



ANNUAL REPORT

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

**SIXTH ASSEMBLY
2018**

The Women Committee composed of the Members as listed below, submits its Annual Report for 2018:

Hon. Chantal Ghislain

.....

Chairperson

Hon. Regina Esparon

.....

Vice-Chairperson

Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel

.....

Member

Hon. Noline Sophola

.....

Member

Hon. Flory Larue

.....

Member

Hon. Jany De Letourdie

.....

Member

Hon. Audrey Vidot

.....

Member

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Women's Committee is a Standing Committee of the National Assembly. It is mandated to:

1. Consider questions of equal opportunities for women and men and activities, policies and legislation related thereto both locally and internationally.
2. Follow up on the compliance of the National Assembly and Government, In matters pertaining to equal opportunities for Women and men;
3. Establish relations with and participate in meetings of local and international bodies promoting Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and represent the National Assembly in and follow the work of the relevant intergovernmental expert committees that deal with issues pertaining to women and parliament, both regionally and internationally.
4. Maintain working relations with the relevant Regional and International organizations, such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Commission on the status of women (CSW), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the OSCE, office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OHCHR);
5. Encourage and advocate in favour of capacity building for women in government and support the participation of women in politics in particular their contribution to the proliferation of good governance.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The current Committee is chaired by Hon. Chantal Ghislain and it consists of seven Members as follows:

- **Hon. Chantal Ghislain – *Chairperson***
- **Hon. Regina Esparon – *Vice Chairperson***
- **Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel – Member**
- **Hon. Noline Sophola – Member**
- **Hon. Flory Larue – Member**
- **Hon. Jany De Letourdie – Member**
- **Hon. Audrey Vidot – Member**

The Committee is also assisted by Ms. Telma Julie as Secretary and Mrs. Ghislaine Thelermont as Assistant Secretary.

3. MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

During the year 2018, the Women's Committee held 16 Committee meetings of which 4 were held with outside parties and 1 with the Speaker.

The list of meetings and events for the year 2018 can be seen at ANNEX 8.1 on page number XX.

3.1 MEETING WITH HON. SPEAKER NICHOLAS PREA

On the 3rd April, the WPC met with The Speaker, Hon. Nicholas Prea. The aim of the meeting was to discuss the proposed activities of the WPC, mainly activities that needed a lot of funding from the National Assembly. Two such activities that were on the WPC calendar for 2018 and 2019, namely the exchange visit with the Women's Parliamentary Caucus of Mauritius. And then an International Women's Forum, which was scheduled for the 8th March 2019 to celebrate the International Women's Day. Both activities could not be materialized due to financial constraints. All members of the Committee were present for the meeting.

3.2 MEETING WITH MISS SEYCHELLES

On the 3rd of April, in the presence of the Speaker, the WPC meet with Miss Seychelles 2017, Miss Hilary Joubert. The aim of the meeting was to have a direct dialogue with her, so as to try and build a working partnership, both with the current Miss Seychelles and the Pageant organizer, The Creative Industries and National Events Agency (CINEA). CINEA was represented at the meeting by its Deputy CEO, Mr. Gustave de Commarmond.

During our meeting, Miss Seychelles Hilary Joubert expressed her difficulties and challenges as to why she could not realise her anti-bullying project. She pointed out that she had targeted the building situated at North East Point but we did not know that the building had already been allocated to the Autism Society of Seychelles. Even though we met the Ministry of Family Affairs and Ministry of Education to see how to proceed but nothing really materialized.

WPC members had the chance to question her and came out with some recommendations and comments for her. All members of the Committee were present for the meeting

RECOMMENDATIONS

Miss Seychelles, Hilary Joubert, who was crowned in 2017, ended her reign on 26th August 2018.

The beauty pageant under the title **Miss Seychelles another World** was since 2012 hosted by the Seychelles Tourism Board. Miss Seychelles beauty pageant, which was meant to be an annual event, had not been organised every year since it started in 1969, until five years ago when the Tourism Board took it onboard as part of its annual calendar of activities. The Creative Industries and National Events Agency which was created in 2016 to manage and organize national events, was mandated to organise and oversee the beauty pageant in 2017.

The estimated costs for organising the beauty contest locally and for Miss Seychelles' participation in the **Miss World beauty pageant** annually amounts to R1.5 million. This includes a £5,000 (SCR 88,000) entry fee as well as various other costs including airfares, living expenses, clothing and grooming.

Recommendation 1: Miss Seychelles Project

It was noted that in future, organizing committee of future Miss Seychelles Beauty Pageant, be more involved with the participants before they present a project, just to make sure that the project is realistic and can really be implemented.

Recommendation 2: Miss Seychelles involvement with MNA's

Invite MNA's of the district Schools that Miss Seychelles is visiting.

3.3 MEETING WITH MISS SEYCHELLES PLUS

3.4 MEETING WITH DUNNS

3.5 MEETING WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION SECRETARIAT AND THE AGENCY FOR DRUG ABUSE & REHABILITATION

INTRODUCTION

Members of the Committee of Women Parliamentarians met with the Secretary of State responsible for Poverty Alleviation, Ambassador Dick Esparon who was also accompanied by Mr. Ziggy Adam, Mr. Michel Savy, Mr. Henry Bastienne, and Mrs. Michelle Sabury from the office of the Agency for Drug Abuse & Rehabilitation last week. The presentation by the Office of the Secretary of State for Poverty Alleviation can be seen at ANNEX 8.2 on page number XX.

AIM OF THE MEETING

This reunion aimed to discuss how they could collaborate as a team to tackle issues about women and girls currently affecting our society and confer the way forward. The officials carried out a presentation that revealed facts and figures as well as explanations on system adaptations for the way forward.

IN ATTENDANCE

Two (2) State Secretariats were represented at the meeting. Members of the committee present were, Hon. Chantal Ghislain, Hon. Regina Esparon, Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel and Hon. Audrey Vidot

ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVES
Secretary of State for Poverty Alleviation	Ambassador Dick Esparon Mr. Ziggy Adam Mr. Michel Savy Mr. Henry Bastienne
Agency for Drug Abuse & Rehabilitation	Mrs. Michelle Sabury

RECOMMENDATIONS

Challenges, strengths, and visions were indicated as the meeting progressed. The alarming statistics of issues that were captured from surveys opened an interest during discussions on how to change the trend and mind-set of the society thus getting the government to touch base on the core of the issues. The participants present strongly weighed up that it is vital to define “one-stop shop” in having all stakeholders on board instead of each working in isolation. The dire need for restructure and developing the targeted program, thus monitoring and follow up were all ideas brainstormed as the way forward.

Recommendation 1: Working Together

It was mutually agreed by the participants to work closely on different projects and forums to make a positive impact and bring about changes.

Recommendation 2: Motions

Members agreed to table various motions and questions in the National Assembly on social issues such as drugs, alcohol and poverty. The statistics were a great help in the '**Mosyon lo en meyer kiltir stil lavi**'

4. SITE VISITS

During the year of 2018, the Committee carried out two Site Visits, mainly The Perseverance Family Hospital and the Women Prison.

4.1 Visit to Perseverance Family Hospital

On the 8th of March 2018, to celebrate International's Woman's Day, members of the Women's Committee visited the Perseverance Family Hospital. Members present for the visit were:

4.2 Visit to Montagne Posee Women Prison

It has been a tradition that for the last 7 years, every year, during Christmas time the women Parliamentarians, visit the women Prison. Christmas is a time of giving, peace, love and of forgiving. We are not there to judge or to condemn. As women, the female convicts are also mothers, mothers who are far away from their kids. Our yearly visits are very much welcome by the convicts and they always look forward for our visits. The aim of our visit is to better understand the current challenges that these women face, to listen to them and spend time with them during this time of year. During our visit every woman convicts receive a small basket of goodies. Members Present for the visit were, Hon. Chantal Ghislain, Hon. Regina Esparon, Hon. Sylvanne Lemiel, Hon. Noline Sophola, Hon.

5. JOINT COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

The Report on the Joint Committee Workshop can be seen at ANNEX 8.3 on page number XX.

6. STRATEGY OF WORK FOR 2019

6.1 From Committee to Caucus

Like most Parliaments around the world, the establishment of Women's Parliamentary Caucuses is one of the mechanisms that have enabled women to strengthen their political impact. Women's caucuses can also help to bring greater equality between men and women in the daily operations and work of parliament. Such caucuses have been particularly effective in changing legislation and policies from a gender perspective and raising awareness about gender equality. The success of women's caucuses stems primarily from their capacity to rally the support of women parliamentarians around common objectives, rising above political divisions. Women's caucuses also receive strong backing from civil society organizations and engage men in support of their actions. To be in line with SADEC/PF and RWPC and as per The Pan African Parliament recommendation, all members have agreed to turn our Committee into a Caucus

6.2 Expansion of Terms of Reference

Following a general consensus, in since last year, to turn our Committee into a Caucus to be in line with SADEC/PF and RWPC and as per The Pan African Parliament recommendation, a new and expanded Terms of Reference (TOR) has been submitted to the National Assembly Standing Orders Committee for its blessing before it's presentation to the National Assembly for its final approval. Proposed Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) can be seen at ANNEX 8.4 on page number XX.

6.3 Visit Exceptional School and Rehabilitation Centre

6.4 Cancer Awareness Campaign

Breast and Cervical cancers are generally considered to be the most important cancers among women. They are globally the most common cancer type seen in women. October is Cancer Month in Seychelles, where everybody talks about Cancer. As leaders, most precisely women leaders, and the voice of our communities, it is most appropriate that we talk about cancer. As mothers, and sisters ourselves, during this time, we think about our young brothers and sisters, mothers, fathers and friends who have lost the battle against cancer, we

also remember those who are still fighting and we remember those who have lost all hopes, because when one person has cancer, the whole family or the whole community is affected. The Caucus together with other partners, is planning to do a one week Cancer Awareness Campaign.

6.5 International Exchange

6.6 Other Visits and Meetings

During 2019, the Committee is planning to visit The President's Village, Victoria Hospital, Other Orphanages and the Centre for victims of domestic violence. The Committee will also meet with the National Committee for Women and Sports.

7. CONCLUSION

Generally, 2018 has been a good year for the Committee, except for some activities which was scheduled but was postponed. The Committee also express its disappointment towards the missed opportunity in meeting with the Women Speakers who attended the CSPOC Conference. Such occasions should be made available to the committee in future, thus enabling committee members to establish a link, exchange and share knowledge.

Further to that, it would be a plus for women parliamentarians that the Secretariat considers inviting the committee when women dignitaries are visiting the Parliament.

8. ANNEXURE

ANNEX 8.1: List of meetings and events held in 2018

Proposed Dates	Activities
6 th March	Discuss Women's day activities
16 th March	Committee Meeting: Plan calendar of activities and meetings
2 nd May	Committee Meeting
5 th June	Committee Meeting (Talk: Child protection)
3 rd July	Committee Meeting
7 th August	Committee Meeting
4 th September	Committee Meeting
2 nd October	Committee Meeting
6 th November	Committee Meeting
4 th December	Committee Meeting

Proposed Calendar of Activities for 2018

Dates	Activities
8 th March 2018	Visit at the Perseverance Hospital for the occasion of International Women's Day
3 rd April	Meeting with The Speaker to discuss proposed activities Meet with Miss Seychelles
4 th April	Meet with Miss Seychelles Plus
6 th April	Meeting with the Ministry of Family Affairs and stakeholders
	Joint Committee Workshop: Targeting group; schools Theme: Child protection/child abuse
6 th July 2018	Visit Exceptional School and Vocational Training Centre North East Point
	Exchange with Mauritius Parliament Women's Caucus
December	Visit Montagne Posee Prison

ANNEX 8.2: Presentation by Office of the Secretary of State for Poverty Alleviation

MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY

And

To what extent does it affect women and children

Concept

- Poverty in itself has many causes and symptoms, for example, low income, low employment rate, abuse of substance may be causes of poverty; on the other hand, malnutrition, poor housing conditions, child neglect or abuse may be symptoms of poverty. It is with this approach that a Multidimensional Survey becomes useful because it has the ability to map out “*Who is Poor, and why?*”
- The Office for Poverty Alleviation conducted targeted surveys to answer these questions.

The Method we have used – Alkire Foster Method

This method serves as a means of mapping out from amongst the data, who is poor according to their deprivations across different dimensions.

Example below:

Income Years of Education Housing Index Mal-Nourished

ND	ND	ND	ND	Pete
D	ND	ND	D	Marie
D	D	D	D	Chris
ND	D	ND	ND	Diana

**** Established cut-off for poverty 1/3. This means that in all of the dimensions, if a person is deprived in 1 3rd total, only then can they be classified as poor.***

Incidence and Intensity are both taken into consideration using the AF method. Using the cut-off, we see that Marie and Chris are poor, because their deprivations amount to more than 1/3. The intensity is the number of deprivations per dimensions for those who are poor divided by the bet number of dimensions, divided by the number of poor persons.

Cut-Offs

Cut-offs are very important in the process of transforming the raw data into workable data, a binary. After a cut-off is applied, data which are not considered gets disregarded. This process gives certainty to the final set of data especially for policy making. However, using only the binary data may fail to address borderline issues.

Income *Years of Education* *Housing Index* *Mal-Nourished*

SR 10000	15	ACCEPTABLE	NO	Pete
SR 5000	11	ACCEPTABLE	YES	Marie
SR 1100	10	POOR	YES	Chris
SR 6000	6	ACCEPTABLE	NO	Diana

* The cut offs: *Income* 5000, *Years of Education* 11, *Housing Index* ACCEPTABLE, *Mall nourished* YES or NO

These most concerning point with cut-offs is the borderline cases, for example, even if Diana is not deprived, she is near the cut-off mark and when translating the data to binary, this is not taken into account.

How have we been using the AF METHOD?

- Given that the final result of the survey is not ready yet, the SSPA has introduced a system of Rapid Assessment. This system will flag suspected cases of extreme poverty whilst the survey is being conducted.
- This system has allowed the Office to recommend targeted action which can be monitored. E.g. the 16 housing cases.
- The following is an extract from the Rapid Assessment Survey Matrix used to compile the data received from the Rapid Response Team.

Amenities						Hygiene & Sanitation						Food		Housing
Electricity	Connection Available	Water	Connection Available	Cooking Facility	Bathroom Facility	Toilet Facilities	Sewerage Facilities	Waste Disposal Facilities	Indoor Hygiene Satisfactory	Outdoor Hygiene Satisfactory	Personal Hygiene Satisfactory	Min. 2 Meals a day	Nutritional Content	Housing Condition Satisfactory
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes		Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Yes	Yes	NO	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

The dimensions such as Education, Employment and Health are missing, this is because this was a rapid assessment of extreme poverty cases. If we deviate from assessing poverty and specify on extreme poverty, we can say that each dimension and indicator carry more weight, given we are measuring *extreme* poverty. So we can say, the cut off for extreme poverty per dimension is 1/3. Hence, where there are 6 indicators, the cut-off is 2, for example. And now calculating the headcount, we can say that is a person is deprived in at least two dimensions, then that person is in extreme poverty.

Using the cut-offs, we will see that:

- A. Is deprived in Food and Housing
- B. Is deprived in Amenities, Hygiene and Sanitation, Food and Housing
- C. Is only deprived in Housing
- D. Is deprived in Food and Housing
- E. Is deprived in Hygiene & Sanitation and Housing.

The list goes on. It is clear than 9 out of these 14 cases are suffering from extreme poverty. And they all have one common deprivation, that is, Housing

Surveying Central 2 Region

The targeted survey of central region two meant that the following districts were surveyed: Mont Fleuri, Roche Caiman, Plaisance, Les Mamelles.

Age group	Key sub-populations	% population
0 - 3	May need child-minding services	6.8
4-17	School age	23.1
15-35	Youth	32.1
24-54	Prime working ages	42.8
60 or more	Pensionable ages	11.6

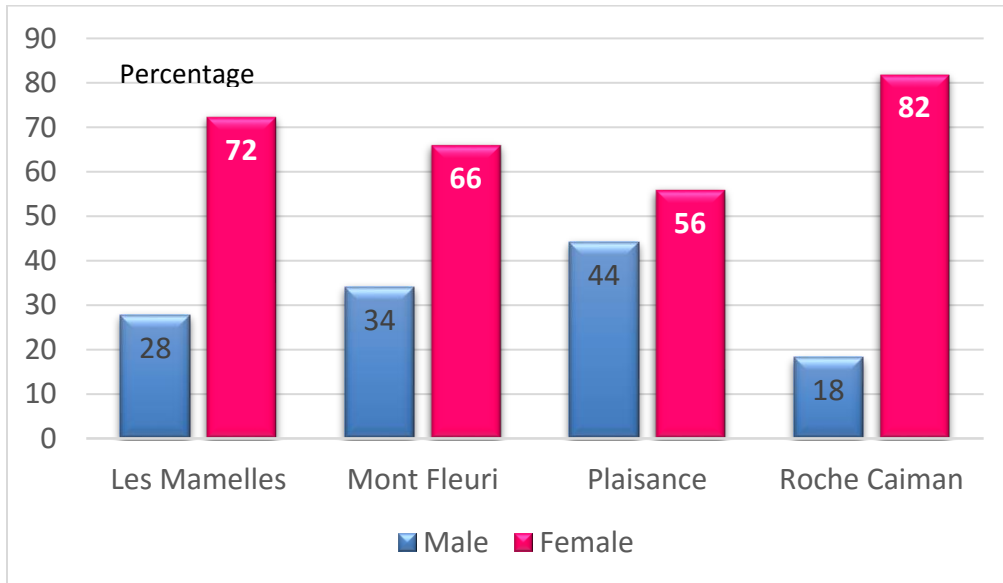
Above is the age structure of the target population.

Surveying Central 2 Region

District	Maximum	Average
Les Mamelles	11	3.7
Mont Fleuri	10	3.4
Plaisance	12	3.2
Roche Caiman	12	4.4
Region	12	3.7

Heads of Households by District & Sex, Central 2 Region, 2017

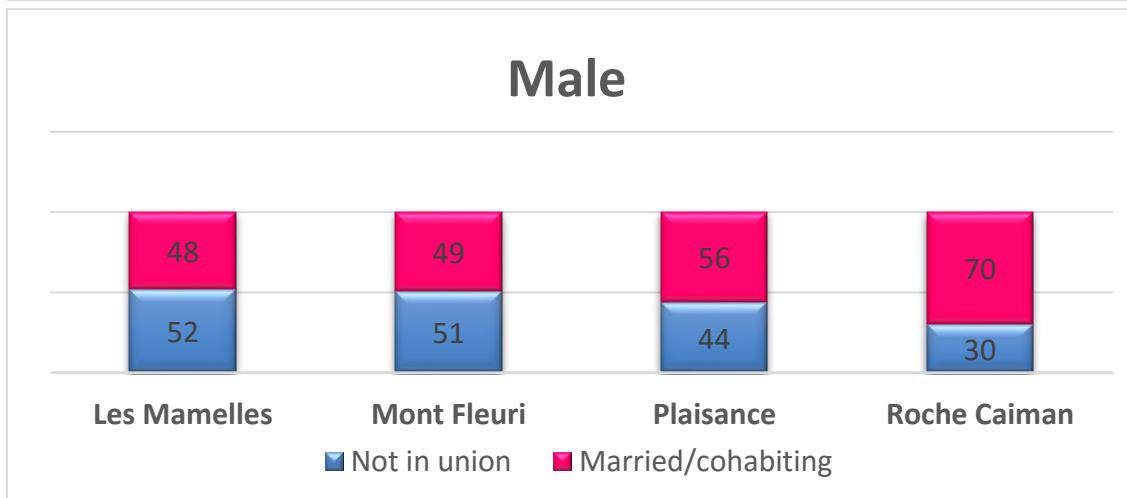
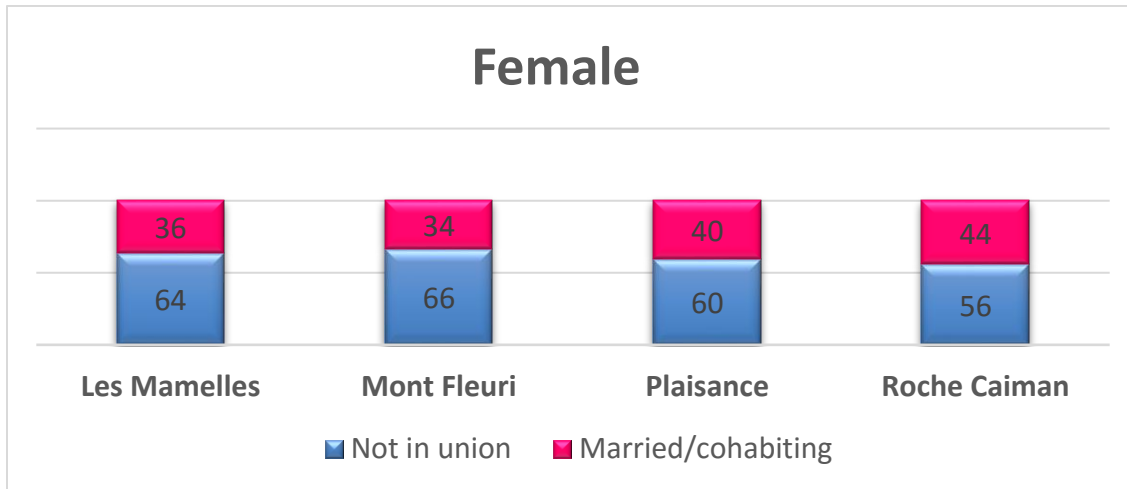
The survey results depicted a concerning situation whereby for every district, the head of the household was predominantly women.



This indicates that most of these households have only one parent and as a result, the children in these households are lacking a father figure.

Heads of Households by District & Sex, Central 2 Region, 2017

The results also showed us that for the households where a man was the head, most of the time, the couple would be married or cohabitating on a gross scale. For households with women as the heads, this is less likely.



This is further indication that most of the houses with women as heads are single parent households.

Substance Abuse in households

It goes without saying that alcohol and drug abuse are vicious elements that causes social issues and it has a link with poverty. Many households classified as

poor, or lacking in wellbeing and welfare are being or have been subject to drug and/or alcohol abuse

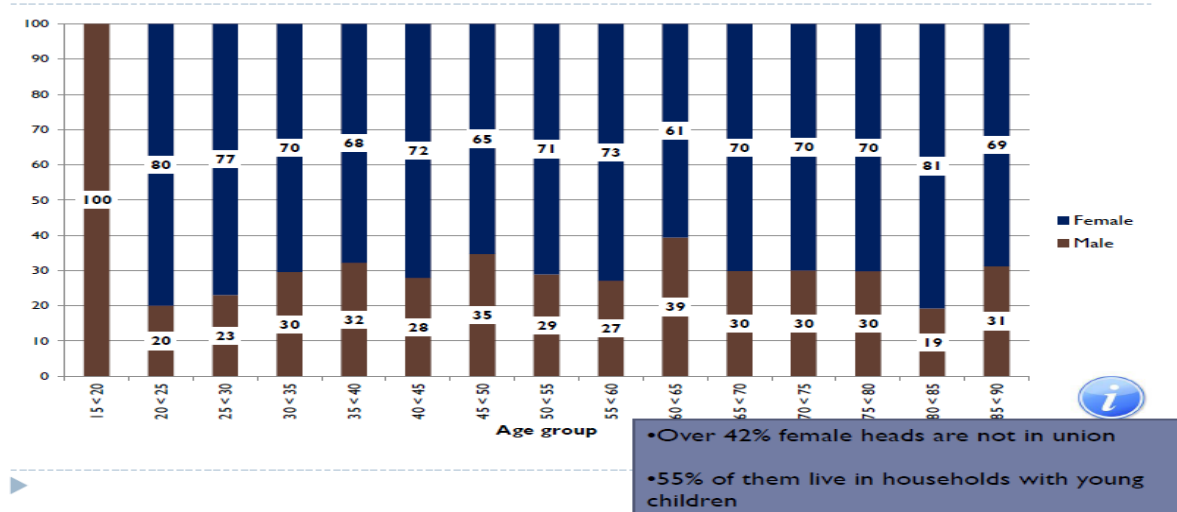
- ❖ 86 Households with victims of alcohol abuse
- ❖ 141 Households with victims of drug use

It is to be noted that the prevalence of drug abuse is more than that of alcohol abuse in the households surveyed.

- *79 children <15 living in households with alcohol abuse
- * 162 children < 15 living in households with drug users

Households by Sex of Head of Household & Age Group, Central 2 Region, 2017

Fig. 3: Households by Sex of Head of Household & Age Group, Central 2 Region, 2017

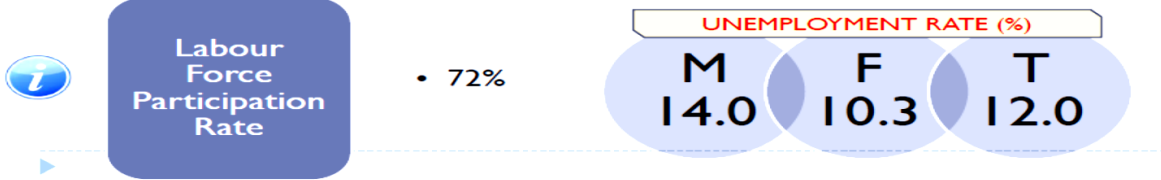


Head of Household by Labour Stats

Labour Force status	Male	Female	Both sexes	%
In Employment	236	526	762	65.8
Not in employment but in Labor Force	10	43	53	4.6
Retired	78	177	255	22.0
Disabled and cannot work	18	38	56	4.8
In full time education	1	4	5	0.4
Others not in Labour Force	9	18	27	2.3
Total	352	806	1,158	100.0

Population by Labour Force Stats

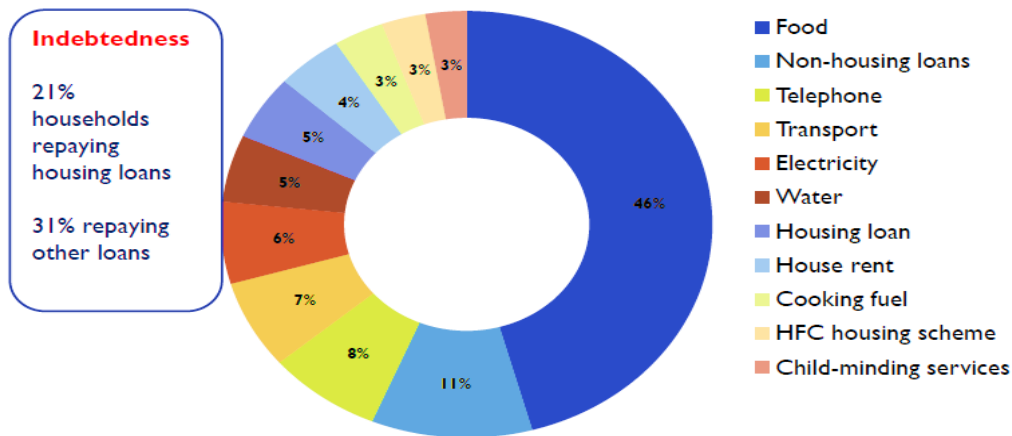
Labour Force status	Male	Female	Both sexes	%
In Employment	934	1,094	2,028	63.2
Reported unemployed	152	125	277	8.6
Retired	153	242	395	12.3
Disabled and cannot work	71	67	138	4.3
In full time education	108	106	214	6.7
Taking care of family member (unpaid)	1	16	17	0.5
Others not in Labour Force	77	61	138	4.3
Total	1,505	1,711	3,207	100.0



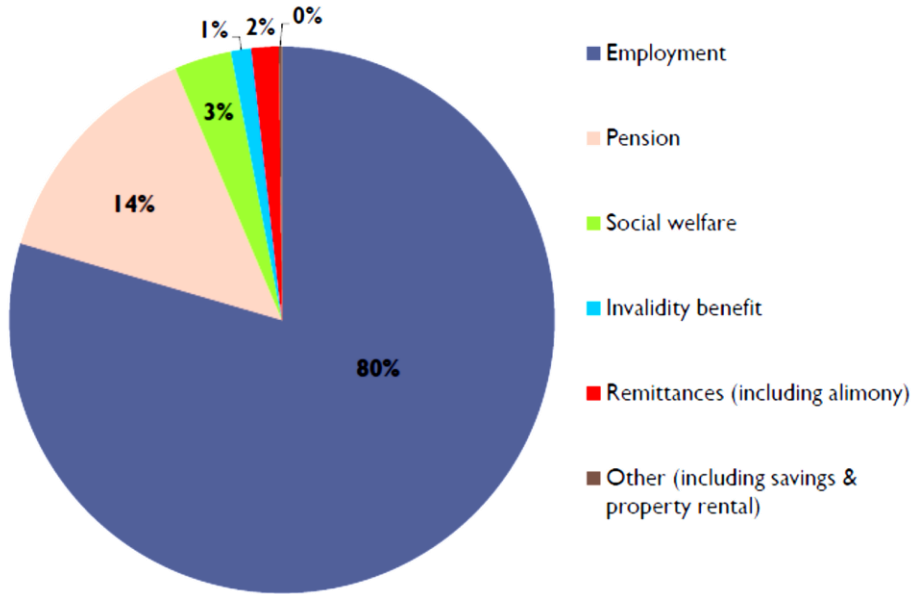
Household Average Expenditure on Basics

Expenditure item	N	Mean (SCR)
Food	1,089	3,198
Non-housing loans	1,029	744
Telephone	1,081	523
Transport	1,075	469
Electricity	1,088	435
Water	1,087	355
Housing loan	1,031	340
House rent	1,016	311
Cooking fuel	1,085	230
HFC housing scheme	1,022	202
Child-minding services	1,014	187
<i>Average monthly expenditure on selected items</i>	1,001	6,996

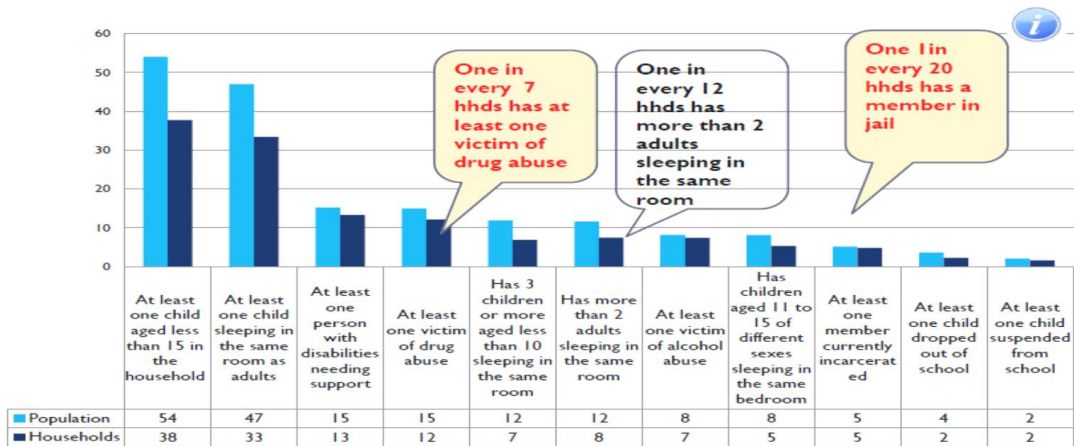
Mean Expenditure on Essential and Non-Housing Loans per household



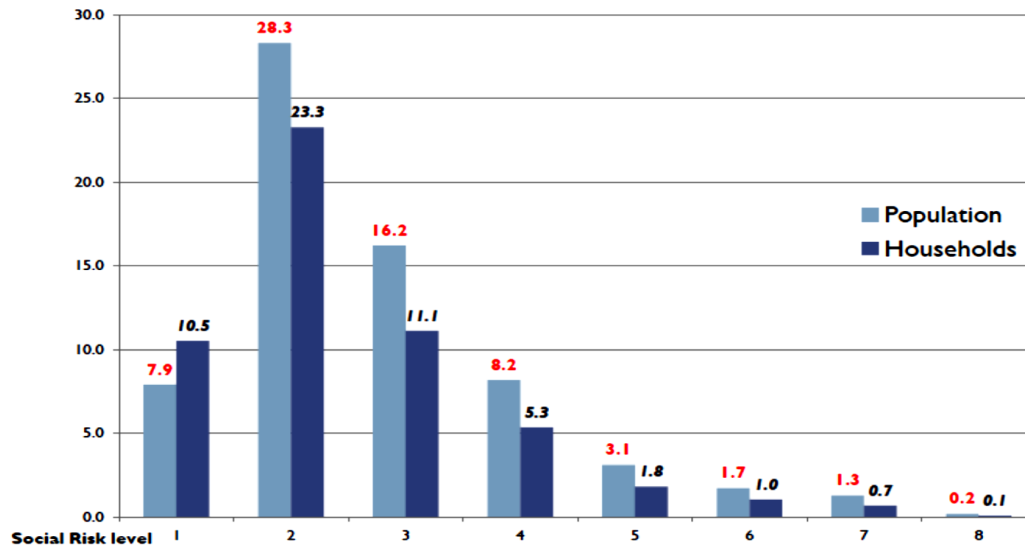
Percentage distribution of income by source



Percentage of Population and Households exposed to social risks



Exposure to social risks (Scores)



- Over 14% of population are exposed to at least 4 social risks
- 38% of households have overcrowding issues

What can we do to resolve the poverty issue amongst women and children?

- It is clear that a larger percentage of women are experiencing poverty. It is also clear that a lot of children are suffering from the symptoms of poverty which will eventually trickle down to generations and generations.
- There is already sufficient data on who is poor and why in the regions we have surveyed.
- **Opportunity to intervene: *The Corgat Estate redevelopment project will be relocating families to Perseverance Ilse whilst the project is in operation.***

Questions and Recommendations

Annex 8.3: Report on Joint Committee Workshop

Annex 8.4: Proposed Terms of Reference (TOR)

Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC)

Vision

A unified Women Parliamentarians' Caucus shall be working together irrespective of political party affiliation, to ensure equality for all, especially women, children and the vulnerable, by advocating, enacting and monitoring gender- and child-sensitive laws Seychelles. To provide an opportunity for women to exchange and ensure the cross-fertilization of ideas, to form collective platforms on particular policies and actions, and to support one another on issues and areas of common concern.

Objectives

The objective of the Caucus is to strengthen the voice of the women legislators in the Assembly.

- To promote solidarity among women in general and among women parliamentarians in particular;
- To influence policy and legislation from a gender perspective
- To raise awareness of gender equality issues in parliament
- To enhance the capacity of women parliamentarians as effective legislators and representatives;
- To ensure that gender equality policy and legislation is effectively implemented;
- To lobby for support from non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations.

Role & Purpose

Women play a vital role in every aspect of our society and it is only fitting that the voice of women should be heard at the highest levels of politics. The Caucus will provide women Parliamentarians a platform to struggle collectively for their own rights as well as bring more business pertaining to women issues to the Assembly debate.

The purpose of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus are to:

1. Consider questions of equal opportunities for women and men and activities, policies and legislation related thereto both locally and internationally.

2. Follow up on the compliance of the National Assembly and Government, In matters pertaining to equal opportunities for Women, men and children;
3. Establish relations with and participate in meetings of local and international bodies promoting Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and represent the National Assembly in and follow the work of the relevant intergovernmental expert committees that deal with issues pertaining to women and parliament, both regionally and internationally.
4. Maintain working relations with the relevant Regional and International organizations, such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Commission on the status of women (CSW), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the OSCE, office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OHCHR);
5. Encourage and advocate in favour of capacity building for women in government and support the participation of women in politics in particular their contribution to the proliferation of good governance.
6. Encourage and Advocate in favour of children and families. And maintain close working relationships with local NGOs, Civil Societies and Organizations related to children and families, such as National Children's Council (NCC), Campaign for Awareness, Resilience and Education (CARE)
7. Work in close collaboration with the Minister of Family Affairs and Social Affairs Department.

Composition

- The Caucus name shall be **Women's Parliamentary Caucus**, and use the abbreviation **WPC**
- The Caucus shall consist of all women members of the National Assembly
- The Caucus shall have the same formal relationship as any Standing Committee within the National Assembly.
- The Caucus shall adhere to the Rules of Procedures for Committees of the National Assembly.
- The Caucus shall elect its own chairperson

- The Caucus shall meet at least once a month, or as and when required.
- The Caucus shall be appointed for the duration of the Session of the National Assembly.
- The Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of the Caucus shall be appointed by the Secretariat of the National Assembly.