

Blossom Inc.

BLOSSOM INCORPORATED CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRES & EXTENDED SERVICES

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





Mission Statement

Blossom Inc.'s mission is to respond, deliver and promote effective interventions and education services to children and families affected by sexual violence and exploitation.



From our Managing Director

2021 is the year that the Board of Directors and myself dedicate our “thank you” to our staff, Team Blossom.

We resoundingly congratulate, celebrate, and appreciate Team Blossom. As Covid-19 roared on, the cases of sexual violence increased. By June 2020, the team had dealt with almost the same amount of child sexual abuse cases that they had dealt with in the whole of 2020 – half year 2021, 360 cases / full year 2020, 396 cases. By July 2021 they had surpassed it! Our Migrant Support Team were also on the ground daily, battling to support the increasing migrant children and family’s population accessing our support services – dealing with daily high trauma incidences. Our Education and Outreach Team knocking on the doors of our hard and even harder to reach communities to support our national systems to end violence against women and girls by breaking social attitudes that normalized violence.

The staff were tired, they were exhausted! They dug deep and continued to show up, ready to serve, ready to support, with a collective voice that said, “we are here for you”. Why? Because we see their faces, we see their struggle and we witness their journey towards hope. We will never stop playing our part in the healing and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in our country.

My promise for 2022 is to ensure that self-care becomes embedded in Blossom’s culture!

To our funders: Government of Guyana, UNICEF, UNHCR, PADF, IOM, Emerge BPO, British High Commission, Digicel, and all others, you made it possible for us to increase our reach and do so safely. We were able to take services to our most vulnerable children & families in extremely hard to reach areas. Our directors, staff and I thank you for the support.





Interventions and Preventions

Multidisciplinary Team

**Training & Staff
Development**

Forensic Interviews

**Education Awareness
Outreaches**

Victim Support Services

**Migrant & Host
Community Services**

Therapy Services

**Trauma-focused-cognitive behavioral therapy &
psychosocial support**

Multidisciplinary Team - MDT

The Multidisciplinary Team works in a collaborative fashion to effectively respond to victim exploitation and abuse.

- No National MDT meetings were held in 2021 due to Covid-19.
- The Team, however, utilized the WhatsApp group features in a coordinated effort to share and respond to victim exploitation and abuse.
- Six Regional MDT meetings were held in Regions 1,2,7 & 10.

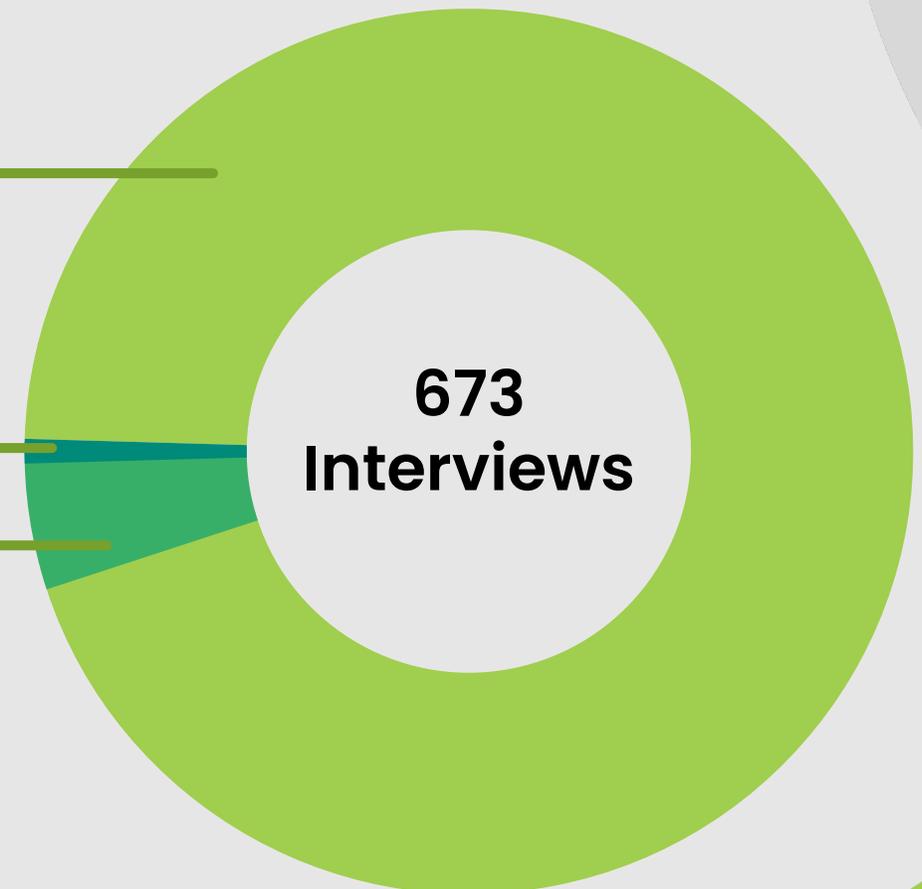
Forensic Interviews

Forensic interviews are conducted on victims who may have experienced or witnessed acts of sexual violence and exploitation.

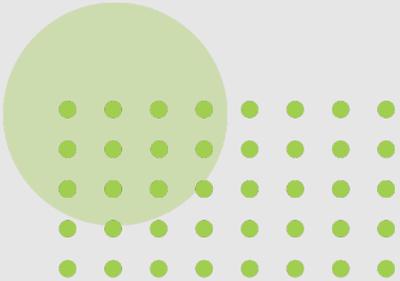
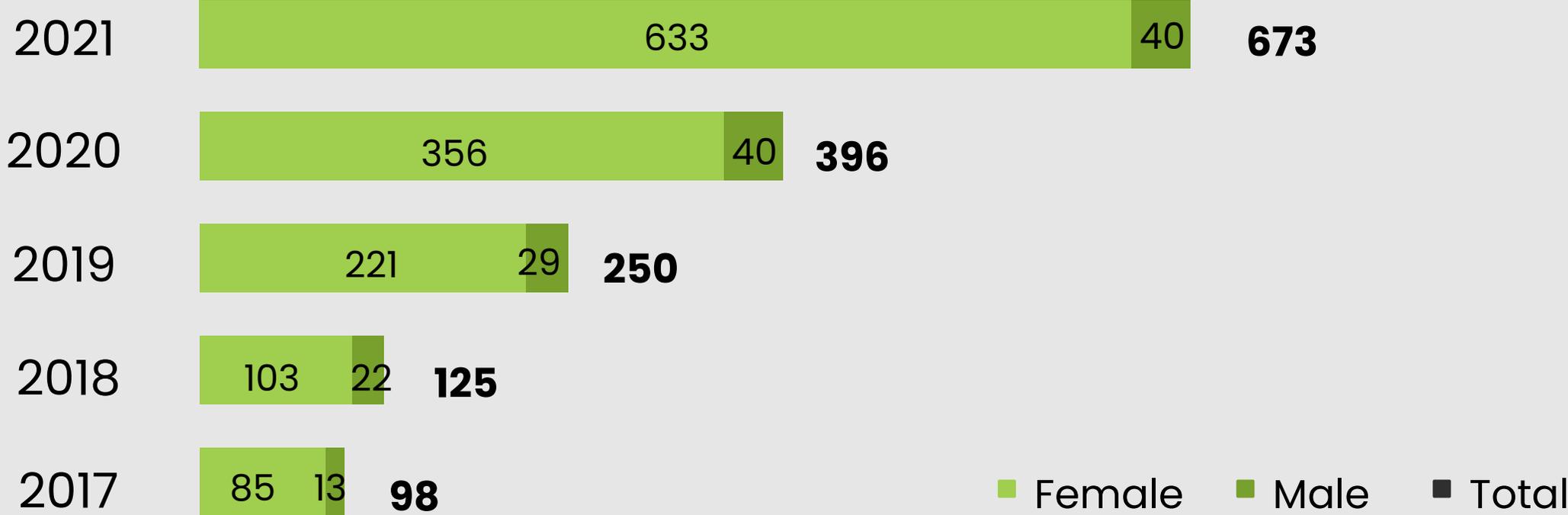
636 Forensic interviews were conducted with children who are victims of child abuse

6 Forensic interviews were conducted with 'special victims' who suffered from sexual violence and exploitation.

31 Extended/further forensic interviews were conducted.



Forensic Interviews Conducted Between 2017-2021



Therapy Services

Children and families who are affected by trauma are referred to Blossom Inc. for therapy services.

Blossom Inc. provides Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioural Therapy & Psychosocial Support.

224 Cases were closed for clients that have completed, not compatible and declined Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

27 Therapy sessions were provided to 3 youth offenders at the Juvenile Holding Centre.

139 Children & families commenced Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

3 Referrals were received from the Department of Juvenile Justice.

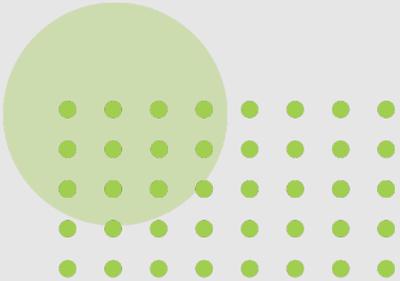
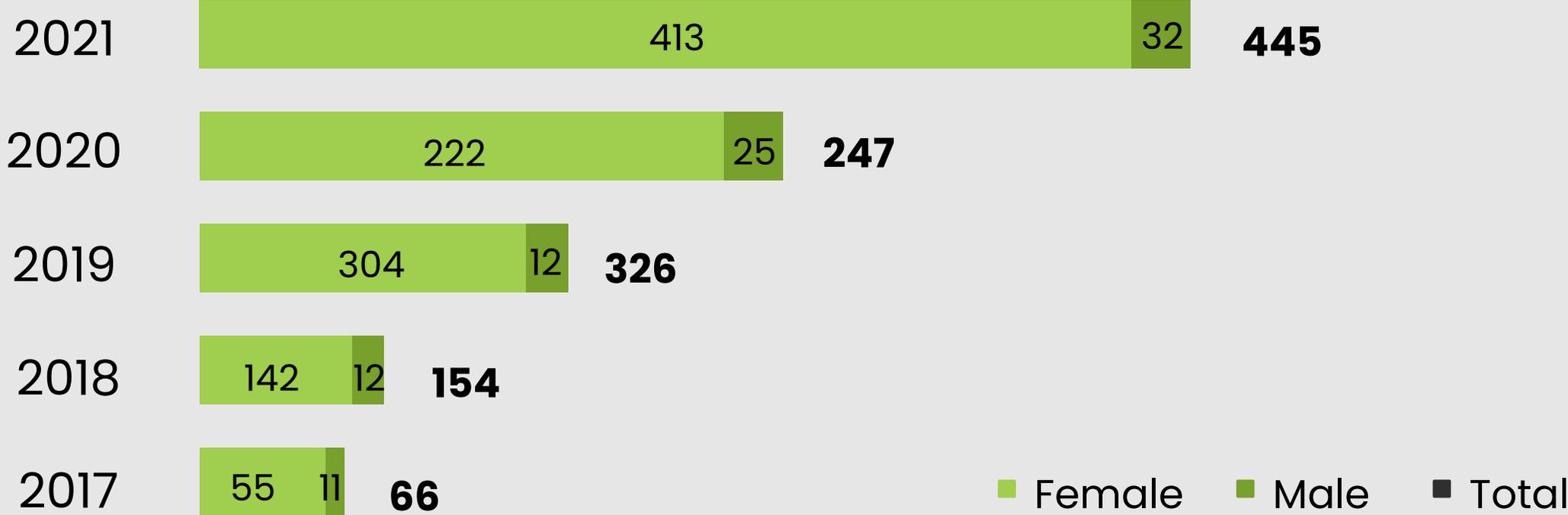
34 Children and families completed Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

688 Emergency In-Person sessions were provided to children and families.

445 Referrals were received from the Childcare & Protection Agency.

2,617 Weekly Tele-psychosocial support sessions were done with children and their families.

Therapy Referrals Received Between 2017-2021



Victim Support Services

156 children & families were provided with court support at the Magistrate & Sexual Offences (High) Court.

8 convictions handed down at the Sexual Offences Court for Blossom's clients.

11 not guilty verdicts handed down at Magistrate & the Sexual Offences Court.

2 hung verdicts arrived at the Sexual Offences Court.

2 cases were dismissed at the Magistrate Court.

379 cases are unaccounted for at the Police stations.

133 cases are ongoing at the Magistrate & High Court.



Education & Awareness Outreaches

Due to the recognition that communities play an essential role in the protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse, Blossom Inc. has conducted 47 education awareness outreaches in communities in Regions 1, 2, 7, 8 & 10.

24 Communities were impacted through education & awareness sessions.

1,169 Community members participated in these awareness outreaches.

22 Trainings were held on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights (SRHR) and Life Skills.

626 Community members inclusive of migrants from Regions 1, 2, 7, 8 & 10 were trained in GBV, CSA, SRHR and Life Skills.

3 Community Prevention Action groups (Gatekeepers) were established in Waramadong, Matthews Ridge & Batavia to effectively address Gender-based Violence through strengthened referral pathways – of these two are active action groups!

2 Boy & Girls Clubs (Team Ignite & Team Hamza) were established in Waramadong & Matthews Ridge – these clubs are all active.



SPOTLIGHT EDUCATION AWARENESS ACTIVITIES



Training Workshops

Sexual Reproductive
Health & Rights

137

Life Skills

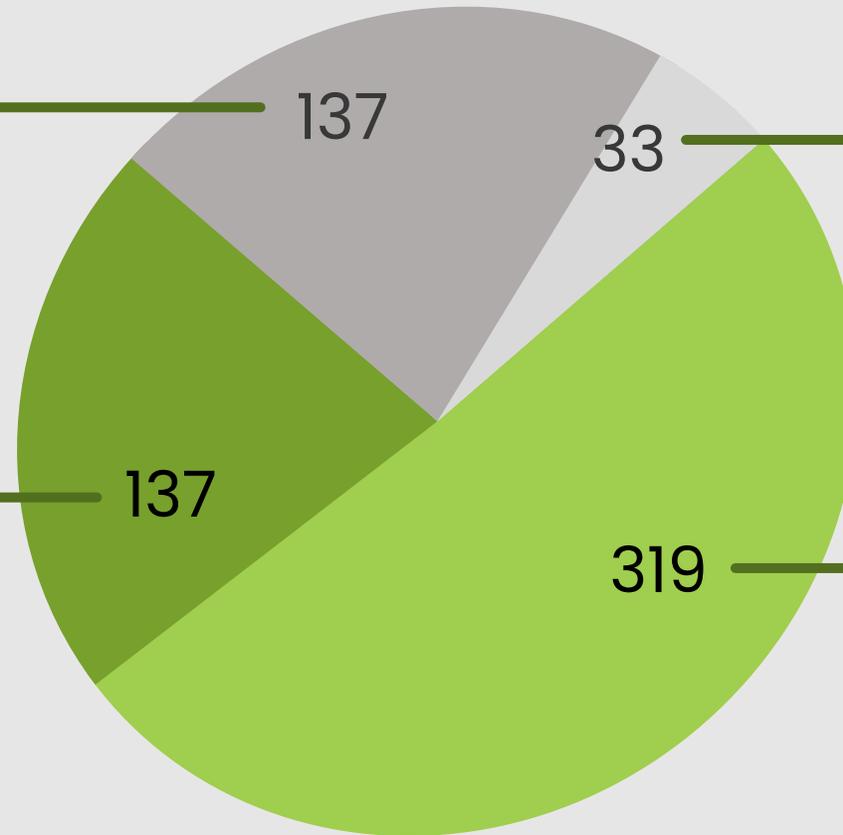
33

Gender-Based
Violence

137

Child Sexual Abuse

319





**REGIONS 7, 10, & KWAKWANI CAC
EDUCATION OUTREACHES &
NEEDS BASED ASSESSMENT
ACTIVITIES.**



Migrant & Host Community Services

4,945 migrants were reached and benefited from migrant services through psychosocial support

Over 3,000 migrants benefited from collaborations – UNICEF, PADF, Immigration, IOM, Hope Foundation, GWI, Catholic Diocese, Red Cross, GRPA, CPA, GPF, IDB, TIP, Ministry of Education, UNHCR, HIAS, Voices GY, Essequibo Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Amerindian Hostel, GPF & Toshao Council.

245 households received Emergency Shelter & Accommodation

870 migrants benefited

456 adults

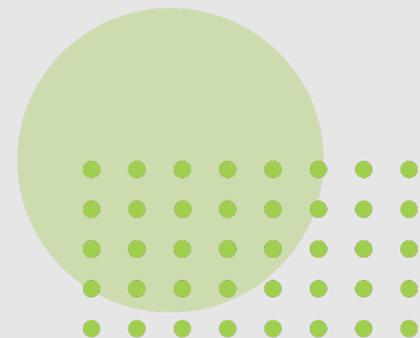
414 children

307 females

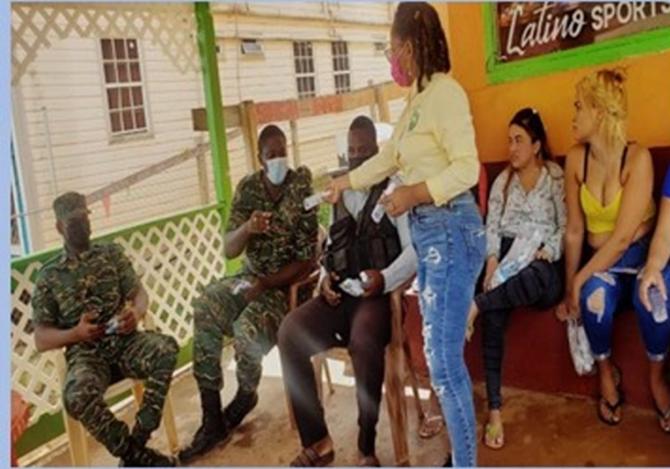
149 males

227 girls

187 boys



MIGRANT & HOST COMMUNITY SERVICES



Migrant & Host Community Services

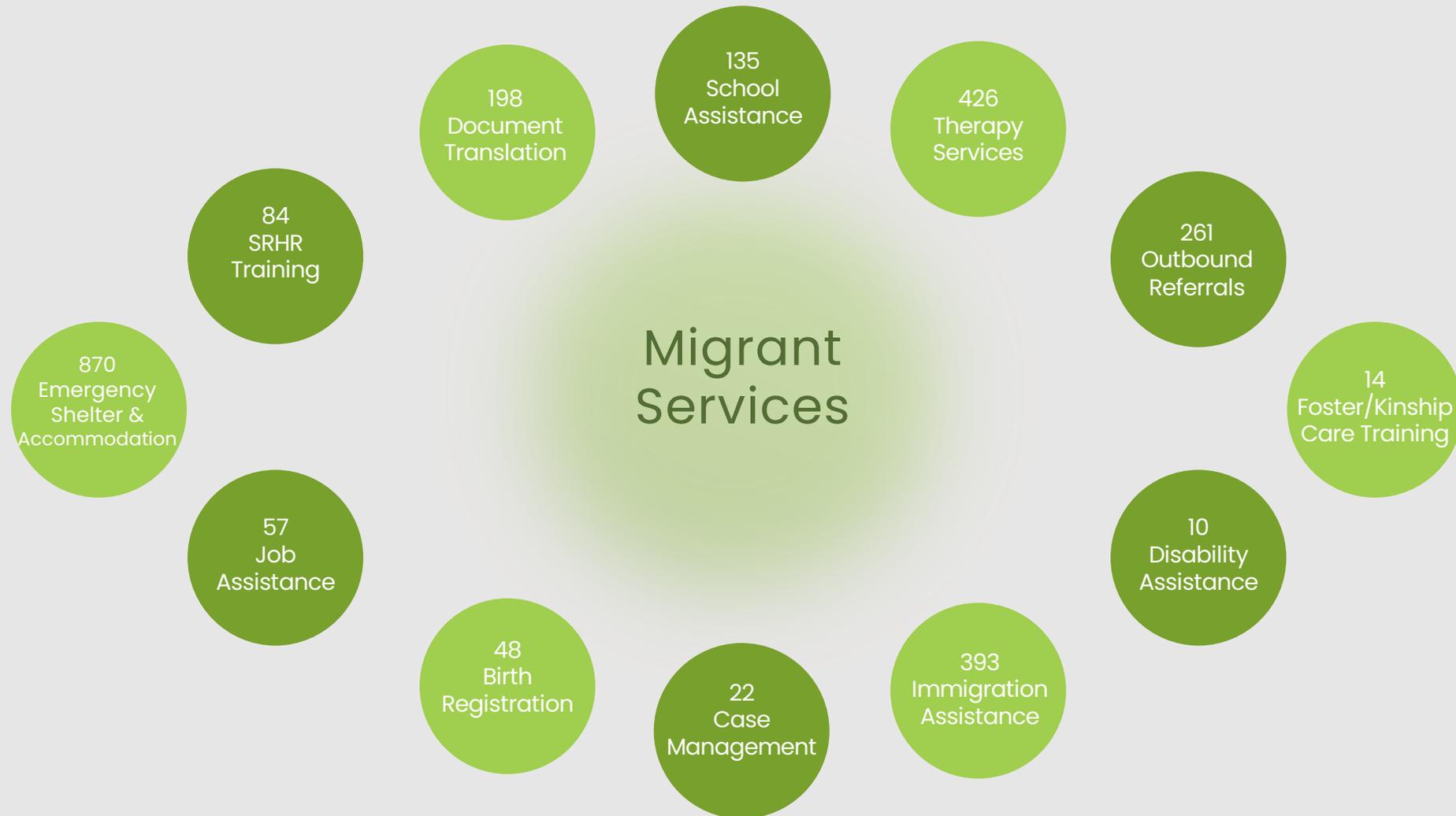
3,094 Migrants reached through outreaches

63 Outreaches were conducted in Regions 1,2 & 7 to take psychosocial services to migrants and education awareness sessions with host community members.

476 Host community members participated in the education awareness sessions



Migrant Services - Highlights



Training Workshops

- 5** New staff completed the mandatory training in “Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy”.
- 16** Staff completed the Forensic Interview of children training.
- 9** Staff received “Managing Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies” training hosted by UNFPA.
- 6** Staff received “National Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Training of Trainers” training led by UNFPA.
- 4** Staff benefitted from “Self-Reliance Index User” training hosted by PADF & Partners.
- All** Staff participated in the workshop –“Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse” led by UNICEF.
- 41** First responders attended and participated in the “Child Advocacy Centre” training conducted by Blossom Inc. in partnership with UNHCR.
- 5** Staff benefitted from “Gender Affairs Bureau” training hosted by Ministry of Human Services & Social Security.
- 1** Staff participated in a webinar “Trafficking in Person”.
- 1** Staff participated in a webinar “Gender & Development”.
- 1** Staff received “Theory of Change” training led by St. Francis Community Developers.
- 99%** Staff completed their yearly target of 20 hours of continuous professional development.

ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE "16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM" CAC ACTIVITIES





CAC CHILD PROTECTION WEEK ACTIVITIES



To Our Funders

Ministry of Human Services & Social Security – MHSSS

United Nations International Children’s Emergency Funds – UNICEF

International Organization for Migration – IOM

British High Commission – BHC

Emerge BPO

Pan American Development Foundation – PADF

Ministry of Home Affairs

European Union – EU

Digicel

Private Sector

The background features a white central area. On the left, there is a large, solid green shape with a curved edge. At the bottom, there is a grey shape with a wavy, undulating top edge. In the bottom right corner, there is a smaller green shape. Three paperclip icons are scattered: one in the top right corner, and two in the bottom left corner, all rendered as thin grey outlines.

Thank you