plan against Poverty, an instrumental framework in Government's strategy to deal with the root cause of poverty, the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) is in the process of setting up an Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) in accordance with the latest technology and specifications to better implement, monitor & evaluate NEF/ other stakeholder's activities & interventions to address the needs of members of family and also to support the various functions/units across NEF.

A consultancy firm has been appointed for providing Project Management and Quality review support to NEF over the implementation period of the project. As part of the overall project management support, the Consultant firm shall be involved both in Plan & Design Phase and the Build, Test & Deployment Phase.

The IMIS is expected to be fully operational by the end of March 2021.

### **Implementation of an SMS Mobile System and a Citizens Reporting Mechanism**

In line with the recommendations stipulated in the Marshall Plan against Poverty, the Social Integration Division, in collaboration with the NEF, has already set up an SMS Mobile System and a Citizens Reporting Mechanism and data analysis tool to make effective use of the existing mobile technology to reach the most excluded households. The development of the system will also allow the Social Integration Division/NEF to assess impact of public service delivery to the poor. The SMS Mobile system is already live and operational.

## COMMUNITY WORKING GROUPS

One of the goals of Government's Vision 2030 is to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor.

In this respect, one of the mechanisms put in place by the National Empowerment Foundation is the setting up of Community Working Groups (CWGs) in all districts, including Rodrigues. The main objectives of CWGs are:

- Provide a community-based service delivery approach for the empowerment of vulnerable families;
- Link non-state actors and government institutions for collective action and active participation;
- Seek the commitment of stakeholders to support implementation of Marshall Plan; and
- Proper monitoring and control over community empowerment projects for poverty alleviation.

To date, interventions have been carried out on 4 main axes, namely Health, Training and Placement, Employment and Education.

## HOUSING PROJECTS

### 1. FULLY CONCRETE HOUSING SCHEME

As from 2016, the NEF came out with an unprecedented housing policy for its beneficiaries, namely the Fully Concrete Housing (FCH) Scheme. The Scheme makes provision for the construction of a Fully Concrete Housing Unit to those families who are owners of a plot of land / State land and who would never have been able to construct such a housing unit on their own. A housing unit of size up to 50 sq/m is provided to vulnerable families at an average cost of Rs 900,000 (75 % funded by NEF and 25 % by the SRM beneficiary).

The Table below depicts the current status of the construction of FCH units as at July 2020 across the island:

SUMMARY FCH as at June 2020						
DISTRICTS	COMPLETED FCH UNITS			Construction ongoing and expected to be completed by end of December 2020	Construction not yet started and expected to be completed by latest July 2021	GRAND TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL			
Black River	4	7	11	1	7	19
Flacq	9	10	19	3	8	30
Grand-Port	6	5	11	4	6	21
Moka	5	6	11	3	7	21
Pamplemousses	12	15	27	3	7	37
PLaine Wilhems	9	14	23	0	7	30
Port-Louis	9	21	30	1	7	38
Rivière du Rempart	3	4	7	1	5	13
Savanne	2	11	13	8	8	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>238</b>

## **2. 10% NHDC HOUSING SCHEME FOR LANDLESS BENEFICIARIES**

The National Housing Development Company (NHDC) Ltd provides 10% of all NHDC housing units constructed across the island, for beneficiaries of the NEF who are landless and eligible in the SRM, allowing them to acquire a decent housing unit with a view to facilitate their integration in mainstream society.

Accordingly, the NEF came out with a short list of potential beneficiaries through a set of established criteria and methodology and relevant legal procedures for the drawing of lots.

As at date, the NEF has already purchased 47 housing units at Madame AZOR, Goodlands, Cottage and Souillac for its beneficiaries. The MOU between NEF and NHDC Ltd has been finalised and a drawing of lots will soon be carried out for the allocation of the 47 units to potential SRM beneficiaries.

An additional batch of 51 units is in the pipeline to be purchased from NHDC Ltd and consultations and discussions are underway between NEF and NHDC Ltd to that effect.

In 2012, the NEF constructed 19 houses of 50m<sup>2</sup> with provision of basic amenities such as water, electricity and sanitation, fencing, road network, street lighting and fixing of street name plates, for a total cost of Rs 8,636,507.



## **BUDGET MEASURES ON NATIONAL SOCIAL INCLUSION FOUNDATION AND FUNDS RECEIVED**

The budget 2019-2020 provides for a number of measures with regards to the National CSR Foundation as follows:

- The Foundation will be transformed into a National Social Inclusion Foundation to strengthen its role as a key Government agency in the fight against poverty and social exclusion and to further consolidate its support to NGOs to the benefit of poor and vulnerable groups.
- The Foundation will devise National Programmes for more impactful actions on poverty alleviation. Special attention will be given to education as means of combating child poverty. The Foundation will thus, in the first instance, propose National Programmes for crèches/nursery and educational support to vulnerable children at primary and secondary levels.
- In order to better support vulnerable children and improve their educational performance, 50 primary schools in poverty areas will be converted into Fortified Learning Environment Schools and specialised educational support will be provided to students in the Extended Programme. Rs 80 million has been earmarked for this initiative, which will be implemented with the support of NGOs.
- The grant-in-aid is being increased by 10 percent and the grant paid for the maintenance of buildings of Residential Care Homes eligible under the Social Aid Act is being doubled.
- The Foundation will undertake a classification of NGOs to improve and better tailor its funding support to different types of NGOs. It will help to maximise the role and effectiveness of NGOs. Concepts of community-based NGOs and NGO d'Utilité Publique will be introduced.

**Funds Received by the Foundation during the financial year 2019-2020**

(i)	<b>Transfer from Accountant General</b>	
	- CSR Funds from MRA	Rs. 843,419,432.00
	- Support to NGOs from MOFED	Rs. 227,100,000.00
		<b>Rs. 1,070,519,432.00</b>
(ii)	<b>Other Income</b>	
	Interest received on Fixed Deposits	Rs. 14,504,589.00
	Other Miscellaneous income	Rs. 3,484,559.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Rs. 1,088,508,580.00</b>

## BUDGET MEASURE ON FREE INTERNET

Paragraph 52 of the Budget Speech 2019-2020 makes provision of free access to Broadband Internet to families on the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM). In this respect, the Ministry has issued 8,147 notices for families in Mauritius so as they may call at the nearest Mauritius Telecom office to apply for the broadband internet.

The notices of the broadband internet were handed personally to the SRM families by the National Empowerment Foundation.

The exercise for the distribution of notices to beneficiaries started on 22 August 2019 and ended on 23 September 2019.

As at 30 June 2020, some **5,000** SRM families have been connected to broadband internet.

## STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BUDGET MEASURES

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target 2019/2020	Achievement as at 30 June 2020	Remarks
Empowerment of Beneficiaries	Number of eligible families successfully moved out of SRM	1500	411	A recertification to reassess the eligibility of existing SRM households was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Improve performance of students under SRM	Percentage of SRM students successfully completing formal secondary education	40%	36%	-
Support to NGOs by the National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF)	Number of NGOs supported	350	246	-

## Implementation Plan to address shortcomings identified in the Report of the Director Of Audit for Financial Year 2018/2019

Issues raised by the Director of Audit	Status of Action taken/Implementation Date
<b>Disbursement of Capital Grants</b>	A protocol has been worked out to set deadlines for National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) to submit the required information. The Ministry has also made arrangements with relevant stakeholders to expedite matters to ensure timely implementation of projects by NEF.
<b>Construction of Fully Concrete/Modular Houses (FC/MH) Scheme</b>	The Project Management Unit of the Foundation is reviewing its staffing structure, processes and workflows in order to increase its implementation and monitoring capacity, especially with regard to implementation of Social Housing Projects.
<b>List of Beneficiaries of FC/MHs not available at the Ministry</b>	The NEF has been instructed, henceforth, to submit to the Division the list of eligible beneficiaries for all the Social Housing Projects after approval by its Board. The list of beneficiaries is available at the level of the Division.
<b>Funds Disbursed by the Ministry not optimally used</b>	The Ministry is now ensuring that funds are released to NEF for payment to contractor upon submission of relevant documents. The Foundation has also been requested to submit a revised Action Plan, duly approved by NEF Board, for the period January 2020 to June 2020, including details of all commitments and outstanding funds from previous financial years.
<b>Monthly Subsistence Allowance – Weaknesses in Processing MSA Payable</b>	Remedial action has been taken by the Social Security and National Solidarity Division to calculate automatically the amount of Subsistence Allowance to be paid to each eligible household and enhancements are being undertaken on the Social Integration Management Information System at the level of the Social Integration Division to retrieve the information.
<b>Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>	The Scheme of Service of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer is being reviewed as the last exercise conducted by the PSC was not successful. The Consultant recruited by the Ministry is, in the meantime, providing training in Monitoring and Evaluation to staff of the Ministry and the NEF.

## Gender Policy Statement of the Social Integration Division

In light of the National Gender Policy Framework 2008 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 persons living in absolute poverty with regard to integrating gender perspective in national sustainable development policies and strategies.

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 for promoting 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.

The Constitution not only grants equality to women but empowers the State to adopt measures in favour of women. Consequently, women and men must participate equitably in the national development process.

While Mauritius has a good track record regarding women's empowerment in terms of policies, legislation, institutional and infrastructural support, prevailing gender gaps still persist. The core 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 Framework (NGPF) in 2008 which embodies a vision of empowering women and recognizes that gender is a cross-cutting issue.

It also argues that adopting and incorporating a gender approach in all developmental issues remain a prerequisite to attain full human development.

The vision is to have "A society in which all girls and boys, women and men live together in dignity, safety, mutual respect, harmony and social justice; thrive in an enabling environment in which they are able to achieve their full potential, in full

enjoyment of their human rights; are equal partners in taking decisions to shape economic, social and cultural development, in determining the values that guide and sustain such development and equally enjoy its benefits”.

Therefore, for the effective implementation of the NGPF, each Ministry should:

- (i) develop its own sector specific gender policy;
- (ii) draw on the policy framework for revising /developing sectoral strategies and ensure coherence among policies; and
- (iii) mainstream gender in programme design, performance indicators and budgetary allocations.

The Ministry’s Gender Policy Statement reflects the commitment it has to mainstream gender in its sector specific interventions having as overall objective to promote gender equity, equality and social justice for a sustainable society.

Having as mandate to eradicate extreme and chronic poverty and create 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 to achieve Sustainable Development and Gender Equality. Women have equal access to all the schemes, facilities and support services offered by the Division.

Since December 2016 to June 2018, over 10,000 families, representing more than 40,000 beneficiaries, have been supported through the various Income Support and Empowerment Schemes under the Social Integration and Empowerment Act 2016.

Having as core mission to support and empower the vulnerable groups, who are registered and found eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius, this Division has been working towards the implementation of the Marshall Plan against Poverty with a view to mainstreaming people living in absolute poverty in society and improving their quality of life in a sustainable manner.

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

As part of this new reform, a range of **empowerment support services** in terms of Education and vocational training, Employment and livelihoods, Healthcare and Family Empowerment Programmes are provided by key service providers so that the participating families become successfully integrated into society.

The principles of **equity and social justice** require us 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 families can have access to a wide array of services including decent work through active labour market policies.

All unemployed heads of households and dependents from among the MPSC beneficiaries are being referred to the Ministry of Labour so that they are registered as being unemployed and are offered the relevant training and placement.

Training opportunities are being provided to beneficiaries through the Mauritius Institute for Training and Development (MITD) in various fields such as Electrical Installation, Plumbing & Pipe Fitting and Housekeeping so that beneficiaries can develop relevant soft skills to better respond to the market needs all while promoting their social inclusion and cohesion.

Beneficiaries of the training programme are being given a monthly stipend of Rs 5,000 and a travelling allowance of Rs 1,000 to successfully attend the training and any placement opportunities. A toolkit is also being provided so that they can start their own practice or business.

Job fairs are being organised to regroup potential employers and unemployed beneficiaries for job and training opportunities. The holding of Job Fairs across the island is an important tool to create employment opportunities to job seekers. So far, some 817 beneficiaries have attended Job Fairs and have been referred to potential employers.



Moreover, training with respect to income generating projects is being provided to beneficiaries in the fields of bee-keeping, hair dressing and beauty care, manufacture of eco-bags, poultry rearing and home gardening.

Some 636 beneficiaries (545 beneficiaries for Mauritius and 91 for Rodrigues) have been trained in the following fields: Pastry, Shoe Making, Domestic Cleaning, Bee Keeping, Quail Egg Production, Poultry Project, Gardening Project, Farming, Beauty Care/Henna Application, and Eco Bag Making either through MITD or any other training providers, namely the National Cooperative College.

Recreational and leisure activities, and training in Life Skills are yet other elements forming part of the empowerment process of the needy ones.

With a view to further the empowerment of children of vulnerable families through recreational activities, the ministry has set up the “Boot Camp” programme. This is a leisure-learning type project, addressed to children aged between 12 and 15 years of eligible SRM families whereby the Division is having the support of the Mauritius Police Force, Special Mobile Force and Mauritius Scouts Association for the realization of the project.

Life Enhancement Education Programme (LEEP), commonly known as training in Life Skills, is yet another instrument which have been introduced and is helping towards changing and transforming the mindset of beneficiaries for a better future. A package of programmes has been mounted to help address issues such as Self Esteem, Health and Contraceptive measures, importance of education and Family Budgeting, Entrepreneurship skills & preparing for workplace and ensuring good neighbourhood, Substance Abuse and Moral Values.

For the financial year 2019-2020, some 1148 beneficiaries have followed Life Skills training across the island and some 2,720 beneficiaries will be trained in new batches during the next financial year.

Some 692 beneficiaries have participated in medical screening exercises through the island and many beneficiaries have received medical equipment such as First Aid Kits, Glasses and Condoms.

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 which are currently being implemented. The Division's database makes provision for gender disaggregated statistics and gender-disaggregated indicators which will be developed for monitoring and evaluation with respect to the various Empowerment Schemes.

Based on analysis of data collected in the Social Register of Mauritius, the Gender Policy Document highlights the major achievements of the Division and makes recommendation for mainstreaming gender in policies and programmes as per the gender gaps identified.

Taking into consideration the feminisation of poverty, the focus for the next financial year will be on "Empowerment of women and girls, including separated and single mothers".

This Gender Policy Document provides a framework for giving substance to gender considerations, translating policy into action and promoting the full and equal participation of men and women in the development process.

The number of beneficiaries, who have been provided with the empowerment schemes for the financial year 2019/2020, on a gender-wise basis, is shown below:

SN	Empowerment Schemes	Average Number of Beneficiaries for the Financial Year 2019/2020		
		Male	Female	Total
1	Crèche Scheme	4	8	12
2	Free Examination Fees Scheme	116	148	264
3	School Premium Scheme	157	70	227
4	Fully Concrete Housing Scheme	59	93	152
5	Training and Placement Scheme	57	579	636

## Challenges

The main challenges that the Social Integration Division faced during the period 2019-2020 were as follows:

- COVID-19 pandemic and its expected ensuing socio-economic effects;
- Setting up appropriate coordination mechanism with the direct stakeholders for better monitoring and evaluation in the implementation of the Marshall Plan; and
- Ensuring that adequate monitoring and evaluation of our empowerment programmes are effected to meet the set objectives.

## Risk Management Measures

It is to be noted that many Risk Management measures are already inbuilt within the existing operational systems at the Division with checks and balances to mitigate risks.

A few examples are:

- ❖ The Social Integration Management Information System (SIMIS) - The operations for the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM) are performed through a sophisticated platform in which many control systems are embedded. The processing of SRM forms and Social Contracts at the Division is protected by automatic safeguards against many risks and errors;
- ❖ Implementation of child allowance module;
- ❖ The Treasury Accounting System (TAS) - this is a Management Information System implemented by the Treasury department, which already possesses state of the art control mechanisms for the Finance department; and
- ❖ Segregation of duties - This measure decreases the risks of fraud, data manipulation, and the possibility of human errors. For example, during the processing of paysheets for the payment of the various Empowerment Schemes at the level of the Division, there is one unit in charge of processing the paysheets, one for verification, and one for dealing with the certification of paysheets.

## 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 are the setting up of various committees at the level of the Division to ensure that compliance to good governance frameworks are being adopted, for instance, the Anti-Corruption Committee, the Occupational Safety and Health Committees, the Online Citizen Portal Committee, the Audit Committee, the Public Sector Business Transformation Implementation Committee, Training Committee among various other Committees, which are conducted on a regular basis.

## PART III- FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

### ➤ Financial Performance

#### **Financial Highlights**

The total budget of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity (Social Integration Division) for Fiscal year 2019-2020 stands at Rs 761,000,000 compared to the Budget 2018-2019, which was Rs 760,000,000. The Budget 2019-2020 is divided into two segments as follows:

#### ❖ **Sub-Head 18-101: General**

Recurrent Expenditure: Rs 50,000,000

#### ❖ **Sub-Head 18-102: Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment**

Recurrent Expenditure : Rs 606,000,000

Capital Expenditure : Rs 105,000,000

Figure 1 below provides an illustration of expenditure incurred by the Social Integration Division under Vote 18-1

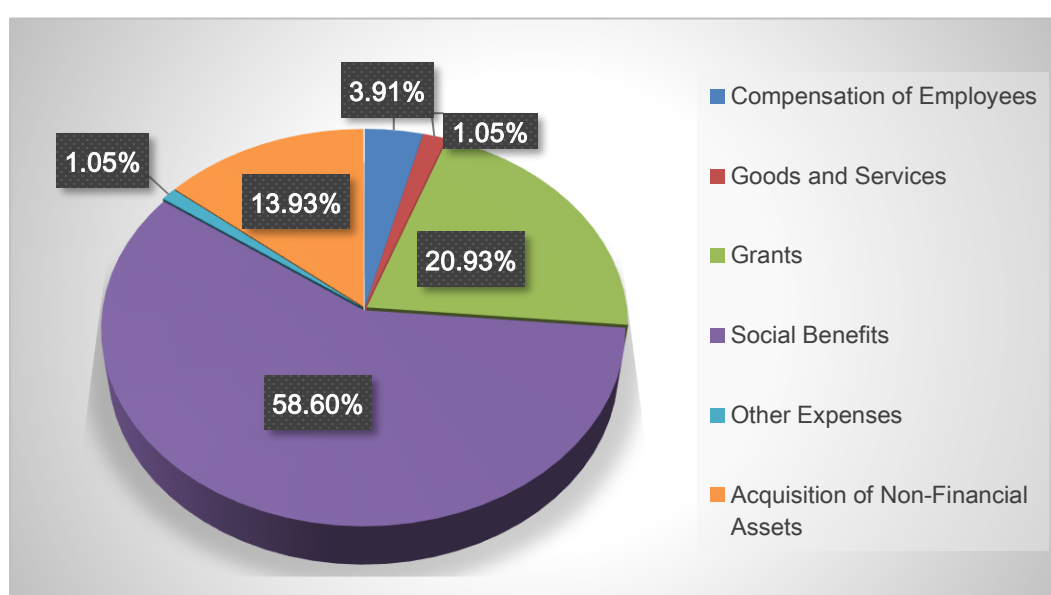


Figure 1

## ➤ Analysis of Major Changes

### Expenditure

The budgeted amount for social benefits for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 was Rs 440,800,000.

## ➤ Statements of Revenue & Expenditure

### Statement of Expenditure

Table below provides a summary of total expenditure incurred by MSISSNS under Vote 18-1 which includes Sub-heads 18-101: General and 18-102: Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment.

Table 1: Statement of Expenditure under Vote 18-1		
Head/Sub Head of Expenditure	2019-2020 Estimates (Rs)	2019-2020 Actual (Rs)
<b>18-1 MINISTRY OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION, SOCIAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL SOLIDARITY (Social Integration Division)</b>		
<b>18-101: GENERAL</b>	<b>50,000,000</b>	<b>39,373,000</b>
Compensation of Employees	33,840,000	28,038,000
Goods and Services	16,160,000	11,335,000
<b>18-102 POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND EMPOWERMENT</b>	<b>711,000,000</b>	<b>678,356,000</b>
Grants	153,200,000	150,255,000
Social Benefits	440,800,000	420,599,000
Other Expenses	12,000,000	7,502,000
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	105,000,000	100,000,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE for Vote 18-1</b>	<b>761,000,000</b>	<b>717,729,000</b>

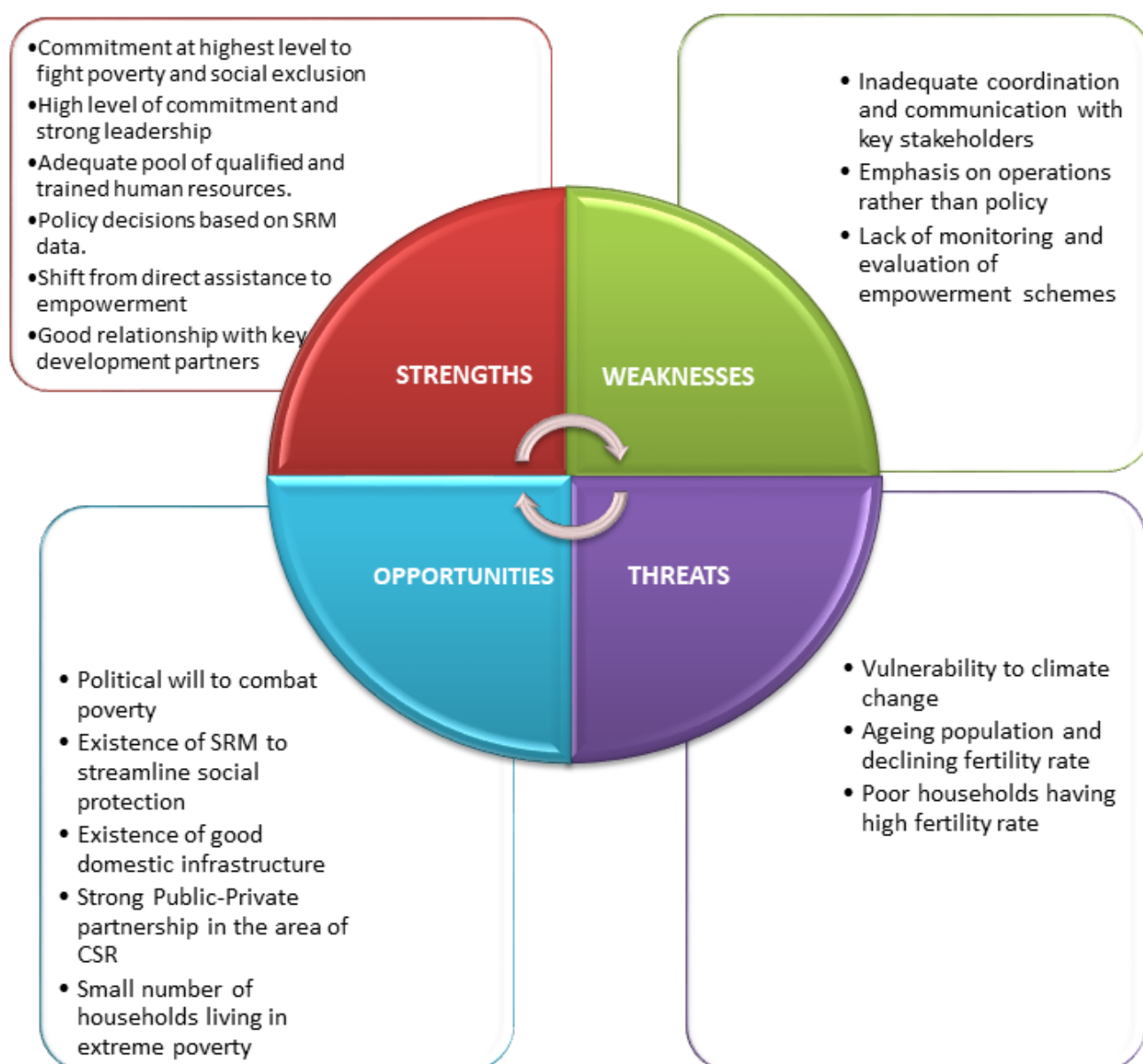
## PART IV –WAY FORWARD

### Trends and Challenges

The SWOT analysis was performed based on external and internal factors such as:

1. Political;
2. Social;
3. Economic;
4. Environmental;
5. Institutional drivers; i.e. governance, structures, strategy, etc.; and
6. 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:



## Strategic Directions

- ❖ Empowerment of vulnerable families through education, employability and improvement of their livelihood.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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 from a very early stage.
- ❖ Promote social inclusion by reinforcing the economic empowerment programmes for the absolute poor in terms of income and educational support, employability and improvement in living conditions.
- ❖ Harmonize and streamline the various assistance schemes for social protection.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Enhance collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders by establishing a coordinated approach through Community Working Groups.
- ❖ Bridging the gap (Digital device and technological innovation).
- ❖ Capacity Building to align our human resources with our strategic objectives.