

INTERIM PROJECT REPORT

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

UNIFEM TFVAW/LAC/GUY/HAS/01

Budget : USD40,000

Duration: October 2002 to December 2003

1. Background

In 2002 approval was given for Help & Shelter to extend the duration of the project by engaging in community outreach and setting up the male perpetrator rehabilitation programme.

However, with the increase in violence and domestic violence (in 2003, 26 women were killed by men who were supposed to love them and 2 were killed by male relatives), Help & Shelter found itself overwhelmed by the demand for discussions, rap sessions and short workshops on domestic violence, in addition to its counseling, court support and public education activities.

The period under review was also one of almost continual financial crisis for the organisation: we closed our shelter until we were eventually able to obtain another grant from Lottery Funds, but as a result of expenditure to keep the shelter open during the period between the exhaustion of the previous lottery grant and the closure, our core operational capacity was significantly reduced. We then had to embark on a series of activities and projects which could raise funds to maintain our operations.

2. Report on Activities completed in the period October 2002 to December 2003

2.1 Component 1: Community Outreach

The approval was given to conduct several workshops in different regions of Guyana. However, given demand for various other kinds of awareness activities in different sectors and with different persons, Help & Shelter decided to use the UNIFEM project resources to reach a wider target audience using a less intensive methodology. Another project matched the idea of training core facilitators with other activities to support our counselling and court support work.

Annex 1 to this report lists the activities that were conducted using resources allocated to the UNIFEM project. All of the events included work on the dynamics of domestic violence, which was developed in the Public Education Manual produced during part 1 of this project. The work was done with faith-based organisations, community groups, teachers, students, youth groups, etc. This method of raising awareness has been successful. Several key partnerships

were established and sustained. Some of the key partnerships resulting from the project are:-

- **Guyana Police Force**

The training initiated by the CAFRA/IADB programme in 2000 was continued using police resources throughout the period October 2002 to December 2003. Help & Shelter remains involved in the running of the sessions, especially the session on working with male abusers.

- **Varqua Foundation - Youth Can Move the World**

The Varqua Foundation is an NGO founded on Baha'i principles, which runs a project called Youth Can Move the World. Help & Shelter has been and remains involved in the work of the project, contributing the domestic violence component to the facilitator's manual. The project has reached over 4,000 Guyanese youth. The manual is about to be translated into Khmer and Amharic.

- **The Media**

Help & Shelter used its resources to produce and lobby for the free airing of public service announcements on radio and on television. Our contacts in the media facilitated regular broadcasting of the announcements during the time under review. Specific mention must be made of the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation and Channel 2 television.

2.2 Component 2 : Rehabilitation of Male Perpetrators

Help & Shelter has as yet been unable to achieve the objective of establishing a male perpetrators rehabilitation programme. There are various reasons for this, the main ones being that –

The partnerships that were to be established with the Government and the courts did not materialise due to the lack of capacity within the various agencies. In May 2003, the Chief Justice worked with Help & Shelter to arrange a Magistrates' Seminar on the Domestic Violence Act. That seminar revealed the many challenges that remain to be overcome in effectively implementing the Domestic Violence Act.

The core facilitators who were trained by Mr. Calvin Bell moved on to other jobs, and one of the more experienced ones migrated. Despite their best intentions, they were unable to find the time to set up and run the programmes, even on a voluntary basis. Help & Shelter notes that similar initiatives in other Caribbean territories have also met with limited success.

In 2003, Help & Shelter participated in the “Partners to End Male Violence” forum (results at <http://www.endabuse.org>) and acquired a greater realisation of the extent of international discussions on ways of dealing with male violence. Help & Shelter

has therefore conceded that the plan to establish intensive rehabilitation perpetrator programmes has to be shelved, and that instead other activities which raise awareness of male violence and gender issues should be promoted. We note that these activities have to be merged with our outreach programme and education activities.

3. Revised project budget and activities

Item	Value US\$
Allocated for 2003 project activities	26,625
Community Outreach work done	4,190
Balance	22,435

In view of our inability to establish the male perpetrator programme using the UNIFEM project budget, Help & Shelter requests that the project budget be cut by US\$9,700.

We also request that the project be extended to December 2006 to enable Help & Shelter to conduct the following activities (some of which will be co-resourced with other programmes):-

Activity	Budget
1. Organise in partnership with the Canada Caribbean Gender Equity Programme and others, a situation analysis on domestic violence and child abuse in Guyana.	500
2. Work with members and recruits of the Guyana Police Force to facilitate 10 sessions on working with male perpetrators	500
3. Facilitate the Guyana Police Force in the establishment of Special Victims Units to deal with domestic violence and child abuse	500
4. Facilitate 120 rap sessions (usually from one to three hours in length) with faith-based organisations, youth groups, schools and other organisations.	6000
5. Facilitate 12 two day awareness sessions which will be open to members of the public, organisations and individuals who want to learn about domestic violence and child abuse.	4320
6. Actively seek partnerships with organisations and groups with significant proportions of men, especially young men to - raise awareness about male violence, especially violence against women - facilitate a network of 'Men Against Violence '	900
Total	12,720

4. Impact Assessment and Evaluation

The incidence of domestic violence has not abated and the almost 100% increase in murders by parties known to each other in 2003 could mean that more aggressive strategies based on broad based collaboration are needed at the macro level.

The crime rate in Guyana has shot up since February 2002. During 2004, Help & Shelter will conduct an evaluation of its programmes in various communities and, in partnership with other organisations and individuals, consider what can be done to effectively address the crisis of violence of all forms in Guyana.

The evaluation criteria which we intend to use include:

- number of participants in rap sessions and workshops
- number of persons who indicate attitudinal changes through before/after surveys
- citations in the print and electronic media about issues around domestic violence and child abuse (excluding reports of violence)
- number of organisations which take public stances against domestic violence
- number of successful interventions that are reported to prevent domestic violence

5. Lessons and conclusions

Help & Shelter has always been and remains committed to working with other organisations to deal with domestic violence and other forms of violence against women. The community outreach component of this project has been successful in terms of the amount of contact made with individuals and in the networking which has been done. We have seen for example, an increase in the number of students at CXC and university level who are doing analyses of domestic violence.

Recently, one faith-based organisation, the Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana, publicly voiced its concern about the level of domestic violence in Guyana, and it is likely that other organisations will do the same.

There are new places to work in. We have for example, found an opportunity to work with the women and men who attended the pre- and post-natal clinics in one of our Community Health Centres. We are also working with the Nursing Schools and the Hospitals to ensure that the staff are trained to identify signs of violence.

Solutions to the problem of male violence are complex as changes in attitude are required. We believe that it is difficult for a society to be selective about the violence it condones and condemns, and that as a result, it is necessary to ensure that women, children and other vulnerable groups and individuals are protected, that appropriate consequences must be addressed to perpetrators, and that greater efforts must be made to prevent violence.

Annex 1 – List of Community Outreach Activities conducted between October 2002 and December 2003 to raise awareness about domestic violence

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Value (US\$)</u>
October 2002 to December 2002	
Two day orientation session for persons interested in learning about domestic violence and child abuse	360
Participation in Youth Can Move The World workshops	120
Rap sessions with the Guyana Public Service Union, ACDA, Colaaco School, Bishops' High School, Young Women's Christian Association	150
Participation in a two day interactive exhibition at Critchlow Labour College on the themes of domestic violence and child abuse	150
Participation in International Day Against Violence Against Women activities – sessions with social work students, panel discussions, symposium presentations and media events	200
Facilitation of a workshop session as part of the Youth Elder Summit organised by the Bina Hill Institute in Region 9 targeted at Amerindian people	100
Facilitation of the session on male perpetrator rehabilitation and entrapment with the CAFRA – Guyana Chapter	60
Rap session with members of the Deliverance Tabernacle Church	60
January to March 2003	
Two day session with the Lutheran Church Women of Berbice	400
Rap sessions with the Jet Setters Senior Club at the Youth Week Seminar coordinated by Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports	90
Sessions with Guyana Police Force recruits and CID induction course participants on Working with Male Abusers	100
Two day awareness workshop with Women Reaching Out	360
Participation in interactive exhibition for International Women's Day	40
April to June 2003	
Session with Guyana Police Force recruits on male abusers	60
Rap sessions with Young and Thoughtful Youth Group, Deliverance Tabernacle youth group	100
Facilitation of several sessions of the University of Guyana's Institute of Distance and Continuing Education Domestic Violence Counselling Course.	600

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Value (US\$)</u>
Use of the public education manual in work with Guyanese Women in Development of Berbice	0
Collaboration with the Chief Justice in organising a magistrates seminar on domestic violence (planning the programme, identifying and briefing resource persons and follow up).	50
July to September 2003	
Awareness workshop with delegates of the Miss Guyana World 2003	60
Workshop at Kuru Kuru Training College (150 youths)	120
Sessions for Guyana Police Force (recruits and officer training programmes)	180
Awareness session with the 2003 Youth Can Move the World programme	100
Rap sessions with the St Anthony's Roman Catholic Church, the Grove Craft Production Centre and the Linden branch of the Women's Advisory Committee of the Guyana Public Service Union	150
Participation in an interactive exhibition at the Diamond Community Centre Ground	60
October to December 2003	
Rap Sessions with International Relations students at UG, and with students of the Saraswati Vidya Niketan Bhavan	100
Two day orientation session for persons wanting to work against domestic violence and child abuse	360
Organisation of public forum "God and Domestic Violence" as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence Against Women'. Panellists were drawn from the Islamic, Hindu, Baha'i and Christian faiths	60
Total value	4,190