



Reason to Hope

Seychelles

Annual Report 2020

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1 INTRODUCTION

2020 was not like any other year due to the unexpected challenges faced by the National Council for Children (NCC) caused by the global pandemic, the outcome of an internal audit commissioned by the Board and the change of leadership at both the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Ministerial levels. However, working for the safeguarding and protection of the children of Seychelles remained at the centre of NCC's purpose and mandate.

The year started well with the various sections delivering their planned activities. The therapists continued to address the impact of abuse, violence and behavioural problems by offering counselling and psychological support to children and their families. The target to reduce the waiting list to zero was successfully met.

Parenting workshops proved to be the most popular training offer followed by behaviour management within a classroom setting. The Advocacy and Communications team remained active by continuing to use the different medium of communication namely the radio, newspaper and television to promote the functions of NCC. The President's Village continued to provide personalised care packages and targeted support to children who faced significant loss and trauma in their lives.

As the newly appointed CEO, taking up post in August, time was spent addressing the recommendations made in the internal auditors' report received at the end of August. Time and efforts were also invested in the review of the organisational structure of both the Council and the President's Village, a government funded residential Children's Care Home, transferred to NCC in September 2018. This involved the review of roles and responsibilities and the production of a new Scheme of Service for the Residential Care section of the President's Village.

A key challenge was having to adapt to working with three different finance officers within my first five months in post. Staff had to also adapt to a different leadership style, different expectations and a new way of working. I am most grateful to the Board, especially the Chairperson, for the support provided. My thanks and appreciation also go to the staff who made the effort to embrace the changes and expectations and contributed towards the achievements of the various milestones outlined in the report.

This report outlines the vision, mission and functions of NCC as laid down in the NCC Act and sets out the achievements, challenges encountered and the work conducted by the different sections of the Council during 2020.

Yasmin Umarji, Chief Executive Officer

10 May 2021

2 MESSAGE from the CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson of the NCC's Executive Board, 2017-2020 Ambassador Erna Hellen Athanasius MD Peds.

From the very first time I began working with the NCC some 20 years ago, to date, I have always felt it to be a privilege to serve and I have enjoyed every minute since then. However, when I was asked to take on the role of Chair in 2017, I felt very honoured. I undertook to serve the Council as Chairperson to the very best of my abilities.

During my tenure as Chair, I am pleased to report that the NCC has done a great deal to champion the rights and responsibilities of children and their parents, and as previous chairpersons have stated, and I reiterate, we still have a long way to go, as we strive to achieve the simple, but monumental vision of our Patron, Mrs Geva Rene, - "a Seychelles free of child abuse, free of violence and harm, and free of neglect of children".

The Board faced many a challenge during my tenure as Chair but suffice it to say, we did our best to guide the management of the NCC and we were able to surmount these challenges in the interest of the Council and the wellbeing of the children of Seychelles.

We are duty bound to provide the means for our children to flourish and blossom into well rounded adults, who will plan their futures, so as to be upstanding citizens and loving parents to their children, moving forward. Children learn from us - we are their role models in the community and at home, so let us all strive to be the best models possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt and sincere appreciation to my fellow Board members (Mrs Merida Delcy (Co-Chair), Mrs Linda William Melanie, Reverend Christine Benoit, Mrs Catriona Monthy, Justice Fernando, Mrs Patricia Francourt (now Minister Francourt), Mr Pat Matyot, Mr Jude Fred, and Mrs Fatma Bibi who served as our Board Secretary) for their unrelenting support, enduring commitment and leadership, in the abiding endeavour to protect and empower our children, and the Council.

To the former CEO of the NCC, Mr. Jean Claude Matombe, who led the NCC with compassion and sincerity, I wish to communicate my profound gratitude for all the positive contributions made to the NCC, especially the made for Television program/series, "Mes Chers Parents". His unassuming conduct and down to earth demeanour, made all who knew him consider him a lifelong friend. He had served the NCC for over 30 years until he was promoted to the role of CEO in 2017. He retired in 2020 and the NCC Board was tasked with the search of a new CEO.

Our new champion for children, Mrs Yasmin Umarji, was appointed to lead the Council in August 2020 and she has brought with her a wealth of experience and a dynamism needed to take the NCC and the President's Village to new heights. Mrs Umarji hit the ground running with a speed unmatched to date. I am thrilled to welcome her to our NCC family.

To the staff of the NCC and the President's Village, I express my sincere gratitude for the care and the advocacy for children's rights, throughout the year. You make every advocate for Children's Rights proud, and hence, it is accurate to say, that a life dedicated to children is a life worth living!

Lastly, NCC is indebted to our sponsors and partners for believing in the work that is done here, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to them all and pray that they will continue to

encourage and support the NCC, as we work incessantly to empower our children to reach for heights unlimited, without fear.

Ambassador Dr. Erna H. Athanasius MD Peds
Chairperson NCC (2017 - 2020)

3 ABOUT US

The National Council for Children (NCC) was established in 1980 and a special committee was set up, under the auspices of UNESCO, to organise activities to commemorate the 'International Decade of the Child'. The Council was, at that time, the official body with legal powers to protect and defend the rights of children of Seychelles.

The aim of the Council was primarily to protect the welfare of the children of Seychelles and to assist families who were encountering financial difficulties. In 1981, the Council employed its own social workers to investigate problems being encountered by children. The President also declared, in 1981, that orphans or children abandoned by their parents would receive benefits from the Social Security Fund. In 1982, the Children's Act came into force focusing on the protection of children. In 1984, the social workers of NCC were transferred to Social Services in order to avoid the conflict between the social workers working with the parents and the NCC ones who worked solely with the children facing difficulties.

NCC is governed by 'The National Council for Children Act' outlined in Chapter 137 of the Laws of Seychelles. The functions of the Act were revised in 1991 and amended in 1999.

In 1993, NCC was re-launched as a non-profitable government organisation with the mandate to promote and safeguard the welfare and rights of the children of Seychelles. An Executive Committee appointed by the President of the Republic was set up to monitor the work of NCC. This later became known as the Board.

In 2017, NCC was placed under the newly formed Ministry of Family Affairs. In September 2018, the Children's Foundation, which was responsible for managing the President's Village, was closed and the care home was transferred to NCC.

In October 2020, the newly elected government renamed the Ministry of Family Affairs to accommodate the Youth and Sports departments and kept NCC within the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports.

Our Vision

To ensure all the children of Seychelles are given the best start in life to be safe, healthy, happy and resilient and have access to a good education.

Our Mission

To always put children at the heart of what we do

Our Core Values

Integrity

Respect

Responsibility

Servant Leadership

Bringing your best to anything that you do

NCC is governed by the **National Council Children's Act** and its **core functions** are to

- **Advocate** and **protect** the interests of children
- **Promote** the well- being of children and families
- **Collaborate** with and support providers of care and assistance to children in need
- **Advise and support** agencies that administer and provide facilities for the welfare of children
- **Collaborate** with other persons and public and private organisations, both nationally and internationally, in furtherance of the welfare of children
- **Initiate reforms** in legislation, policies and practices pertaining to children
- **Advise the Government** on all matters relating to children and families
- **Raise greater awareness** on issues relating to children
- **Promote and provide training** for all persons involved with children on a professional basis
- Work for the **prevention of all forms of child abuse**
- **Promote and develop treatment programmes** for children and families
- **Undertake** such other activities in relation to the care and well-being of children as may be provided by any written law
- **Carry out research** and other activities in furtherance of the aforementioned functions
- **Promote** the implementation of the **United Nations Convention Rights of the Child** and
- **Raise funds** in Seychelles or elsewhere to enable it to carry out the aforementioned functions

Our Service Categories

Administration

Advocacy and Communications

Residential Children's Care Home

Therapeutic Support and Interventions

Training and Education

4 KEY PROJECTS

LES ZANFAN EKSPLIKE

This project was developed working in partnership with '**Bling Bling**', a group of poets who promotes the art through different activities and workshops. The idea behind the project was to promote the art of poetry amongst children and youth through the development of their imagination and appreciation for beauty and language. Participants were given a platform to express themselves using the medium of poetry.

The activities undertaken were aimed at helping children express themselves in a positive way. The first activity, held in February 2020, brought together a group of facilitators from the Bling Bling Club and children from different districts to learn how to write poems and express themselves. Another day of activities, held in March 2020, was used to finalise poems and individual projects of the children.

Due to the spread of the global pandemic and the health restrictions enforced, the launching of the Bling Bling Week, planned for March 2020, had to be postponed and took place in October 2020 instead. The event brought together the participants and their peers and provided them with the opportunity to view the work produced and perform their poems in front of their family, friends and invited guests.

KONEKTE ZEN

A second series of Konekte.Zenn was filmed in July 2020 due to its popularity

and public demand. Series two was once again spearheaded by the Communications and Events Section of NCC. The discussion sessions were facilitated by Mrs Patricia Francourt in collaboration with Global Shapers. The series were produced and aired by the Seychelles Broadcasting Corporation (SBC).

This project gave teenagers, from different schools, a platform to share their views and opinions about pertinent topics as well as discuss issues which are of concerns to them. One of the participants commented on how 'it created awareness on issues that were not being openly discussed and it was cool to watch and listen to others discussing the topics raised'.

The Manager for Communications and Events facilitated the logistics, liaised with the different schools involved in the project, helped prepare the questions and coached the children on how to participate in a televised debate and discussion.

The evaluation of the programme in December 2020 demonstrated the need to produce a third series involving younger children. Comments made included 'I have gained respect amongst my peers and I feel like a role model for others' and 'Services at Cancer Concern quadrupled after the programme went on air because people wanted to ask for counselling assistance for their children and family members'.

Plans are in place to film and broadcast the third series in August 2021

GROW LEARN OVERCOME (GLO)

This project, sponsored by Kempinski, gave NCC the opportunity to work in partnership with an independent consultant, Hajira Amla of Nectar Consultancy, to co-shape and co-design a year-long educational empowerment programme for teenage girls in care.

The aim of the project was to empower the girls by giving them the opportunity to share their experiences within a safe and secure environment, gain new knowledge and acquire new skills. The sudden departure of Mrs Amla resulted in the advocacy section leading the project. The Grow Learn Overcome (GLO) sessions took place every Saturday during the school term and was coordinated by the Events Officer, Miss Sylvie Ernesta. Fifteen teenage girls in care, aged between 12 and 17 years, took part in the GLO project.

Most of the participants hailed from two residential care homes, The President's Village and Foyer de la Solitude. Other participants were girls in foster care or clients of the Counsellor. Feedback from the participants themselves were positive however, the possibility to continue the project in 2021 and beyond remains uncertain

As the project progressed, there was clear evidence of the improved confidence of the girls and their enthusiasm to learn from successful young women.

PERSEVERANCE CAMPAIGN

The Training section launched the 'Perseverance' campaign in February 2019 as part of its aim to engage adolescents and their families using a more innovative and creative approach. The campaign was targeted at secondary school students and it encouraged them to strive for the things they want and not to give up when they face challenging circumstances.

The campaign was officially launched at Perseverance Secondary school in February 2019 by presenting the school with the 'Perseverance Torch', the symbolic representation of the campaign. The torch and other resources are left with the selected school for at least seven weeks during which the school takes the responsibility to expose their students to various workshops and experiences aimed at developing their mental toughness. At the end of the half term, the torch is handed over to another school. The schools involved in the campaign are Perseverance Secondary School, Independent School, English River Secondary, Beau Vallon Secondary and the President's Village, the final recipient of the torch in 2019.

The Campaign was re-launched in January 2020 with the previous recipient of the torch, President's Village handing the torch over to the Anse Boileau Secondary School where the event received major media coverage with the Principal Secretary for Education Dr Odile Decomarmond giving her support and commitment towards the campaign.

The closure of schools and restrictions imposed because of the global pandemic, in March 2020, resulted in the torch being kept at Anse Boileau school until October 2020 when the torch was delivered to Praslin Secondary school by representatives from NCC and the President's Village. Praslin Secondary School's song strongly reflect the Perseverance theme and concept. Due to further control measures introduced in

UNIVERSAL DAY OF THE CHILD

A key objective of NCC is to give children's voices a platform. Since 2018, NCC has been given the opportunity to bring a teenager to the National Assembly on or around the 21st November as a commemoration of the Universal Day of the Child or better known as World's Children's Day.

In 2020 NCC decided to gather the experiences of a child living with a disability and identified Tanny Samedi, a blind teenager, as the perfect candidate to speak to the National Assembly. On 24 November 2020, Tanny Samedi, a blind girl who is undertaking her studies in a mainstream secondary school, shared her experiences and concerns with members of the National Assembly and the public by focusing on the challenges she faces and the sacrifices her family have made in order to accommodate her blindness and help her achieve her dreams. She also emphasised on the lack of facilities for visually impaired children and adults who want to live life to their fullest.

Her message was very powerful and very well received by all who listened to it. The President sent Tanny a special message thanking her for reminding him and the citizens of Seychelles that our gifts from God comes in different forms and that the government and politicians must play a greater role in ensuring everyone in society including those with a disability must be given the opportunity to attain their goals and dreams.

Our aim is to bring various issues that are impacting on children's lives to those who are key decision makers in the hope that they will make the necessary changes that will, in the long run, benefit the children of Seychelles. Our intention in 2021 is to identify a group of children, within each district, and arrange for them to have an audience with their respective MNA

5 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The Perseverance Campaign was re-launched in January 2020 with President's Village, the previous recipient, handing the torch to the Anse Boileau Secondary School who eventually handed the torch to Praslin Secondary School in October 2020. This delay was due to the global pandemic.

The second series of 'Konekte.Zenn', filmed in July 2020, due to its popularity and public demand was another accomplishment.

On 24 November 2020, Tanny Samedi, a blind girl pursuing her studies at Plaisance secondary school, delivered a powerful message to members of the National Assembly and the public by focusing on the challenges she faces and the sacrifices her family have made in order to accommodate her blindness and help her achieve her dreams. She also

emphasised on the lack of facilities for visually impaired children and adults who want to live life to their fullest.

A key achievement in 2020 was the production of a Scheme of Service for the Child Care section based at the President's Village and the production of new job descriptions for all the posts outlined in this cadre.

The securing of in kind support and external funding from local businesses for the renovation of the accommodation at the President's Village was another key realisation.

6 CHALLENGES

A key challenge in 2020 was finding new ways of providing therapeutic and training services within the constraints of the strict measures introduced. The lack of modern and new technology devices and equipment to allow virtual communication and the implementation of an effective working from home strategy was another challenge faced by the Council.

Limited capacity, within the Training section, to deliver a more targeted and personalised safeguarding and parenting training programme for schools, parents, carers and other stakeholders also proved to be a challenge as did the lack of relevant baseline data for the setting of realistic and achievable targets.

Limited capacity within the Child Care section proved to be a challenging factor in the planning of the shift and rota system during 2020. The management worked under a lot of pressure trying to cover absences and unforeseen circumstances.

The poor accommodation compound for the children residing at the President's Village and the lack of appreciation and respect for property and other resources by a core group of children and some staff proved to be a barrier for improvement.

The abscondment of a small group of boys resulted in a lot of pressure being imposed on the allocated funds and on the leadership and management of the village.

School closures and the application of regular quarantine measures at the President's Village impacted negatively on the children and staff's mental health, their behaviour and on the budget. Many felt frustrated to have to stay indoors, not mix freely and not being able to see their family. More money had to be spent on goods and services due to the children being on site more than that originally planned for.

7 OUR WORK

ADMINISTRATION

This section fulfils NCC's central and general secretarial duties. Officers working within this section are entrusted with administrative duties, maintaining records and overseeing the day to day operational issues such as the inventory of assets and goods and transport. The main function of this section is to manage the Human Resources, Administrative and Budgetary functions within NCC, ensuring efficiency, expediency and effectiveness of work processes whilst maintaining a good working relationship with key stakeholders such as the Department of Public Affairs and the Ministry of Finance.

The budget cuts of 2020 resulted in the delay of the recruitment of the Senior Human Resources, Admin and Budget Officer. During the latter part of the year, the administrative secretariat worked very closely with the new CEO and achieved the following outcomes:

- The structure, vision and mission of NCC and the Village were reviewed and revised
- A much needed Scheme of Service for the Residential Care section of the President's Village was produced and approved by the Board and DPA
- A Disciplinary policy was produced and approved by the Board
- Duties, roles and responsibilities were reviewed and clearer lines of accountability were established

COMMUNICATION and EVENTS

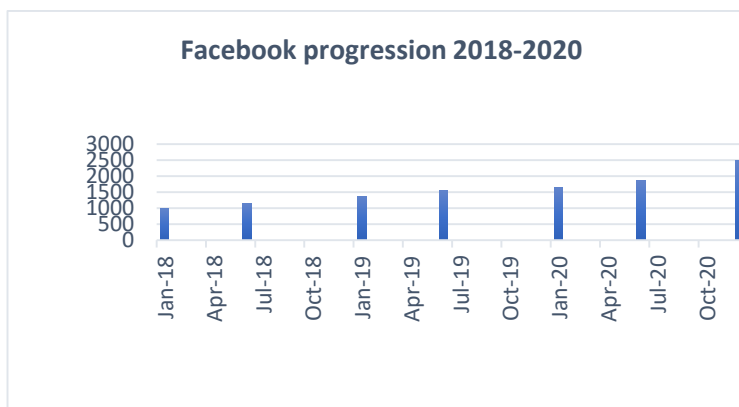
This section's main role is to develop and execute creative and strategic communication campaigns and events by developing and communicating key messages that reach and influence a wide range of audiences including the decision makers and takers. It contributes to the development of the use of new technology, local intelligence and information in a safe and responsible way whilst introducing more innovative and creative ways of promoting the functions of NCC.

Staff are expected to track and share influential thinkers and global dialogues on the rights of the child. They work with the different sections of NCC, the Public Relation Team of the parent Ministry and all the different broadcasting agencies to coordinate and promote campaigns and events focusing on the rights of the child.

In 2020, NCC produced, on average, two articles per month for publication in the Today in Seychelles Newspaper. A total of 60 write ups inclusive of articles and adverts were produced which is higher than that produced in 2019 and 2018 when the total number was respectively 40 and 14. The rise is mainly due to the appointment of another officer in 2019 as well as a new agreement with Today in Seychelles in November 2018 for a monthly publication of articles produced by NCC.

Media houses are always more interested in the work of NCC during the month of June where it is customary for the organisation to spearhead different activities to commemorate National Children's Day. However, in 2020 NCC was contacted to comment on 87 news items compared to 174 the year before. This was because, in 2019, there was greater interest in the change of the management of the President's Village, the 30 years' celebration of the United Nations Convention Rights of the Child and the ongoing debates and discussions about the abolition of corporal punishment in the country led by the department of Social Affairs supported by NCC. Topics of interest from the media houses in 2020 included Child Pornography, changes in the organisation, delinquency and events led by NCC.

NCC's Facebook page, launched in January 2018, reached a number of 2,498 followers by December 2020. The chart opposite shows a steady rising trend in the number of followers since its introduction in January 2018. Our aim is to have a more engaging and active audience.



In 2020, the section organised 20 days of activities compared to 47 days in 2019 and 36 days in 2018 as illustrated in the table opposite. This was partially due to the restrictions brought about by the global pandemic and limited capacity within the section caused by study leave.

The activities attracted 207 participants of different age groups. The projects that NCC was able to continue to lead or support in 2020 included Konekte Zen, Les Zanfan Eksplike, the Grow, Learn and Empower project and the identification and support of a child to talk to the National Assembly as a celebration of the Universal Children's Day in November.

Number of Days that activities were held (2018 – 2020)			
Months	2018	2019	2020
January		15	2
February	2	2	2
March	2	1	2
April	7	15	
May	3		1
June	5	7	2
July		8	4
August		3	5
September	2	4	1
October	3	3	1
November	3	4	1
December	2	1	1
Total	36	47	20

PRESIDENT'S VILLAGE

The President's Village, a government funded residential care facility for children aged below 18 years, was transferred to the National Council for Children (NCC) in September 2018. It is led by a Manager of the Village who is held to account by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NCC. The overall structure of the Village consists of a Child Care section and an Administrative section.

Children are placed at the Village by Social Affairs in line with their Safeguarding and Child Protection policy. The maximum number of children the village is able to accommodate is 50 provided there is enough staff to look after them (ratio of 1:5 for Children in Care or Children Looked After). In 2020, the maximum number of children living in the Village was 42 which

was reduced to 36 in December 2020 when 6 children were reintegrated back into their family unit.

The aim of the home is to provide support and individual care packages to children who have faced significant loss and trauma in their lives. The ultimate aim is to enable the children in care to make a planned return to their families within a timely period. However there are cases where children stay at the village until they turn 18 because social workers' assessment of the child/ren concludes that a planned return home is not safe or is not in the best interests of the child/ren.

The challenges faced by the Village included the limited number of Child Support Officers, the disruptive behaviour of some of the children, vandalism, abscondment of a small group of boys and the lack of qualified staff who possess the skills, knowledge and understanding of how to meet the needs of highly vulnerable children.

The challenges faced from new admissions, especially the emergency ones, included children finding it difficult to adapt to a new environment, delay in receiving appropriate information about the child from the Social Services and the use of drugs or alcohol by some children prior to being placed at the Village.

The part time secondment of the Training Manager to work with and support the senior leaders of the Village helped address a range of staffing issues and difficulties. The Training Manager offered coaching support to the Manager and the Senior Child Care Coordinator and helped with the production of relevant policies, staff training and job descriptions for the Child Care section. She helped the Early Years officer improve the early childhood facility and helped the managers review the use of space and the overall maintenance of the houses and the village. She used her well established links with the schools to address school attendance, punctuality and suspension of some of the children. The introduction of weekly, monthly and termly attendance certificates and rewards helped reduce the number of suspensions from schools as well as the overall attendance of some of the children.

The children participated in "extra points, an hour long after school session, led by the part time teachers. This was to help them develop their basic skills due to their very low level of performance at school. The majority of the activities on offer are aimed at confidence building and character development.

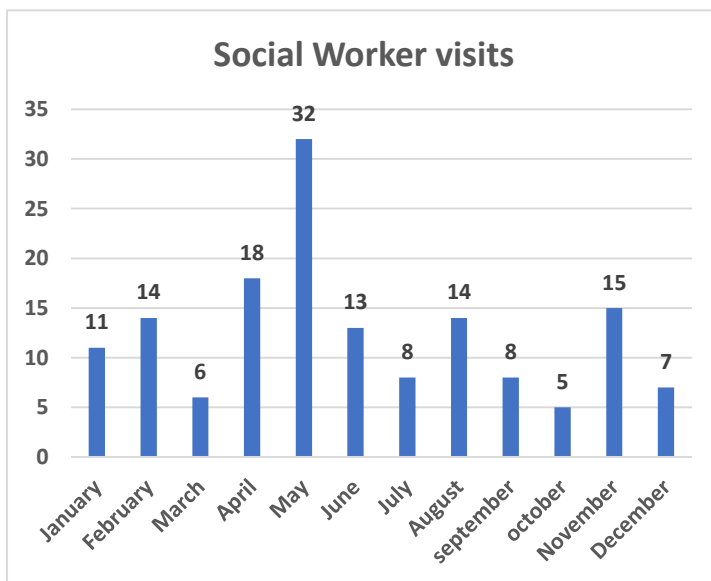
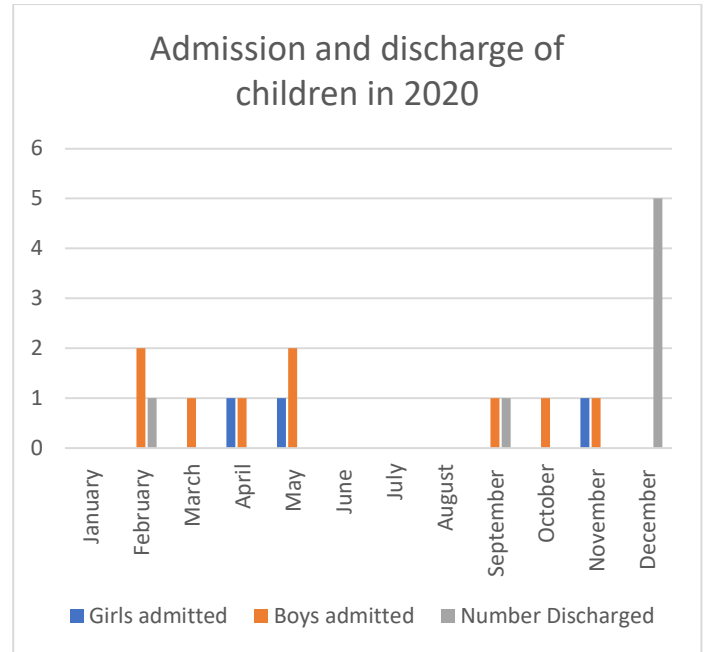
A key achievement in 2020 was the production of a Scheme of Service for the Child Care section and the production of new job descriptions for all the posts outlined in this cadre. This resulted in an upgrade in the salary of the Child Care Support officers.

Another achievement was the introduction of the use of risk assessment for indoor and outdoor activities undertaken by the children.

A number of projects aimed at improving the facility were undertaken at the President's village during the latter part of 2020. These included the cleaning and marking of the volleyball court; the reparation of the fencing and the front playground, the creation of a gazebo, the de-cluttering of the offices and houses and the renovation of the Administrative building. A few wooden tables and chairs were purchased for the dining room and each house was given a washing machine.

The chart opposite shows that the village had to accommodate 12 new admissions in 2020 of which 9 were boys and 3 were

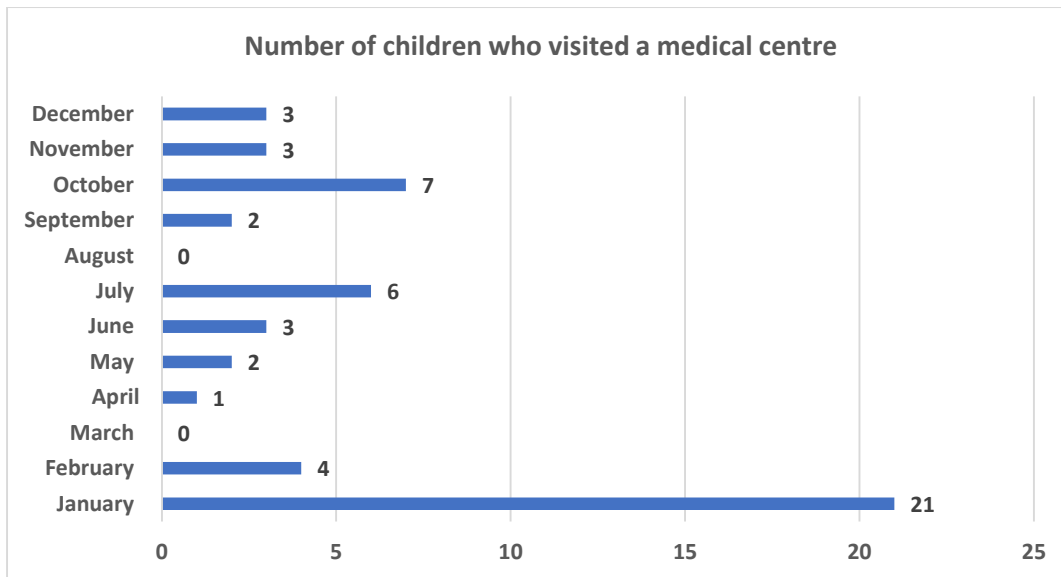
girls. Overall, two thirds of the children are boys and need a lot of supervision and support. Managing the children's behaviour particularly that of the boys, raising the children's self esteem and the implementation of a stimulating and attractive programme are key priorities.



During 2020, the village has had to liaise with at least 16 social workers whose role is to look after the welfare of the children placed at the village. Social workers are expected to visit the children on a regular basis to ensure the wishes and feelings of the children in care are taken into consideration as well as raise any concerns shared by the child with the Village Managers.

The chart opposite illustrates the number of visits made by the social workers during 2020. More visits were done in May due to the abscondment of the three boys and

the least number of visits were made in October



The table above show more children (21) visited a medical centre in January due to fever and diarrhoea.

THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT and INTERVENTIONS

This section offers counselling and psychological treatment for childhood behavioural and emotional problems, family conflicts and parenting problems. Our trained therapists use different types of talking therapy to help children and their families find answers to the problems or concerns they are facing. This may involve one to one or group sessions, family or couple sessions, online sessions using the telephone or video conferencing. Please refer to Appendix 1 for an example of a successful case study.

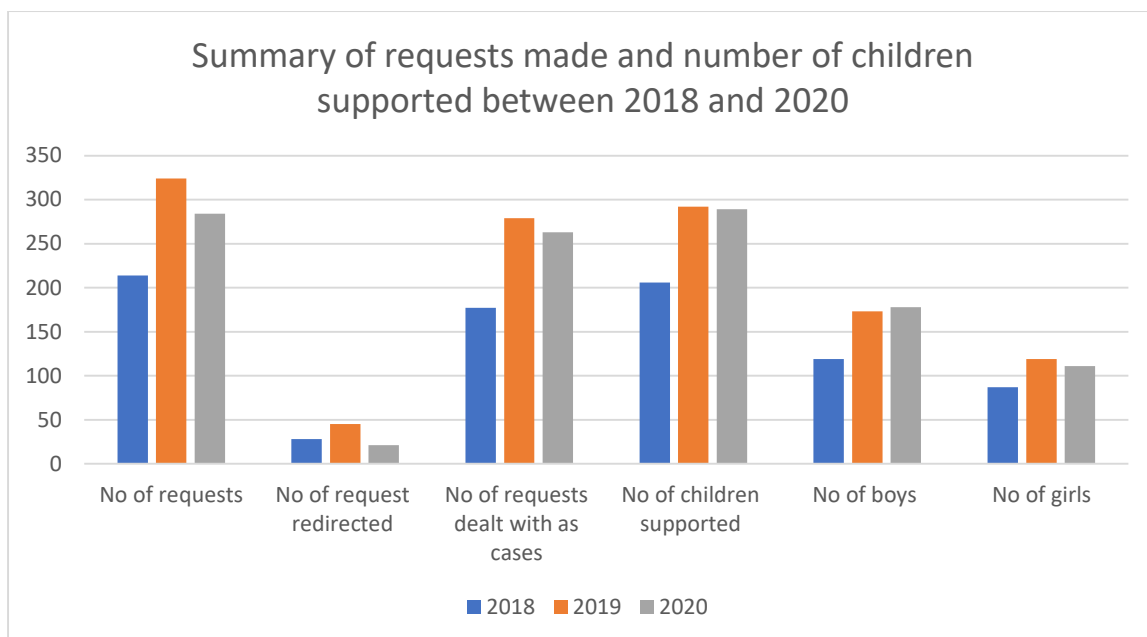
Children and their families can request this service through the referral process – self or from Social Affairs, Education or Health professionals. Crisis situations such as suicide, severe depression, grief and trauma are given immediate attention or referred to other appropriate agencies.

During 2020, the therapeutic service operated on a full complement of staff with a psychologist based at Praslin and serving La Digue too. In response to the pandemic, the team offered telephone counselling and implemented a more flexible working arrangement and ethics.

The team represents the Council on the Child Protection subcommittee; the Inter-Agency committee and National Early Childhood Care and Education Trust Fund (NECCE)

The chart below shows an increase in the demand for therapeutic support in 2019 and 2020 compared to 2018. The number of children receiving support increased significantly in 2019 and remained broadly similar in 2020. A greater number of boys sought support from the therapists as evidenced below.

In 2020 fewer cases were redirected to other agencies compared to the previous two years. This was due to the public developing a better awareness of which services to use when in need.



The provision of support for children and their families, during 2020 by the therapists, resulted in 263 cases being dealt with, of which 69 were resolved and closed due to the improvements made. Some of the cases involved more than one child hence the number of children supported by NCC in 2020 was 289.

Fifteen (15) cases who received therapeutic support from NCC were referred for additional support from other agencies notably the Ministry of Education, Health, Social Affairs and APDAR for matters which were beyond the capacity of NCC's team.

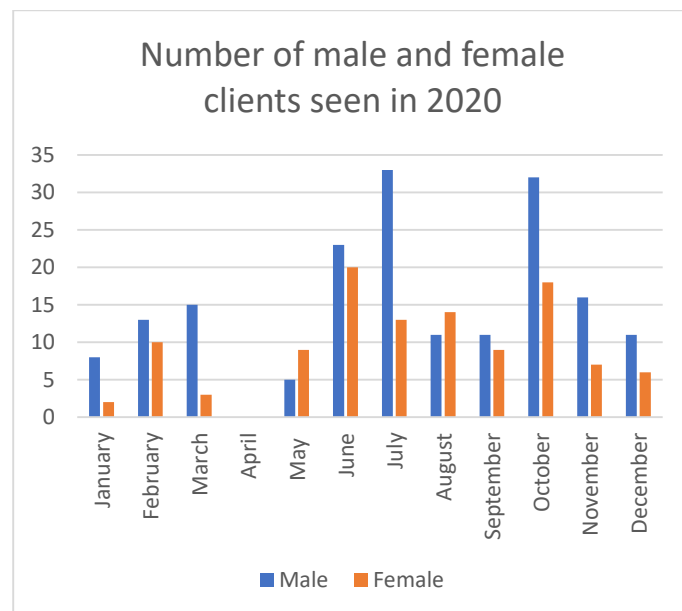
The table below show the most popular client to be children aged between 5 and 14 years of which 41% were aged between 5 and 9 years and 36% aged between 10 and 14 years. The reasons for their referral were difficult behavioural issues and their inability to manage their anger

Age and number of children and adults seen by therapists in 2020

2020	Age group in years							Total
	Less than 1 year	1 – 4	5-9	10-14	15 -17	Adults	Unknown	
January	0	1	5	3	1	0		10
February	0	1	8	7	4	2	1	23
March	0	1	11	5	0	0	1	18
April	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
May	0	3	5	5	0	1		14
June	0	5	19	11	7	1		43
July	2	6	20	12	4	2		46
August	0	1	10	9	4	1		25
September	0	2	5	9	3	1		20
October	0	4	19	19	6	1	1	50

November	0	1	9	11	2	0	23
December	0	1	7	6	2	1	17
Total	2	26	118	97	33	10	289

The chart opposite indicates a large majority of the clients who received therapy in 2020 were male. No clients were seen in April due to lockdown measures however June, July and October proved to be the busiest months for the therapists. Fewer cases were dealt with in January and December. This may be due to families being pre-occupied with end of year celebrations.



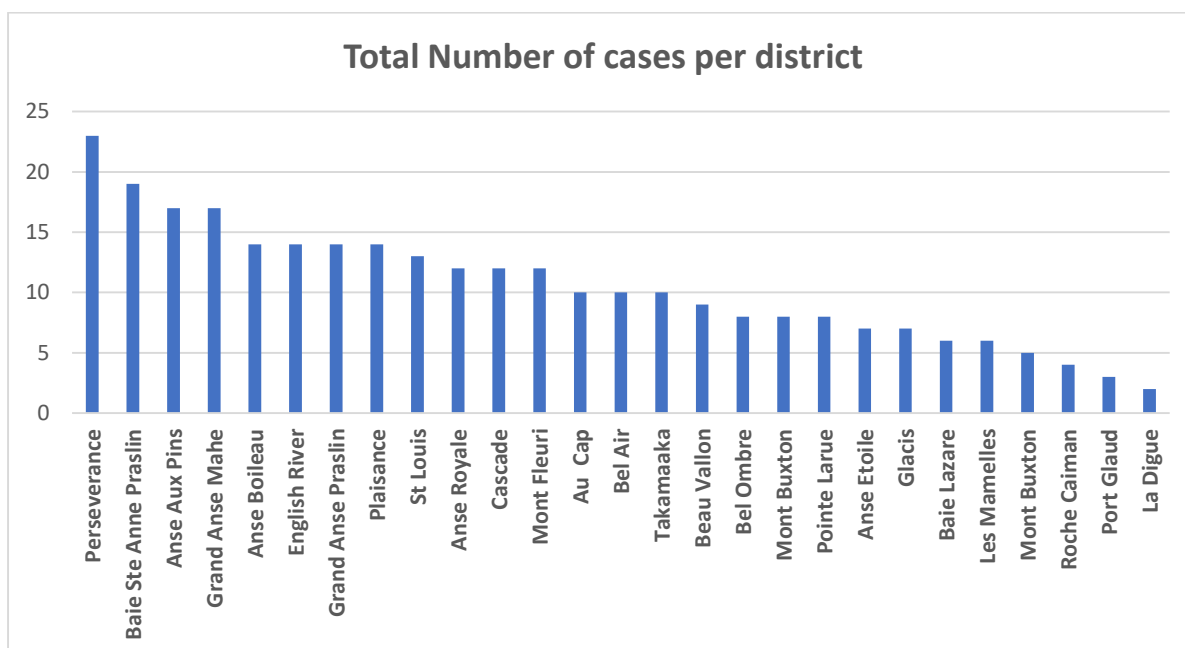
The number of sessions delivered by the team in 2018 was 692 compared to 920 in 2019 and 1139 in 2020. The significant rise in 2019 and 2020 was due to the increased capacity of the therapists brought about by the two additional staff and a student who joined the team in 2019.

The table below shows a slow start of the service followed by an increasing number of sessions held between June and November. 36.5% of the sessions were held in the first six months of the year compared to 63.5% of the sessions held in the last six months of the year. This was due to the team working from home more often in the first half of the year due to stricter control measures.

Month	Number of Cases Recorded	Cases Redirected	Cases dealt with	Number of Sessions conducted
January	9	0	9	81
February	21	1	20	107
March	18	0	18	56
April	0	0	0	0
May	14	2	12	57
June	37	7	30	115
July	46	0	46	149
August	33	5	28	123
September	19	1	18	106
October	38	2	36	130

November	32	3	29	127
December	17	0	17	88
Total	284	21	263	1139

District analysis of the 2020 data illustrated in the chart below show more cases (23) involved children and families residing at Perseverance and the least number of cases came from La Digue. The districts with more than 10 cases were Perseverance, Baie St Anne Praslin, Anse Aux Pins, Grand Anse Mahe, Anse Boileau, English River, Grand Anse Praslin, Plaisance, St Louis, Anse Royale, Cascade and Mont Fleuri. NCC is making effective use of this information by targeting some of those districts in 2021 for sensitisation and training sessions.



TRAINING, RESEARCH and EDUCATION

This is a critical element of the organisation. Its key role is to advocate and protect the interests of children and raise greater awareness on issues relating to children. Its main function is to provide training to professionals who work with children and families as well as awareness raising amongst non-professionals, namely parents, youth and other members of the community at large. This is done mainly through sensitization sessions, seminars, workshops and other activities.

The overall aim of the training section is to ensure that both professionals and non-professionals develop a good understanding of Safeguarding and Child Protection issues so that they can relate or apply these to their own roles and responsibilities as and when necessary. This section works very closely with the Ministry of Education in the delivery of a robust Safeguarding and Child Protection training programme to schools as well as help them address other relevant areas of need.

More emphasis is being placed on the need to collect, collate and analyse facts and data about children. This section is responsible for using or initiating research to acquire relevant and best evidence to answer questions and issues affecting children as well as influence the decision makers and takers.

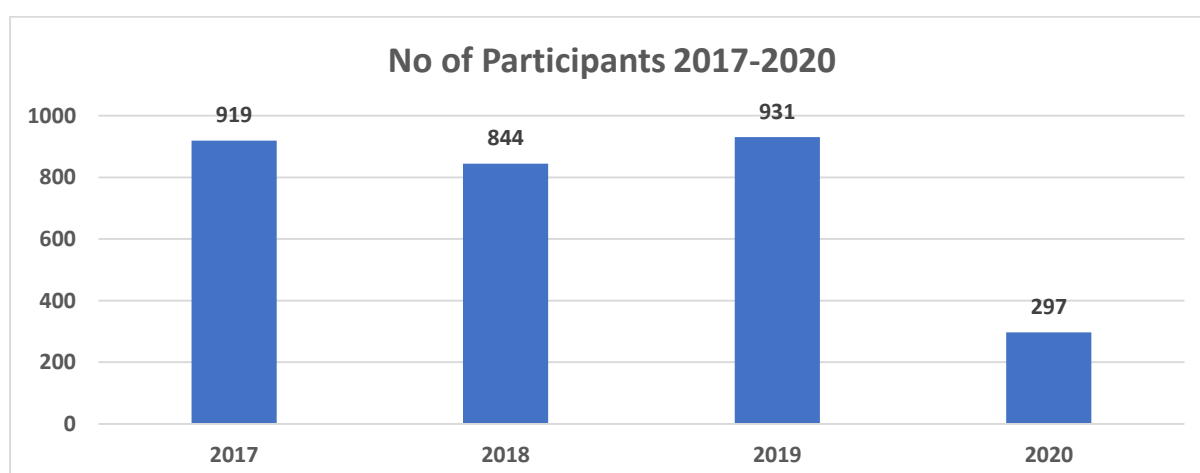
The pandemic impacted significantly on the number of training sessions planned for 2020. From February to December 2020, 20 training sessions comprising of 8 different modules were conducted. This is 17 sessions less than that delivered in 2019. However, two new modules were developed to cater for the needs of Child Support Officers working at the President's Village.

Time was invested in working with the two schools serving the children of the Village. The Training Manager attended various networking meetings and school visits to address homework and some of the children's poor performances and behaviour. The manager also attended and contributed to the Parents Retreat led by La Digue School.

Sessions conducted during the year and the number of participants:

Modules	No of sessions	Total number of participants
Parenting	9	102
Classroom Management	3	73
Child Abuse	1	16
Anti-Bullying	1	42
Convention on the Rights of the Child	1	16
Child Protection	1	14
Play therapy (President's Village)	3	21
Positive discipline (President's Village)	1	13
Total	20	297

The table below illustrates the significant fall in 2020 in the number of people participating in the training offered by NCC. This is due to the global pandemic and the lockdown and control measures that had to be followed nationally and globally.



6 FACTS and FIGURES

The financial challenges faced by NCC in 2020 included the change of the seconded Accountant by the Ministry of Finance twice towards the end of the year, the outcome of the internal audit commissioned by the Board and the freeze of the recruitment to vacant posts. This resulted in the CEO having to take on a more active role with regards to the day to day operational aspect of the budget and financial matters.

Changes had to be made to the purchasing of food and goods at the President's Village due to the pressure on the budget caused by the school closure. The children had to be fed three meals a day during term time and such a requisition had not been budgeted for. This impacted significantly on the Village's budget and quite a few virements had to be made to accommodate the unforeseen and unexpected expenditure.

7 LOOKING AHEAD

NCC's strategic objectives for the coming two years are to:

Build community and professional capacity to promote and support NCC's Safeguarding and Child Protection debate as well as produce a relevant 'Keeping Children Safe' set of guidelines and Training Package for schools and people who work with children.

Give more children the opportunity and a platform to express their views and feelings on issues that matter to them and on those that are impacting on the national and global economies such as climate change and the global pandemic.

Improve the quality of the facilities at the President's Village by seeking additional funding for the completion of the renovation of the accommodation and other run down facilities.

Improve the quality and capacity of the President's Village staff to provide a stimulating and exciting living environment for the vulnerable residents.

Continue to evaluate and build on the services offered by the therapists.

Continue to promote the Rights of the Child through awareness raising and sensitization sessions and campaigns on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Appendix 1: A successful Case Study

This case was a walk-in self referral. In June 2020, a mother visited the offices asking for support to deal with her 7 year old child who was displaying behavioural issues both at school and at home. The child concerned has a 4 year old brother and a 2 year old sister and has been living with his mum and step dad from 2017 until October 2020 when the couple separated.

The mother reported that her son interacts well with other children, has a loving and caring personality, is helpful and helps look after his baby sister. She also reported that he performs well at school. The concerns she raised revolved around inappropriate behaviour reported by the school. This included a range of disruptive behaviours displayed by the child at school such as fighting, disturbing other children and not completing given tasks or assignments. She also reported that at home he had become quite rude, answered back, defied authority, refused to obey instructions, did not play well with his younger brother and had damaged a television after he was reprimanded by his mother.

Mother explained that she uses punitive disciplinary measures such as yelling or hitting. The child expressed his wish to spend quality time with his dad and do fun activities. He also mentioned that he is being influenced by a boy at school to behave badly.

The Intervention/support provided

The child was offered 10 counselling sessions and the therapist used Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) focusing on how thoughts and emotions affected the child's behaviour. The child was given the opportunity to learn new ways of how to better handle stressful situations.

The therapist used behavioural parent training teaching the mother how to use positive reinforcement to motivate desirable behaviours in her child. She was also given tips on how to discourage unwanted behaviours. She was guided on how to observe her child's behaviour both at school and home, how to reward positive behaviours by using different methods such as praising or rewarding the child. She was also given tips on how to set rules, give time out, remove privileges and the use of other behavioural management strategies.

The therapist addressed issues such as respect, sibling rivalry, feelings, emotions and parental separation and worked with the father with the aim of improving the father-son relationship.

Outcome

The child made incredible progress over the course of the counselling sessions offered. Fewer reports of bad behaviours were recorded at school.

At home, the child became more respectful towards his mother. He interacted well with his siblings and helped his mother a lot especially with regards to looking after his baby sister when mother was busy with house chores.

The child's academic performance also improved. He performed well in his termly assessment resulting in improved exam results.

The session with father had a positive impact. The father made the effort to spend his days off work and weekends with his children and organised outings and activities. The mother reported that her child was calmer and looked forward to spending time with his father accompanied by his younger brother.

Mother changed her approach when dealing with her child's behaviour. The rewards and praises helped to motivate her child to practice the desired and wanted behaviours.

Conclusion

The mother felt that the counselling service had been helpful in dealing with her child's issues.. Progress was made as a family, and they are applying and putting into practice the knowledge acquired during the counselling sessions.

The mother was grateful that her child attended therapeutic sessions at the time the separation happened. The sessions helped the child cope and it also gave the mother the opportunity to talk to a therapist during this difficult time