



Blossom Inc.

# **BLOSSOM INCORPORATED CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRES & EXTENDED SERVICES**

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**



*Celebration of Resilience: A journey of empowerment, hope, and Change.*



## 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



As we reflect on the journey of Blossom Inc Child Advocacy Centres & Extended Services through 2023, I am filled with profound pride and gratitude. Our theme for this year, "Celebration of Resilience: A journey of Empowerment, Hope, and Change," encapsulates the essence of our collective experience—a journey marked by significant challenges, yet defined by our unwavering commitment to our mission and the remarkable resilience of both our team and the individuals we serve.

The year 2023 has been one of monumental achievements and inspiring transformations, underpinned by our foundational belief in the power of hope and the potential for change. We embarked on this year with a vision to not only continue our dedicated support for victims of sexual and gender-based violence but also to foster an environment where empowerment flourishes. It is with immense joy that I share how this vision has come to fruition in remarkable ways.

**Empowerment:** Our focus on empowerment has been transformative. By providing tailored support and resources, we have witnessed the incredible strength of the individuals we assist. Their journeys of recovery and self-discovery have been a beacon of hope, illuminating the potential for change even in the darkest of circumstances. Our team has been instrumental in facilitating these journeys, embodying the essence of empathy, professionalism, and unwavering support.

**Hope:** In every story of resilience, hope has been a constant companion. It has fueled our collective spirit and driven us to seek out innovative ways to support our mission. This year, we introduced new programs aimed at building confidence and self-efficacy, helping those we serve to envision and work towards a brighter future. Our community has rallied around these initiatives, proving that when we come together, we can overcome even the most daunting challenges.

**Change:** Change has been both a goal and a result of our efforts this year. Through our advocacy and service, we have contributed to a broader societal shift towards understanding and addressing sexual and gender-based violence. Our commitment to self-care and professional development within our team has also fostered a culture of continuous improvement and personal growth, setting a new standard for how organizations can support their staff and their mission simultaneously.

As we celebrate our achievements, we also acknowledge the journey ahead. The resilience we have shown is not just a testament to our past but a foundation for our future. Our dedication to empowerment, hope, and change will continue to guide us as we move forward, facing new challenges with the same courage and determination that have defined us this year.

To Team Blossom, our supporters, and the brave individuals we serve: thank you. Your strength, resilience, and unwavering spirit are the heart of our mission. As we look to the future, let us carry forward the lessons of this year—a Celebration of Resilience, a journey of Empowerment, Hope, and Change—knowing that together, we can make a difference in the lives of those we serve and beyond.





# 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 held in 2023.
- The Team, however, utilised the WhatsApp group features in a coordinated effort to share and respond to cases of sexual violence exploitation.
- 8 Regional MDT meetings were held in Regions 1,4,7 & 10.

# Forensic Interviews

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

52 Extended/further forensic interviews were conducted.

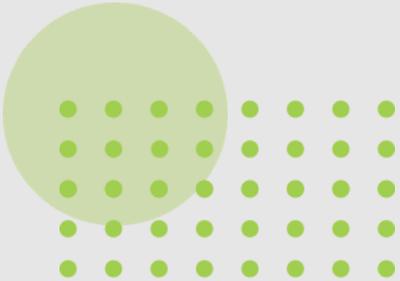
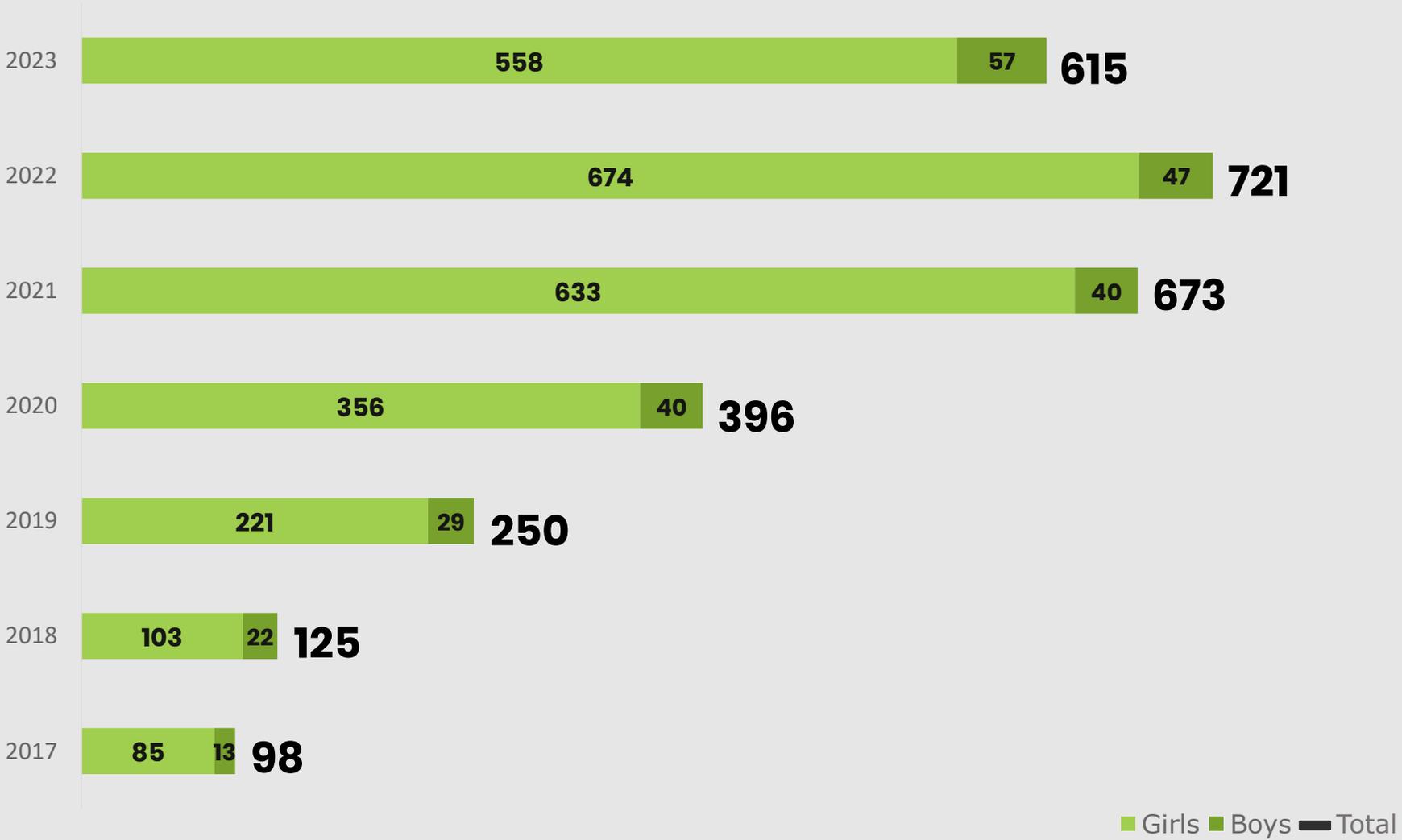
550 Forensic interviews were conducted with children who are victims of child abuse



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

5 Witness interviews were conducted with children who have witnessed some form of violence.

# Forensic Interviews Conducted Between 2017-2023



# 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.

473 Cases were closed for clients that have completed, are not compatible, or declined Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

84 Therapy sessions were provided to 34 youth offenders at the Juvenile Holding Centre.

210 Children & families commenced Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

34 Referrals were received from the Department of Juvenile Justice.

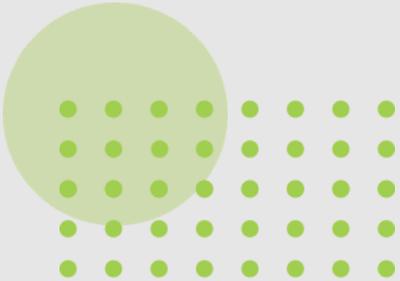
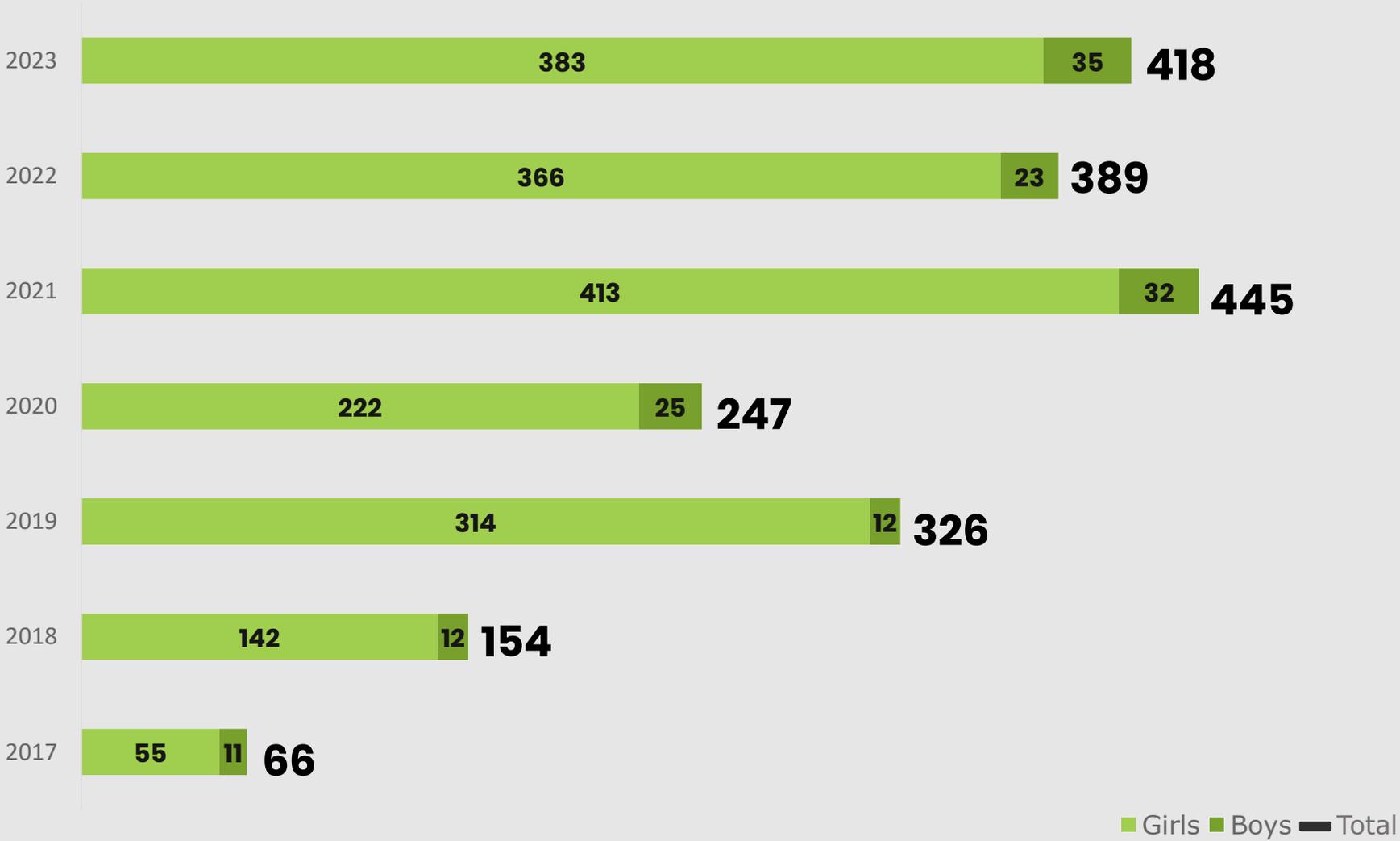
25 Children and families completed Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

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

418 Referrals were received from the Childcare & Protection Agency.

520 Weekly Tele-psychosocial support sessions were done with children and their families.

# Therapy Referrals Received Between 2017-2023



# Victim Support Services

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

6 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.

11 cases were dismissed at the Court.

379 cases are unaccounted for at the Police stations.

70 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. conducted 28 education awareness outreaches in communities in Regions 1, 2, 4, 7, 8 & 10.

43 Communities were impacted through education & awareness sessions.

1,806 Community members participated in these awareness outreaches.

15 Trainings were held on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Sexual Abuse (CSA), and Good Enough Parenting (GEP).

2,884 Community members inclusive of migrants from Regions 1, 7, 8 & 10 were trained.

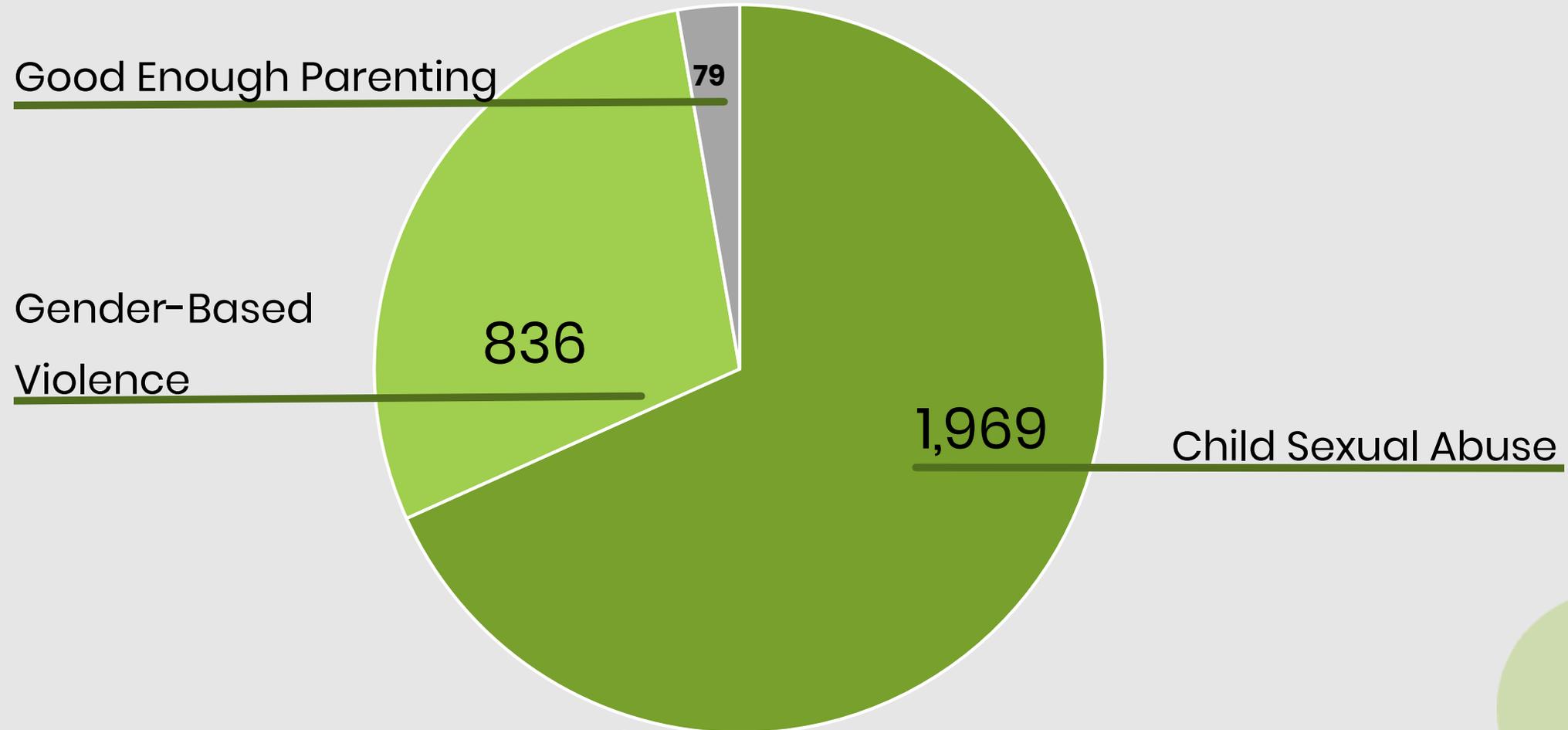
219 community members inclusive of migrants received case management services.

3 Boy & Girls Clubs were established in Bartica, Kato & Paramakatoi – these clubs are all active.



# Training Workshops

*Number of Persons trained*



# Migrant & Host Community Services

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

Over 3,500 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, Judiciary, Ministry of Health, Amerindian Hostels, GPF, Food for the Poor, & Toshao Council.

75 households received Emergency Shelter & Accommodation

205 migrants benefited

122 adults

83 children

104 females

18 males

43 girls

40 boys





# Migrant & Host Community Services

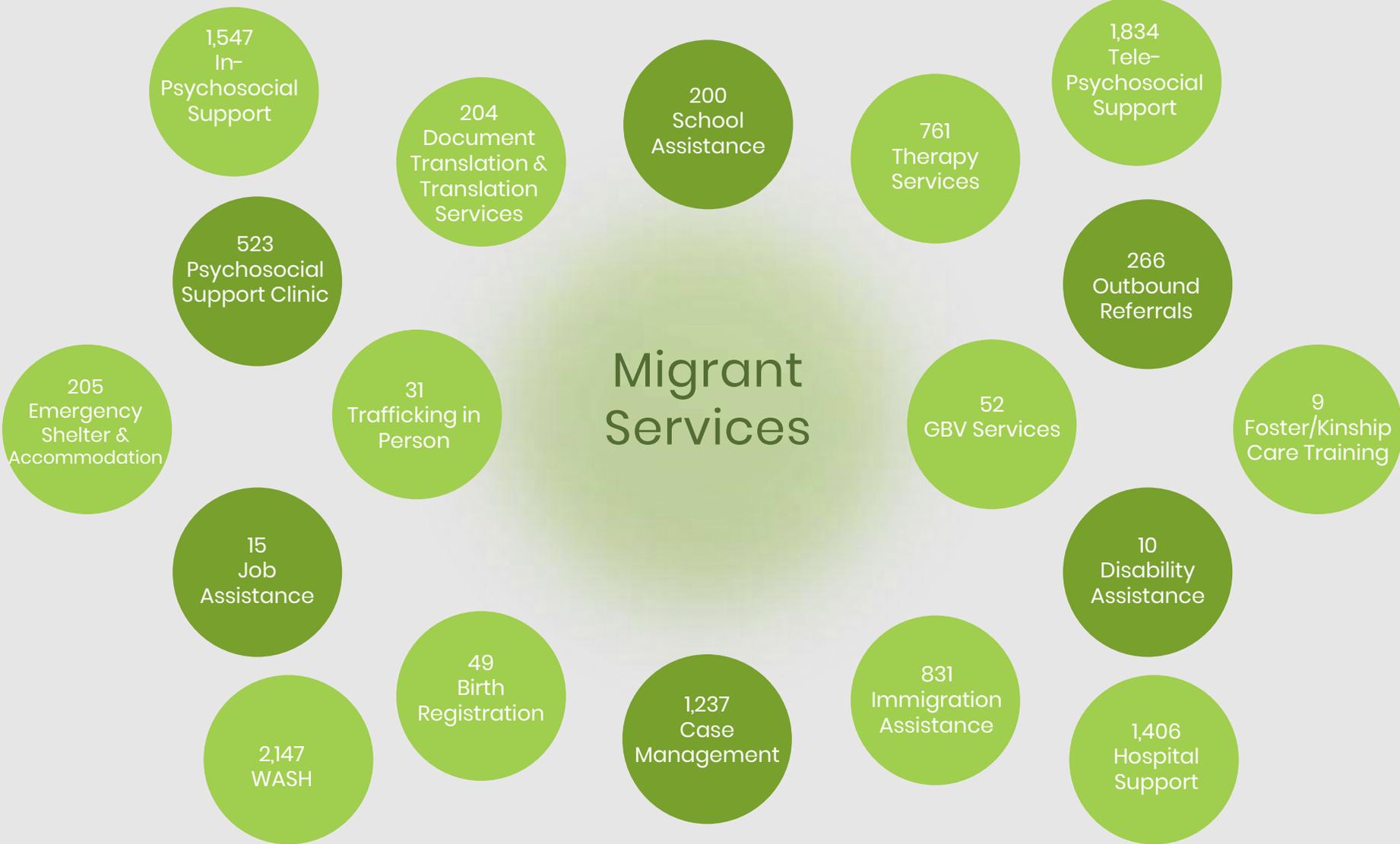
4,031 Migrants reached through community visits/outreaches

240 Community visits/outreaches were conducted in Regions 1,2, 3, 4, 7, 8 & 10 to take psychosocial services to migrants and education awareness sessions with host community members.

707 Host community members participated in the education awareness sessions



# Migrant Services – Highlights



# Training Workshops

- 8** New staff completed the mandatory training in “Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy”.
- 15** Staff completed Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Refresher: Capacity Building training.
- 6** Staff received “Establishing Safe Spaces for Women and Girls” training hosted by UNFPA.
- 2** Staff received “Essential Service Packages” training led by UNFPA.
- 2** Staff received “Clinical Management of Rape” training hosted by UNFPA.
- All** Staff participated in the “Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse” workshop led by UNICEF.
- 2** “Action to end the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of girls, boys and adolescents” facilitated by UNICEF.
- 1** “BSAFE training” facilitated by UN & UN Agencies.
- 1** “How to provide initial support to survivors of Gender-based Violence” facilitated by IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF.
- 1** “Training for Service Providers on Prevention and Response to Gender-based violence” facilitated by HIAS.
- All** Staff participated in the “Do No Harm” workshop.
- 100%** Staff completed their yearly target of 20 hours of continuous professional development.

# Training Workshops Cont'd

- 1 "E-course on Child Protection Case Management for Front-liners" facilitated by UNICEF and American University of Beirut.
- 1 Training to improve the data and information management capacities of front-line counter-trafficking civil society organisations and government facilitated by IOM.
- 2 "270 Hours Virtual course on International Refugee Law" facilitated by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law)
- 2 "Mental Health Awareness Educational Session" facilitated by IDRAF.
- 1 "Trafficking in Persons training course for interpreters and Non-governmental Organisations" facilitated by Ministerial Task Force of Trafficking in Persons.
- 1 "Gender Equality & Inclusion, and Monitoring and Evaluation - Strengths based Resilience training" facilitated by IDRAF.





# To Our Funders

**Ministry of Human Services & Social Security – MHSSS**

**United Nations International Children’s Emergency Funds – UNICEF**

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee – UNHCR**

**Pan American Development Foundation – PADF**

**International Organization for Migration – IOM**

**United Nation Population Fund– UNFPA**

**Ministry of Home Affairs**

**European Union – EU**

**Digicel Guyana**

**Private Sector**

**Bag Ladies**

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**Thank you**