

INTERIM PROJECT REPORT

Domestic Violence Prevention Initiative : Community/Police Outreach and Rehabilitation of Male Perpetrators

UNIFEM TFVAW/LAC/GUY/HAS/01

Budget : USD40,000

1. Report on Overall Project

Some of the project activities were completed as described. Since February 2002, Guyana has seen an increase in crime which has preoccupied the police and even the citizens. All of a sudden the work against domestic violence was seen as less of a priority so it was difficult to plan workshops. The crime rate has seen an increase in personal violence against women. The country has more or less adjusted, and people have accepted that normal life will be full of crime and that they should be prepared to deal with other issues like domestic violence. It is in the context of this changed environment, Help & Shelter asks for an extension for the life of the project *with no extra budget*. We also would like to re-budget some of the activities.

2. Report on Activities

2.1. Hold a series of three-day workshops for community advocates in seven regions and conduct follow-up visits.

Workshops were conducted in Regions One, Two and Nine. Region One was substituted for Region Eight because of logistical problems encountered.

Sixty Persons in total attended the three workshops. Other workshops have been delayed because partners in those areas were not as ready as originally intended. In Region 6, another group has found its own funding which will allow some re – budgeting activity. We will then work with an Amerindian community in that Region. More men attended the workshop in Region 1.

The topics included

- The background to violence against women and domestic violence
- Personal myths which affect participants' attitudes to violence
- Defining violence and examining the gendered nature of domestic violence
- Understanding the dynamics of abusive relationships
- Entrapment
- Dealing with prevailing cultural trends which perpetuate violence against women
- Identifying support mechanisms and resources for people who are abused
- The Domestic Violence Act and its uses
- Learning to work with perpetrators
- Facilitation skills and techniques

Help and Shelter also took the opportunity to discuss child abuse at these sessions since there is no other space to do so.

2.2. Produce a manual for community advocates and public education material for use by advocates.

This manual, **adapted from a number of initiatives that are available in the Caribbean**, has been produced. It is also available on Help & Shelter's website at <http://www.sdn.org.gy/hands> . One feedback on the manual is that it is too in-depth for some community advocates, and a subsequent activity **will be** to produce a simpler version. We will collaborate with another NGO, Red Thread Women's Development Organisation, which has grassroots- and community-based experience, to develop this supplementary resource.

2.3. Conduct follow-up sessions at 20 police stations to discuss cases and cooperation with advocates.

This could not be done. In Region 2 and Region 1, the police attended the workshops. The police are working on a scheme to improve community relationships and Help & Shelter will work on this aspect again. In an environment in which 10 police have been killed during the last six months, compared to the only five in the entire previous history of the Guyana Police Force, we have had to restrain our advocacy to improve the service delivery to women who have been abused. However, the Commissioner of Police has indicated that he will be establishing Domestic Violence Units in the divisions and we will work with him to ensure that this happens.

2.4. Train Help and Shelter staff as group facilitators to work with abusive men.

The two week training of trainers programme took place in July 2002. The trainer was Mr Calvin Bell of Ahimsa (<http://www.ahimsa.org.uk>), who had worked on the CAFRA Domestic Violence Training manual for frontline social workers and police. The reports from the training will be available by the end of September. We are working with the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association and National Recovery Challenge. The original trainers group includes three male probation and welfare officers who have been mandated to continue to work with perpetrators. There is the possibility of including some of the content in the University of Guyana Social Work Programme and thereby institutionalising the concept of rehabilitation in the training of social workers.

Help and Shelter took the opportunity to arrange a public forum 'Is Masculinity in Men's best interest' at which Mr Calvin Bell was the lead presenter. Calvin also appeared on a TV programme.

Learning Point

We had to rethink the philosophy of the original proposal. We underestimated the time it would take to adapt the model and the availability of ~~the~~ resources to continue the work. The Ministry of Human Services **is** willing to **make a building available for** perpetrator counselling, and it has been recommended that we try this for one year before rolling out, as was **the original** plan. The model which we agreed on looks at a rehabilitation **period of longer than 16 weeks**. We hope that this **will** be institutionalised in the Government services and an unexpected outcome is the **use of a Government building**.

Help & Shelter will not be able to meet with magistrates for referral until October 2002.

2.5. Publicize the rehabilitation programme through posters and television and radio ads.

It was suggested that this **be amended** slightly to change and highlight **behaviour** rather than advertise the programme, since ~~the~~ referrals from the Probation and Welfare Department will be enough to fill the pilot programme.

2.6. Facilitate educational groups for rehabilitation of male offenders, which will include understanding the causes and impacts of abusive behavior, gender equality, and problem-solving skills.

This will start in November . The manual of standards and accountability for the rehabilitation programme and the documentation of the proposed model for Guyana will be available in December 2003.

Project Administration

The budget for project administration had to be increased since the resources (some of which are voluntary) that Help & Shelter had been relying on were not available.

Expenditure

Activity	Expenditure (USD)
Component 1	
1 Workshops (three of seven regions)	2,073
2 Manual	500
Component 2 – Rehabilitation of Perpetrators	
1. Consultancy fees, airfare,	6,211
2. Consultant’s hotel (less than budget)	900
3. Materials, logistics, for first training	2275
Impact Assessment	0
Project Administration	1,388
Total Expenditure so far	13,347

Grant Remaining – 26,653

Rescheduling of Budget and Activities

Help & Shelter has learnt that in order to achieve the desired outcomes, the work will have to be done differently. **Radio** and TV could be used to achieve **increased** awareness of the attitudes which perpetuate domestic violence.

The relationship with the police has to be intensified on the coast (Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) where the population is the greatest. Work in the hinterland regions has to include a large budget which will **cover** the transportation **costs** of participants and facilitators. Some participants **will** have to walk or canoe for two days to attend a workshop. Partnerships **will** have to be sought to do the impact assessment and **follow-up** in the hinterland regions: these could be with the regional governments and donor agencies **that** have more resources for other programmes

The budget and activities for the period October 2002 to December 2003 **are as follows:-**

Component 1 – Community Outreach	Revised Budget
Four Regional Workshops	
Materials, meals for participants (80 participants @ US\$35)	2,400
Creation of supplementary resource for community advocates	200
Travelling and accommodation (@ 60) for 1 facilitator	
Region 6 (Orealla)	500
Region 10 (Linden)	200
Region 5 (Mahaicony)	100
Region 7 (Bartica)	300
Follow up with police stations (in collaboration with the police) - as visits to stations to check on arrangements in place for Domestic Violence reports, two hour awareness sessions and establishing contacts between community advocates and the police. Target 10 police stations and all 7 Divisional Headquarters.	1,300
Impact Assessment – Regions 2, 9 and part of Region 1 And follow up in Regions 6,10,5,7, including design of instruments and indicators	2,500
Administration of this component (13 months @100)	1,300
Costs for Revised Component 1	8,800

Component 2 – Rehabilitation of Perpetrators and preventing abusive behaviour

Follow up consultancy for review of work and upgrading – 10 days in July 2002, (?) 2 days for ongoing support	2,400
Travel (2,200 from UK), accommodation and per diem for consultant -	4,100
Two training workshops to share perpetrator rehabilitation model (10 participants each)	2,500
Development of standards manual and documentation of model	1,000
Part time project management to perpetuate programme (13 months @ 225)	2,925
Production of media and ICE materials - two TV ads, 6 radio ads and airing time which are targeted at changing abusive male behaviour over 13 months. This strategy has to be worked out using lessons learnt from UNIFEM and the costs may have to be supplemented by private sector funding	4,400
Impact assessment – Dec 2003	500
Total for Component 2	17,825

Lessons learnt

- There is widespread acknowledgement that domestic violence is a **serious and increasing** problem. However, the issue still remains sensitive and the politics of dealing with domestic violence continues to **take the form of** a struggle between ‘saving family’ rather than ‘saving the woman’ .
- The community outreach has shown that non-abusive men are willing to be advocates against domestic violence. The process of coming to terms with men’s violence and responsibility for changing it is a long one which has to be facilitated. This, too, is in the face of an environment **in which** violence is advocated as ‘freedom fighting’ .
- The rehabilitation of perpetrators will take a longer time than anticipated, and requires extensive resources. While criminalizing abusive behaviour will work to bring attention to it, many abusive men do not find jail a deterrent.
- Partnerships have to be built and time has to be spent on nurturing the partnerships with organizations **such as** churches, local authorities **and the** police. This will mean that some work has to be done on establishing parameters for those partnerships and highlighting the success stories to encourage them. In dealing with domestic violence , Help & Shelter has realized that the police, the magistracy, the Government social services, the University of Guyana Dept of Social Work are key areas for intervention and prevention strategies.
- The HIV/AIDS programmes present an opportunity for collaboration since changing sexual behaviour could also mean changing gender relations and attitudes to violence.
- The migration patterns and economic situation mean that **human** resources when trained are not always available to work unless they can be paid. We cannot rely on volunteer work, especially in rural areas.