



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of reports of States parties

List of issues in relation to the combined second to fourth periodic reports of Fiji

Addendum

Replies of Fiji to the list of issues*

[Date received: 16 June 2014]

Part I

1. *Please clarify whether the State party intends to formulate a comprehensive policy and strategy for children and, if so, please provide information on its contents, implementation budget and monitoring and evaluation process.*

1. The State Party through the endorsement and collective collaboration of the National Coordinating Committee on Children in Fiji chaired by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation has formulated and developed a national comprehensive policy and strategy for children in Fiji. The national strategy, which is currently still in draft form, is in the process of further consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

2. The Ministry of Education's (MoE) Child Protection Policy is being implemented in 700 Primary schools within the Central- Eastern, Northern and Western parts of Fiji. The MoE's Child Protection Policy highlights the Ministry's commitment to zero tolerance on all forms of child abuse, child labour trafficking, neglect and exploitation of children. The policy provides a framework for the protection, identification, managing and reporting incidents of child abuse in schools, including private schools that are run by Faith-Based Organizations. This policy was first formulated in 2010 and has been reviewed once in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The implementation of this crucial policy in all

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.



schools throughout Fiji underpins the substantial contribution of MoE to the achievement of the requirements of article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

3. Within the MoE, there is a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit that investigates and monitors the implementation of the Child Protection Policy and, subject to the outcome of the internal disciplinary process, the Unit ensures that teachers and staff are taken to task when found to be in breach of the Policy. There is a wider coverage now of the policy, where the MoE is working towards ensuring that all schools (Early Childhood Education, Primary, Secondary, including schools for children with special needs and Vocational Schools) are aware and also implementing the policy in their respective schools.

2. Please inform the Committee of measures taken to implement its previous recommendation (CRC/C/15/Add.89, para. 30) concerning the establishment of an independent complaint and monitoring mechanism to effectively monitor, promote and protect children's rights in the State party. With reference to paragraph 31 of the State party's report, please clarify the role of Child Rights Desk Officer within the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission.

4. The Fiji Human Rights Commission, since its inception, has acted as the independent complaint and monitoring mechanism. Under the Fiji Human Rights Decree No. 11 of 2009, the Commission was granted the powers to investigate allegations of human rights violations including those of children. However, given the resource constraints faced by the State Party, the position of Child Rights Desk Officer within the Commission has been vacant for the last two years. This is an area of consideration by the State Party given the critical role of the Child Rights Desk Officer.

3. Please provide information on the efforts undertaken by the State party to promote meaningful participation by children at the local and national levels in the development and implementation of the National Climate Change Policy and other policies concerning climate change. Please also clarify whether and, if so how, the rights and interests of children are integrated and protected in the National Climate Change Policy.

5. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its Climate Change Unit has been supporting local communities in Fiji on various initiatives, including the "Child-Centered Climate Change Adaptation Project". The Climate Change Unit in collaboration with regional partners is implementing this project in Fiji and some countries in the region. The aim of this project is to increase awareness and capacity of children, youth and communities on climate change and related disasters; and to enable them to facilitate child-centered climate change adaptation processes, which will include the use of locally designed climate smart solutions.

6. The Climate Change Unit and relevant stakeholders are currently conducting a mid-term review of the National Climate Change Policy with the view of working towards the inclusion of children in relevant local and national processes.

4. Please indicate what measures have been taken to reform traditional attitudes, perceived gender roles and existing laws and regulations that discriminate against girls in family and public life. Please inform the Committee of the measures adopted by the State party to prevent, investigate and punish violence against girls and to provide redress to victims. With reference to paragraph 183 of the State party's report, please explain the measures taken to ensure that traditional apologies (bulubulu) are not imposed on child victims of sexual offences and to ensure follow-up on cases where children have been forced to "reconcile" with abusers.

7. Using the holistic approach, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation's Child Services Unit with support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) developed a Community Facilitation Package to address traditional social norms, knowledge, attitudes and practices to mitigate discrimination against children and women and to promote protection in family and public life for girls and women.

8. To prevent, investigate and punish violence against girls and women and redress to victims, the State Party, through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation, Fiji Police Force, Ministry of iTaukei (Indigenous) Affairs, MoE, Faith-Based Organizations and civil society organizations have worked in unison to raise awareness, educate and promote the protection of girls and women in family and public life. In addition, children (boys and girls) women and men in families and communities are encouraged to recognize, respond and report abuse and violence committed against children (boys and girls) and women. The promulgation of the Child Welfare Decree 2009 and the Domestic Violence Decree 2010 strengthened the attempt to address prevention, reporting and investigation of perpetrators against girls and women. Victim support is provided by Centre for Abuse and Sexual Offences Unit and Child Protection Focal Points trained and placed in the main police stations of the four divisions – Eastern, West, North and South. Working in collaboration with Ministry of Social Welfare. Fiji also has a No Drop Policy for domestic violence reports.

9. During prosecution of perpetrators against girls and women, traditional apologies, for example *bulubulu*, are only considered as a mitigating factor before a sentence is imposed. However, it is not a means to evading, on the part of the perpetrator or offender the legal consequences of the offence and appropriate sentence to be imposed. Wide community awareness raising and education messaging the importance of recognizing abuse and violence to be reported to the necessary authorities is taken out by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation, the Fiji Police Force, the Ministry of iTaukei (Indigenous) Affairs, in collaboration and engagement with Faith-Based Organizations and civil society organizations is ongoing.

5. *Please clarify whether the Citizenship Decree protects the right of abandoned children (foundlings) to a nationality by ensuring that they automatically acquire Fijian nationality.*

10. Article 7 of the decree stipulates that any infant found abandoned in Fiji is deemed to have been born in Fiji unless there is evidence to the contrary. This is consistent with article 5 of the decree, which gives the three grounds for acquiring citizenship, and where birth is one of them. Taking these articles together, children/infants found abandoned in Fiji do become Fiji nationals, unless there is evidence that show otherwise.

6. *With reference to the high incidence of violence against children, including corporal punishment, as referred to in paragraph 108 of the State party's report, please provide information on all the practical measures taken to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against children, such as an explicit legal prohibition of corporal punishment in all settings.*

11. Article 41 of the 2013 Constitution makes provision for the protection of children from abuse, neglect, harmful cultural practices, any form of violence, inhumane treatment and punishment, and hazardous or exploitative labour or detention. Under the Child Welfare Decree 2010, all professionals¹ that become aware or reasonably suspect during the

¹ Defined in the decree as a health professional as defined in the Medical and Dental Practitioner Decree 2010, a welfare officer as defined in the Juveniles Act (Cap 56), a police officer as defined in

practice of their profession, that a child has been or is being, or is likely to be harmed must immediately notify the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation. The Crimes Decree 2009 also makes provision for the protection of children from forcible transfer, enslavement, trafficking, defilement and other situations of abuse. The Domestic Violence Decree 2009 protects children from domestic violence situations and provides greater access to justice for women and children.

12. With the objective of preparing communities to understand the root causes and reporting procedures of the Domestic Violence Decree and Child Welfare Decree, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation in partnership with the Fiji Police Force and the Legal Aid Commission carried out extensive community awareness programs in various parts of Fiji in 2013. In the same year, the State Party reaffirmed its position on the elimination of violence against women and children by officially signing a Commit Campaign initiative in conjunction with UN Women, showing political will and commitment to addressing the root causes of violence in homes and communities through the enactment of progressive legislation (Crimes Decree, Child Welfare Decree and Domestic Violence Decree) that guarantees and protects women's and children's human rights.

13. State Party has also been supporting local communities with the Zero Tolerance Violence Free Community Campaign. The campaign cultivates a collaborative approach between the communities and relevant stakeholders to eliminate violence against women and children. The campaign is strongly supported by male leaders who are part of the gatekeeping committee that works closely with the Fiji Police Force to monitor the progress of this campaign. A total of over 60 communities in Fiji have joined this campaign since its establishment in 2009.

14. In schools, the Child Protection Policy prohibits the implementation of corporal punishment. However, the State Party is still working towards greater monitoring coverage to ensure that school officials and administrators are implementing this policy. Teachers reported and found guilty of inflicting corporal punishment or violating the Child Protection Policy are terminated as the Ministry of Education has a zero tolerance policy on abuse.

15. Parental and community attitude towards this issue and discussion of alternative forms of punishment is an ongoing process and the State will continue to address this issue at all levels. The legal framework is also an issue as corporal punishment is not explicitly prohibited in any of the existing laws. There certainly is a need to align laws with policies to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings. State Party welcomes any support from partners to address this gap, including greater support for community awareness.

16. Children that are placed under residential homes (due to abuse or neglect at home) are provided with a safe space under the Minimum Standard provisions of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation.

7. Please explain how the best interests of the children are taken into account in criminal proceedings concerning their parents, specifically in sentencing, including where life sentences are concerned. Please also clarify the measures taken to ensure that children of incarcerated parents are not discriminated against in any way.

17. In criminal proceedings the best interests of the child is taken into account by having the matter heard in the Juvenile Court in Suva where the child is a victim or the offender is a child under 18 years. In other jurisdictions, without a specialised court, an announcement

the Police Act (Cap 85) or legal practitioner as defined in the Legal Practitioners Decree 2009.

for a special court sitting is made pursuant to Sections 16 and 17 of the Juvenile Act Cap 56. In matters where the child is a victim or witness, the prosecution may apply to court for hearing in camera and close the court to the public. Special measures to familiarise the child through the court, the process is undertaken by the Child Protection Unit at the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Office before the hearing or Police Prosecutions with Child Abuse Sexual Offences Centre specialised to respond to child victims. Every child witness, victim is entitled to have a support person and adult of their choice in court. Children with incarcerated parents are provided financial assistance through the Department of Social Welfare's Care and Protection Program.

8. *In the light of the Committee's previous recommendations (CRC/C/15/Add.89, para. 40), please indicate the steps taken to eliminate discrimination and social stigma against children with disabilities and to facilitate their full inclusion into society. Please provide information on the measures implemented by the State party to ensure effective access for children with disabilities to health and social services.*

18. Article 42 of the 2013 Constitution makes provision for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. In its quest to promote the rights and interests of persons living with disabilities, the State Party has undertaken to streamline relevant laws which will prioritise the needs of persons living with disabilities. The completion of the review of the Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons (FNCDP Act 1994) and the drafting of the Disability Decree 2013 is a milestone achievement. The State Party has shown commitment through signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2010. The draft Disability Decree looks at critical issues which are directed to the needs of persons with disability and most of the articles of the the Convention are incorporated into the draft decree. The State Party is working towards the final endorsement and adoption of the decree.

9. *With reference to paragraphs 314 and 315 of the State party's report, please elaborate on the progress achieved on the implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy, adopted in 2010 and the educational rationale for developing special education schools for children with disabilities through the Special Education Section of the Ministry for Education.*

19. The Inclusive Education Policy was formulated on the basis that all children should be given the opportunity to learn together wherever possible regardless of difficulties, disabilities or differences. Relevant adaptations and modifications have been facilitated in the current curriculum to meet the needs of students with special needs, for example, training of braillists and the number of braille publications has increased. Furthermore, disability friendly school facilities and infrastructure have been improved in a number of schools.

20. Having a limited number of specialized teachers in mainstream schools is a challenge. There is also a need for greater awareness and training for all teachers in caring for children with special needs. The State is committed to ensuring that all children, including children with special needs, are given proper care and access to quality education to bring about an educated and productive society. The State Party welcomes technical support and funding from partners in teacher training in mainstream schools; and general support for creating learning opportunities for children with special needs as well as teachers and school administrators.

10. *With reference to paragraph 281 of the report, in which it is stated that the rate of teenage pregnancies is still an area of concern, please inform the Committee whether the State party has assessed the root causes of the high rates of pregnancy among adolescents. Please indicate the steps taken to ensure that sexual and reproductive health education and services for adolescents, including family planning and safe abortion services, are accessible and adequate throughout the State party, and that education and awareness programmes for boys have been integrated into the policies and plans for sexual and reproductive health services for children.*

21. In 2013, the Ministry of Health recorded 1,202 teenage pregnancies nationally. There are now a number of programs that focus on children, adolescents and youths in regards to sexual and reproductive health (SRH). The Adolescent Health Development Clinic located centrally in Suva provides all SRH services. They have a walk-in policy and the staff consists mainly of peer educators.

22. With the support of the Ministry of Education, peer educators have SRH sessions with students; the main focus is with primary schools but this is slowly branching out to secondary schools. These peer educators also have an out-of-school program in the communities in stages. Stage 1 is called stepping stones and the others include Community Education, where SRH topics are discussed, including topics such as HIV. This is also supported by parents and HUB.

23. The Ministry of Health also trains teachers in regards to Family Life Education. Peer Educators train other youth to become peer educators, helping to sustain this program. Through the Department of Social Welfare the introduction and implementation of the Food Voucher Program for pregnant mothers in rural settings is to address the issue of malnutrition, which is said to be common in rural locations.

11. *Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure that education is free, without hidden costs, and accessible to all children, including girls, and on the efforts made to reduce school dropout, increase the enrolment and retention of children, particularly girls, in the school system. Please also indicate the steps taken to implement early childhood programmes for children, including in the outer islands.*

24. The Ministry of Education has the following initiatives in place to reduce school dropout, increase enrolment rate and retention rate of children:

Allocation of tuition fee grant to all children currently enrolled in Year 1 – Year 13

25. For Primary Schools (Y1-Y8) the allocation is \$250.00 per child/annum and the breakdown is as follows:

<i>School Term</i>	<i>Allocation (per child)</i>
1	\$84.00
2	\$83.00
3	\$83.00

26. Secondary Schools (Y9-Y13) have the following allocations:

Year 9 and 10 – \$440.00

<i>School Term</i>	<i>Allocation (per child)</i>
1	\$147.00
2	\$147.00
3	\$146.00

Year 11 and 12 – \$485.00

<i>School Term</i>	<i>Allocation (per child)</i>
1	\$162.00
2	\$162.00
3	\$161.00

Year 13 – \$610.00

<i>School Term</i>	<i>Allocation (per child)</i>
1	\$204.00
2	\$204.00
3	\$202.00

27. Other initiatives by the State through the Ministry of Education include the following:

- Free bus fare policy
- School zoning – Children attend schools within close range to prevent the high costs of travel for both children and their families
- Schools and Communities are encouraged to establish Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres – now we have close to a thousand centres with the rural schools taking a keen interest in setting up kindergartens
- The State has given a salary grant for ECE teachers to complement what management pays – to encourage teachers to take up teaching in rural and remote centres
- Awareness is carried out for parents and communities on the importance of ECE; and officers use radio broadcast to schools to air important issues to ECE teachers on admin and professional matters
- Grant is also given for centres to upgrade their facilities and even build new classrooms and furniture, equipment and learning resources are provided for schools and rural schools are our main target.
- There are also individual initiatives done by ECE centres who have been reaching out to disadvantaged children through their mobile kindergartens. An example is an ECE centre in the capital which has its own centre for those who can afford it and three mobile Ks for the less fortunate children – these children do not pay anything for the three-hour afternoons, twice a week, that they attend and they are also provided with food and fruits

12. *In the context of the introduction of a common national identity for both indigenous Fijians (iTaukei) and Fijians and the related legislation, please inform the Committee of the steps taken by the State party to protect the cultural rights of children belonging to minority and indigenous groups as well as the learning and use of their languages. Please also inform the Committee of the measures in place to ensure the effective participation of children from various indigenous groups at the local and national levels with regard to all policies affecting their identity and social and cultural rights.*

28. In recognising and embracing the cultural rights of minority and indigenous groups, the Ministry of Education has included in its Education communications circular the celebration of cultural and religious beliefs through “National Days” celebration. Children are encouraged to showcase their culture through the use of music, art and literature. In addition to English, the Ministry of Education circular has made “vernacular” (I-taukei and Indo-Fijian – main languages) classes compulsory in all schools. There are also national television programs that are broadcasted on free channels on the learning of the above-mentioned languages.

13. *Please indicate the minimum age of criminal responsibility. Please also clarify how the Juvenile Act promotes restorative justice and alternatives to detention and guarantees the rights of children to free legal assistance. Please explain the main elements of the draft Community Based Corrections Decree and draft Child Justice Decree and say when the State party plans to adopt them.*

29. Minimum age of criminal responsibility is 10. Section 27(1) Crimes Decree 2009 states ... “A child aged 10 years or more but under 14 years old can only be criminally responsible for an offence if the child knows his or her conduct is wrong.” Section 27(2) provides that the question whether a child knows that his or her conduct is wrong is one of fact and the burden of proving this fact is on the prosecution.

30. Section 32 of the Juvenile Act lists methods of dealing with juvenile offenders – quote “Where a juvenile is tried for an offence and the court is satisfied of his guilt, the court shall take into consideration the manner in which, under the provision of this or any other written law...” and pursuant to Section 32 (h) deal with the case in any other lawful manner...In this regard the Probation of Offenders Act Cap 22 and the Community Work Act 1994 are often used to make an order to promote restorative justice and alternatives to detention. Legal Aid Commission prioritises juvenile matters to provide free legal assistance nationally. The principal object of this Community Based Corrections Decree is to provide for the administration of a community-based corrections system that will promote public safety and contribute towards the maintenance of a just society by:

(a) Providing the courts with a range of sentencing options and means of dealing with offenders other than by imprisonment;

(b) Establishing conditions so that rehabilitation of offenders may be promoted or facilitated;

(c) Reducing re-offending by managing the rehabilitation of offenders and their reintegration into society;

(d) Providing useful and timely information to courts to assist them in determining decisions relating to the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;

(e) Ensuring that community-based corrections sentences are administered in a fair and effective manner; and

(f) Promoting community participation and volunteerism in the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

31. The objectives of the Child Justice Decree are to:
- (a) Establish the basis for the administration of a separate child justice system based on the principles of restorative justice and contemporary child justice practices;
 - (b) Provide for the special treatment of children in a child justice system design to reduce re-offending and contribute to safer communities by promoting children's rehabilitation and encouraging them to become law-abiding and productive adults; and;
 - (c) Prevent children from being exposed to the adverse effects of the formal criminal justice system by using, where appropriate, alternatives that are more suitable to the needs of children;
 - (d) Promote engagement of families, traditional and community leaders, civil society and community members in the rehabilitation and reintegration of children in conflict with the law; and
 - (e) Promote co-operation between government departments, and between government departments and the non-governmental sector and civil society, to ensure an integrated and holistic approach in the implementation of this Decree. The State party is about to promulgate the decree.

Part II

In this section the Committee invites the State party to briefly update the information presented in its report with regard to:

(a) New bills or laws, and their respective regulations

32. Fiji has a new Constitution (2013) that was promulgated in September 2013, which makes provision for the rights of children (art. 41) as well as the rights of persons with disabilities (art. 42).
33. Newly introduced laws relevant to children include the following:
- Child Welfare Decree 2010;
 - Domestic Violence Decree 2009;
 - Crimes Decree 2009.
34. Under review are the following:
- Juveniles Act 1973;
 - Adoption of Infants Act 1978;
 - Probation Act 1987;
 - Community Work Act 1994;
 - Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons Act 1994;
 - Social Justice Act.
35. Laws in draft form:
- Adoption Decree;
 - Children in Conflict with the Law Decree;
 - Children in Need of Care and Protection Decree;

- Community-based Corrections Decree.

(b) New institutions and their mandates, or institutional reforms

36. There are no new institutions or institutional reforms in place. All Government Ministries, agencies and stakeholders through their existence are working towards a better Fiji.

(c) Recently introduced policies, programmes and action plans and their scope and financing

37. Newly introduced policies and programmes are covered in part 1 of this report.

(d) Recent ratifications of human rights instruments

38. Fiji's most recent development is the signing of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The ratification of human rights treaties has great implications on Fiji, given its small administration and limited resources. These factors are first considered prior to ratification of any treaty.

Part III

Data, statistics and other information, if available

1. Please provide consolidated budget information for the past three years on resources allocated to children and the social sectors, indicating the percentage of each budget line in terms of the total national budget and gross national product in the State party.

39. In the 2014 budget, State Party allocated a total of FJD215,000 specifically to support children's programs implemented by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation. This is the first time that any Fiji government has specifically allocated funding from the national budget towards supporting programs for children. This is a milestone achievement for the State Party, which shows political commitment towards the progressive realization of the rights of all children in Fiji.

40. Due to this funding support, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation will be implementing within a one-year cycle various child support initiatives including the following: (1) Establishment of a National Child Help Line (FJD 20,000); (2) Support for child protection programs including the National Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (PCAN) Day (FJD 120,000) whereby FJD 70,000 has been committed to the organizing of the Children and Women's Summit which will take place later this year; (3) Celebration of the Children's National Day (FJD 10,000); and (4) Financial assistance to residential homes for the welfare of children (FJD 148,000).

41. Until the 2014 budget, there has been no specific budget allocation for children but rather line-ministries have their own budgets with prerogative to allocate funding to support programs, which includes those for children.

42. UNICEF Pacific has been funding programs implemented by the Ministry for Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation. Below is the total funding support from UNICEF Pacific in the last three years:

- 2011 – FJD 61,462.00;
- 2012 – FJD 137,261.00;

- 2013 – FJD 43,567.70.

2. Please provide data disaggregated by age, sex, socioeconomic background, ethnic origin and geographical location covering the past three years on the number/prevalence of:

(a) Cases of abuse and violence against children, including all forms of corporal punishment, with additional information on the type of assistance given to child victims and the follow-up provided, including prosecution of the perpetrators and the sentences handed down in the State party

Offences Against Children	2011	2012	2013	
8			221	
9	Indecent Assault	141	163	121
10	Defilement of Girl under 13		4	5
11	Defilement of Girl between 13-16	175	97	138
12	Incest	1		3
14	Others Against Public Morality	262	302	337
	Total	850	895	825

Age and sex distribution of children in commercial sexual exploitation

	Age	Central %	Western %	Northern %	Total (n):
	13		2.3		1
	14		4.5		2
	15	9.5	9.1	11.1	10
	16	23.8	18.2	22.2	22
	17	66.7	65.9	66.7	69
Sex					
Female	88.1	59.1	100	81	
Male	11.9	40.9		23	
Total	42	44	18	104	

(b) Investigations of cases of sexual violence and rape, and the outcome of trials, including information on the penalties for perpetrators and the sentences handed down in the State party

- This information is not available.

(c) Sexual offence cases where children have been forced to “reconcile” with abusers through traditional apologies (bulubulu)

- This information is not available.

(d) Children in street situations

- 2013 – Information not available.
- 2012 – Information not available.

- 2011 – 80.

(e) *Underweight/stunting in infants and children under 5 years of age and under-5 mortality, particularly in the Eastern and Northern Divisions*

Cases of severe malnutrition – Fiji 2007-2013

Cases	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Suva	8	18	20	18	60	56	39
Lautoka	12	8	6	0	59	38	40
Labasa	12	9	2	0	21	15	19
Total	32	35	28	18	140	109	98
Deaths					17	9	9

43. The numbers of cases in the Western and Northern division remain the same over the last three years and advocacy for good nutrition needs to continue on a national level and become a priority for all government sectors involved. In 2011 to 2012 a total of 100 cases of undernutrition were admitted in the main referral hospital in CWM, Suva. Below is a breakdown of these cases.

Age	0 – 12 months	1 – 5 years	Total
Male	25	27	52
Female	15	33	48
I-Taukei	39	55	94
Indo-Fijians		4	4
Others	1	1	2

(f) *Children infected or affected by HIV/AIDS*

HIV and children

44. The number of HIV cases in the nation is increasing annually and with it the exposure of the virus to children. The main route of transmission of HIV to children is from mother to baby and with the availability of Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) of HIV Services this risk of transmission is greatly reduced. The Ministry of Health had introduced this training in 2007 and has strengthened these services over the past few years.

Children infected with HIV in Fiji

Age	1-5 years	>5 years	Total
Males	8	2	10
Females	2	1	3
I-Taukei	8	4	12
Indo-Fijians	1	-	1
Others	-	-	

45. The number of children infected with HIV in Fiji is 13 as of October 2013 with the majority below the age of 3 years. Of these one is an orphan and another child has lost her

father to HIV. Three of the above cases are from the Northern division and one is from the western.

46. Last year 10 HIV infected mothers went through the PPTCT services, hence the number of children affected is more but the number uncertain as a majority of these cases are lost to follow-up due to the stigma and discrimination still strongly associated with HIV.

3. *Please provide data disaggregated by age, sex, socio-economic background, ethnic origin and geographical location) regarding the situation of children deprived of a family environment and separated from their parents, for the last three years, on the number of children:*

(a) *Separated from their parents*

- Information not available

(b) *Living in child-headed households*

- Information not available

(c) *Placed in institutions*

- 2013 – 148
- 2012 – 132
- 2011 – Information not available

(d) *Placed with foster families*

- Information not available

(e) *Adopted domestically or through inter-country adoptions*

- Information not available

4. *Please provide data, disaggregated by age, sex, types of disabilities, ethnic origin and geographical location, for the past three years, on the number of children with disabilities:*

(a) *Living with their families*

<i>PWD with families</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
Living with families	96.4%	45%	51%
Not living with families	3.5%	1.8%	1.7%
N/A	0.1%		

47. Unfortunately, data collection is one of the biggest challenges. Disaggregation by age under these categories has been difficult.

(b) *In institutions*

- Information not available

(c) *Attending regular primary schools*

- Information not available

(d) *Attending regular secondary schools*

- Information not available

(e) *Attending special schools*

- Information not available

(f) *Out of school*

- Information not available

(g) *Abandoned by their families*

- Information not available

5. *Please provide data, disaggregated inter alia by age, sex, socioeconomic background, ethnic origin and residency in the outer islands in the State party, for the past three years on:*

(a) *The enrolment and completion rates, in percentages, of the relevant age groups in pre- primary schools, in primary schools and in secondary schools*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Primary (enrolment)</i>		<i>Secondary (enrolment)</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
2009	67 204	62 240	32 029	35 043
2010	66 832	62 253	31 366	33 885
2011	67 237	62 785	33 726	36 525
2012	67 843	63 779	33 125	35 300

(b) *The number and percentage of dropouts and repetitions*

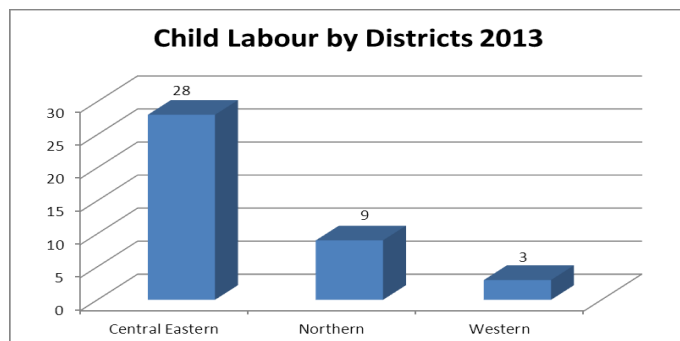
- Information not available

(c) *The teacher-pupil ratio*

- Information not available

6. Please provide data on social protection measures, disaggregated by age, sex, socioeconomic background and ethnic group, and residency in the outer islands, for the past three years, on the number of children:

(a) Involved in child labour



Source: Ministry of Labour.

48. Obtaining data for 2011 and 2012 has been difficult.

(b) Performing domestic work and working in the fishing and agriculture sectors

- Information not available

(c) Involved in hazardous work

- 2013 – Information not available
- 2012 – 500
- 2011 – Information not available