



Budget Brief 2023-2024

Forward

Budget 2023-2024 proposes a number of key measures aimed at supporting economic recovery, transitioning towards a greener and more sustainable economy and enhancing social protection and safety nets for the vulnerable.

More than 300,000 beneficiaries will benefit from an increase of Rs1,000 in their basic pensions. Income and child allowances have been increased and new schemes introduced such as the CSG child allowance, income support towards a guaranteed minimum income, financial assistance to children suffering from cancer and severe diseases and a one-off grant of Rs20,000 to all youths reaching 18 years.

The absolute poverty threshold is to be reviewed allowing more households to be eligible for support under the SRM and the National Database for Vulnerable Groups.

The social measures announced in the Budget should provide relief to the most vulnerable, hard hit by the sharp and sustained increases in the cost of living.

Social protection represents around 34% of total spending and is the largest contributor to Government budgeted expenditure which is estimated at Rs200 million for the financial year 2023-2024.



The Elderly and Disabled

- The Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) will be increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 11,000.
- Retirees aged 65 and above will receive at least Rs12,000, including the CSG Retirement Benefit of Rs 1,000.
- An increase of 10 percent in the Basic Invalid Pension (BIP) from Rs 10,000 to Rs 11,000.
- An individual who has been amputated or lost his or her arm, leg or hand to benefit from the BIP of Rs11,000.
- BRP and BIP beneficiaries with dependent children will receive a monthly child allowance of Rs 2,000.
- Government will contribute Rs 15,000 monthly for a period of two years under the Prime à L'Emploi Scheme for the employment of persons with disabilities.
- Construction of a new elderly day care centre at Rose-Hill.

Vulnerable Children and Women

- Government will cover the full cost of overseas treatment of the patients aged up to 17 years who require medical treatments not available locally.
- Children diagnosed with cancer will benefit from financial assistance for the full costs of cancer care and treatment in local private hospitals and foreign hospitals.
- As from the 1st of January 2023, a youth reaching 18 years will be provided with a grant of Rs 20,000.
- The monthly allowance under the Foster Care Scheme to be increased from Rs 8,000 to Rs 12,000 per child and to Rs 15,000 for a child with special needs.
- The Basic Widow's and Orphan's Pensions will increase by Rs 1,000 from Rs 10,000 to Rs 11,000.
- The monthly child allowance paid to beneficiaries of Basic Widow's Pension is increased to Rs2,000.
- Contribution of Rs 15,000 for a period of two years under the Prime à L'Emploi Scheme for newly employed women or those who have been unemployed for at least a year.
- Setting up of public childcare centres in main areas under a PPP model and all companies employing more than 250 employees to provide necessary facilities for childcare.



Low Income and Vulnerable Households

- Introduction of a « Revenu Minimum Garanti » of Rs 15,000 as from 1st July 2023.
 - The CSG Income Allowance to be paid as follows:
 - Rs 2,000 to all workers earning up to Rs 25,000 monthly; and
 - Rs 1,000 to all workers earning up to Rs 50,000 monthly.
 - A CSG Child Allowance of Rs 2,000 monthly to be paid in respect of every child aged up to 3 years.
 - The household income ceiling to qualify for Multiple Birth Allowance of Rs 3,272 per month for a child increased from Rs 150,000 per annum to Rs 390,000 per annum.
 - The threshold for eligibility under the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM) is increased from Rs 10,500 to Rs 14,650 and that for the National Database for Vulnerable Groups from Rs 14,000 to Rs 18,860.
 - The Crèche Allowance for SRM beneficiaries will be increased from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000.
- A new relative poverty line for Mauritius and criteria for assessing vulnerable households to be established. The Proxy Means Test used to determine eligibility for support under the SRM will be reviewed.



- Rs 1,000 monthly provided to individuals who have contracted loans of up to Rs 5 million for the purchase of their home.
- 8,000 housing units will be constructed in the next 18 months.
- The maximum grants under the Casting of Roof Slabs Grant Scheme and Purchases of Building Materials Scheme reviewed as follows:
 - Rs 130,000 for households earning up to Rs 15,000 monthly;
 - Rs 100,000 for households earning up to Rs 20,000 monthly;
 - Rs 75,000 for households earning up to Rs 30,000 monthly.
- Rs 40 million provided for the removal of asbestos and rehabilitation of Ex-CHA houses.
- Households earning up to Rs 35,000 monthly will benefit from assistance to purchase wheelchairs, spectacles, hearing aids and dentures.
- A monthly incontinence allowance of Rs 1,800 paid to patients suffering from cancer of prostate, cancer of bladder, Alzheimer's and stroke.
- Type-1 diabetes patients to be provided with a continuous glucose monitor and an insulin pump.



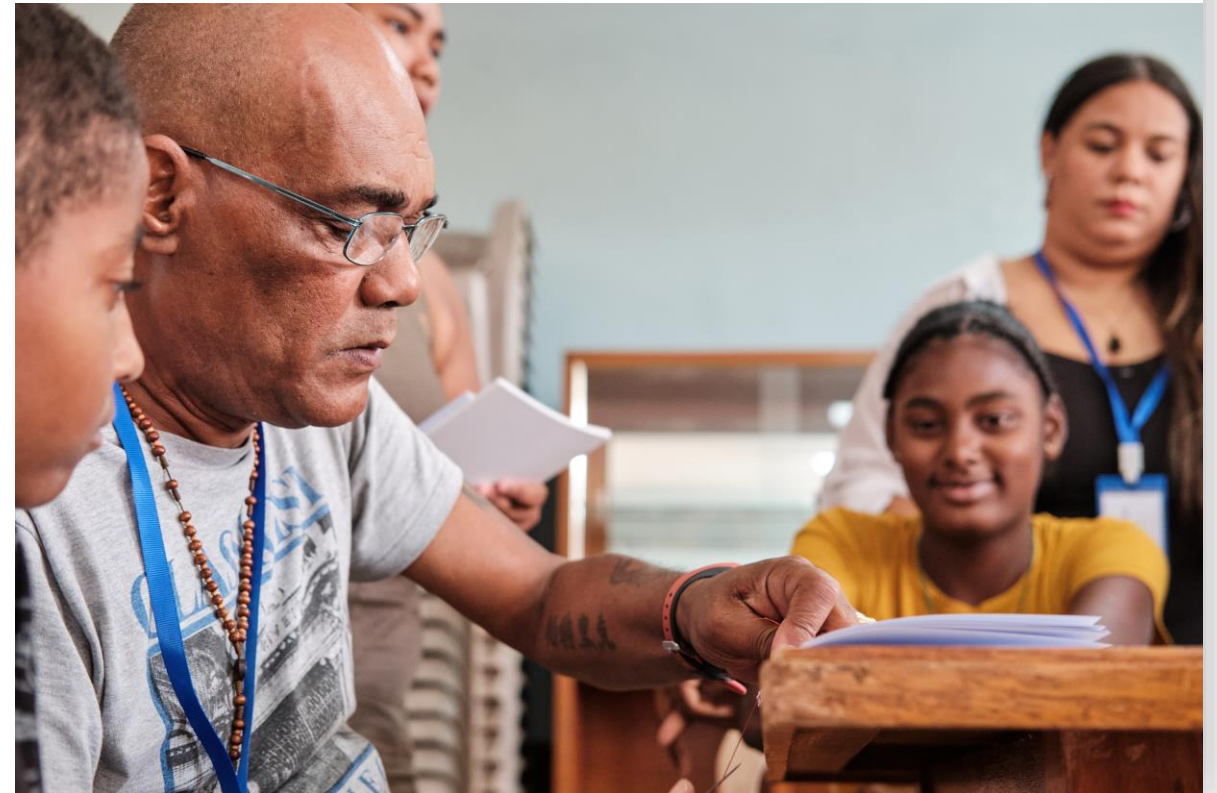


National Projects

- Rs 500 million mobilised over the next 5 years to implement national social projects including:
 - Construction of residential care institutions for children in distress;
 - Provision of a vulnerable youth programme for some 6,000 students;
 - Setting up of 2 Halfway Homes for children coming out of Correction Youth Centres; and
 - Programmes for homeless persons, elderly persons living alone and rehabilitation of ex-detainees.
- Promotion of volunteering through a campaign for 1 million hours of “Volontariat pou Moris” to be launched by the National Social Inclusion Foundation (NSIF) in collaboration with NGOs.

NGOs

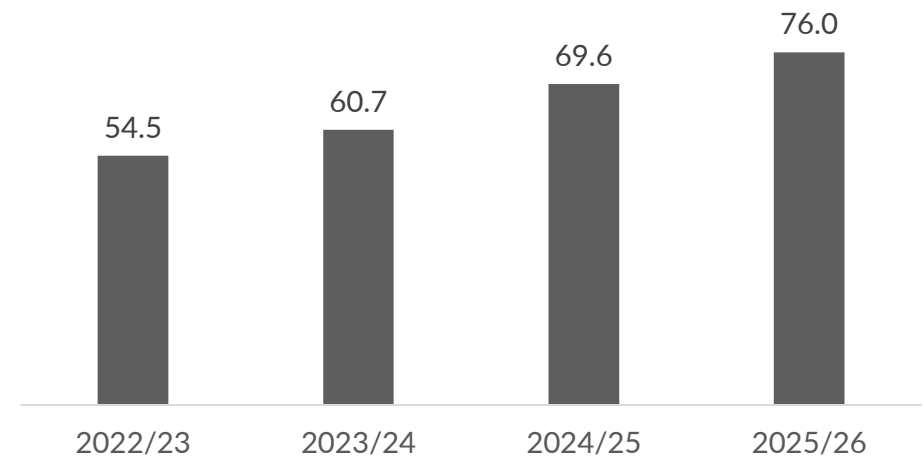
- NGOs registered with NSIF will be eligible to a duty-free vehicle.
- The provision for Grant in Aid to SEN schools will be increased by 23 percent to Rs 191 million. This includes provision made to increase the daily meal allowance for each SEN student by 60 percent to Rs 120.
- To promote good governance and democracy within Associations, amendment to be brought to the Registration of Associations Act to provide for the conduct of election of officers at least once every 5 years and to limit their term of office to a maximum of 5 years.
- Companies donating to NGOs involved in supporting persons with health issues and disabilities, protection of street children and rehabilitation programmes, animal welfare and protection will be allowed a triple deduction on their contribution up to a maximum of Rs 1 million.
- Individuals adopting animals from registered NGOs will be allowed to deduct an amount of Rs 10,000 on their chargeable income for each animal adopted.



Key Estimates for the financial year 2023/24

Economic Growth	8 %
Government Revenue (Rs billion)	179.2
<i>of which Tax Receipts</i>	87.2%
Government Expenditure (Rs billion)	200.2
<i>of which Social Protection</i>	33.8%
Budget deficit (% of GDP)	2.9%
Public debt (% of GDP)	71.5%

Social Benefits (Rs billion)





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