

H&S/UNICEF Child Protection Project Phase 2

Project Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drafting of inter-agency Protocols for the protection of children and child abuse prevention and response 2. Establishment of multi-sector community teams for the promotion of child safety 3. Building Parents and adult's capacity to provide safe family environments for children, void of violence and dysfunction. 4. Generation of data and motoring of child abuse and CSA cases, through prudent use of protocol and child protection networks. 5. Crafting of Community Action Plans, reflective of a cohesive and collaborated network of persons working to demand intervention, protection, service and justice for children who suffer violence and abuse
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Summary of activities July – September 2015

Date of Activity	Location of Activity	Topics Discussed	Sex		Age Groups				Facilitator
			Female	Male	12-18	19-25	26-40	41-60+	
11/8/2015	Maranatha Assemblies Church, Uitvlugt	Self / Early Childhood Development/ Shapers	9	2		2	5	4	Colin Marks
15/8/2015	Parents of the 7 th Day Baptist Church, Uitvlugt	Childhood Experiences / Early Childhood Development/ Shapers / Parenting	9	6	1	4	3	7	Colin Marks
15/8/2015	Youth Ministries, Lusignan AOG Church	Self / Self Concept / Sex & Gender	15	10	16	5	4		Linda Hustler & Colin Marks
19/9/2015	Youth Ministries, Lusignan, AOG Church	Child Abuse / Child Protection & Child Rights	8	10	13	4	1		Colin Marks
20/7/2015	Lusignan Health Centre	Types of Child Abuse, Causes; Effects; What is a Parent, Effective Parenting	13	1	2	7	5		Suzanne Chung
27/7/2015	Jenny's Shop	Early Childhood Experiences, Effective & Ineffective Parenting, Parenting Tips	12	1	4	1	3	5	Suzanne Chung
24/8/2015	Lusignan Health Centre	Parent Child Communication, Parenting Tips	19	1	3	11	5	1	Suzanne Chung
12/9/2015	Good Hope Devi Mandir	What is Child Abuse, Types & Effects	10	10	20				Suzanne Chung
29/7/2015	Good Hope Devi Mandir	Self Esteem & Johari Window	7	8	13	1		1	Suzanne Chung

2/9/2015	Jenny's Shop	Risk Factors Associated with Suicide	11	1	3		4	5	Suzanne Chung
25/9/2015	Lusignan primary School	Child Abuse, Types, Causes & Consequences	27	24	51				Suzanne Chung
21/9/2015	Lusignan Health Centre	Why Children Get Licks, Punishment vs Discipline	17		5	8	4		Suzanne Chung
8/9/2015	Stewartville Church of Christ	Why Children Get Licks, Punishment vs Discipline	12	4	9	2		5	Linda Hustler
28/9/2015	Stewartville Secondary School	H&S/UNICEF New Child Protection Project	61	6		3	42	22	Linda Hustler
31/7/2015	Leonora HC	Self, Who is a Parent, What is Parenting	22		2	12	8		Linda Hustler
28/8/2015	Leonora HC	Why Children Get Licks, Punishment vs Discipline	20	1	1	13	7		Linda Hustler
22/9/2015	Parents & Stakeholders at the Kwakwani Workers Club	Project Launch and Parenting Forum	15	6		4	8	9	Colin Marks & Kevin Messiah
22/9/2015	Kwakwani Stakeholders Forum	Parenting / Protocols and Procedures / Responding to Child Abuse	13	1	1		2	11	Colin Marks
21/9/2015	Kwakwani HC	Self Shapers & Johari Window	17		3	9	5		Kevin Messiah
21/9/2015	7 th Day Adventist Church (Kwakwani)	Self/Johari Window	20	9	15	2	4	8	Kevin Messiah
21/9/2015	International Gospel Centre	Understanding Self/Johari Window	19	7	2	5	9	10	Colin Marks & Kevin Messiah
<u>TOTALS</u> <u>July 2015 -</u> <u>Sep 2015</u>	<u>Stewartville; Uitvlugt;</u> <u>Good Hope; Kwakwani</u>	<u>Parenting; Self- shapers, Early</u> <u>Childhood Dev.; Cycle of Violence;</u> <u>Parent/Child Communication; Child</u> <u>Abuse; Discipline & CP/Child</u> <u>Socialization/ New Child Protection</u> <u>Project; Suicide</u>	<u>356</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>Suzanne Chung; Linda</u> <u>Hustler; Colin Marks; Kevin</u> <u>Messiah</u>

EVALUATION

Participants Evaluation	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
How would you rate participation?	14%	36%	36%	14%	
Ask participants to rate their understanding of topics discussed?		21%	71%	7%	
Ask participants to rate you as facilitator?	7%	57%	36%		
Ask participants to rate the overall session?	36%	28%	36%		

Facilitator assessment of activities

- This session at the Maranatha Assembles at Uitvlugt had to be shifted in the open near to a culvert due to a mix up with Church keys. Some participants commented that this was a good start as people would get to see that they were serious about the issues of parenting and child welfare. Facilitator gave a brief outline of the project action to be implemented within the community and challenged the participants to share all the information made available, in order to improve the wellbeing of children and families in the community. Topics on parenting, early childhood development, self- shapers, discipline vs punishment were introduced and though the group was small, there was good group participation. The importance of reporting child abuse witnessed at the community level was reinforced by the Facilitator.
- This session was the first to be conducted with this group of parents from the 7 Day Baptist Church in Uitvlugt. The Facilitator gave a brief outline of the project action being implemented within the community. He also thanked the leadership of the church for opening up the opportunity for the project team to engage the congregation on the range of topics, which are all related to Parenting and the prevention of family violence. The facilitator introduced for discussion, early childhood experiences and memories. He further stated that most persons when they become parents reflect deeply on the way they were parented for guidance on how to relate to a child. The importance of reporting child abuse witnessed at the community level was reinforced by the Facilitator.
- The facilitator gave participants of the Youth Ministries of the AOG Church in Lusignan, background information of the project and its implementation plan within the target communities. Each participant was asked to rate their understanding and knowledge of self on a scale of 1 to 10. The subsequent discussion lead to the introduction of the self-concept diagram and self was further deepened with the introduction and discussion of the Johari Window. The discussion also included other talking points initiated by the participants as they interacted and shared. In discussing the topic of sex & gender, the youth participants seemed to have some difficulty in grasping the difference between sex and gender and in particular understanding the concept and reality of gender. Facilitator also introduced concepts of masculinity / femininity in an effort to deepen the understanding of Gender, using the Gender Box model. Gender norms and practices, and its impact on male / female relationships were also discussed interactively as were gender roles.
- The participants at the stakeholder forum in Kwakwani were given a brief background on The New Child Protection Project, project activities, implementation strategy, funding support from UNICEF and the Parenting Skills Education approach relevant to creating a safe environment for children within the community. A brief background was also given about Help & Shelter's work in area of the elimination violence against women and children.

This community parenting forum was an idea birthed after several meetings with stakeholders in order to sensitize the community on the project action and also to facilitate the buy-in and support of a cross section of community stakeholders. The stakeholders, all parents, represented various professions, such as law enforcement, nurses, teachers, business owners, clerks, regional personnel and CBOs members. During the initial engagements and visits within the community the issue of child discipline and early sexual activity was a major concern for parents; they also were somewhat reserved in pointing out that it was maybe the methods or parenting style that was producing the results which was being witness throughout some sections of the community. Some examples were shared and discussed and the Facilitator was careful to point that children were young individuals who would grow accustomed to, and follow whatever the adults around them practice and portray. The Forum's method of engagement was the use of a Power Point Presentation on Parenting / Family Violence Prevention / Child Rights

- At the Stewartville COC session the facilitator assessed that the session went well. Reinforcement of information was done to help participants understand what the project is about and their involvement as a community. Lots of clarification on issues surrounding punishment and discipline were also shared and ways in which participants could further their involvement in project activities through developing strategies on the way forward.
- At the Kwakwani stakeholder forum information on the project and implementation strategies were discussed. Most of the participants thought the project was timely and relevant due to challenging issues the community was facing regarding child abuse and child safety. As most participants were representing groups or organizations, the facilitator asked them to reflect on the situation in the community as regards child issues and the wellbeing of children. Several issues were explored such as -child sexual abuse, teenage pregnancy, role of law enforcement in child abuse case; non- enforcement of protocols for effective protection and prevention of child abuse; ineffective parenting skills. The Facilitator reinforced the benefits of collaborative action by community stakeholders as an effective strategy as they had the capacity and an accurate understating of the existing dynamics of practices and norms which they wanted to see changed.
- This was a follow up session with Youth from the AOG Church in Lusignan. Reflection on the previous session was done which gave the youths an opportunity to clarify some details of what was discussed in the previous session. The topic of child abuse was introduced and there was interactive discussions by facilitator and members of the groups on – definition of child abuse; types and forms of child abuse; children at risk of abuse; misunderstood aspects of rights of children; child abuse in the home environment; bullying; reporting child abuse and responsibilities of adults in protecting children; community action in protecting children; child sexual abuse – prevalence & impact. The “umbrella” model was used to discuss child protection strategies for making oneself a “hard target” for abusive persons to reach.
- The session at the Lusignan Health Centre was very good; there was a small crowd however they paid close attention to the topics discussed. Majority of the participant were new so a recap on a few topics was done. Open ended sentences were read on parenting and the participants answered promptly
- The session at the Lusignan Health Centre lasted for 2 hrs 15 min as they were a lot of new participants who were very interested in all of the topics being discussed. The participants wholeheartedly participated during the session and listened keenly.
- There was a decent turn out at the Good Hope Mandir, participants were asked to talk about three things they felt about themselves and they actively participated. A game was also played with on what to do when persons tell them bad things about themselves (throw it in the dust bin). All of the participants were interested in the information shared.
- At the session with students from the Lusignan Primary School, some were attentive, some distracted. The majority contributed intelligently whilst some seemed intimidated by the presence of their teachers and others shy.
- At Jenny's Shop in Good Hope/Lusignan, the session was great. There was a moderate turn out, a few teenagers were present. Everyone was interested in the topics and they all actively participated. Participants were asked to talk about their early childhood experiences they encountered with their parents and they openly shared.
- At the Stewartville Secondary School PTA meeting, facilitator enlightened parents, teachers and others about H&S/UNICEF New Child Protection Project which is currently being implemented in the communities of Stewartville, Uitvlugt, and Good Hope. The attendees were provided with programme outlines which gives guidance to the topics covered, what is expected from the communities in order to protect our children and the benefits of parenting in a

nonviolent way using alternative methods. The Johari Window was used to speak about SELF, letting them know how childhood experiences could affect them as adults once no intervention was made and how parents can transfer their unresolved issues onto their children. The parents were also enlightened on why some children behave the way they do and their role as parents to parent positively and promote behavioral changes by example. Facilitator further sought approval to work with organizations participants were members of i.e. FBO or youth group, Groups that are currently being worked with were also mentioned. The community mobiliser was also introduced as well as her role and function and the reason for her visits within the community. Finally they were informed of the community grant and the need for coming up with a sustainable project for their community

- At the Leonora HC participants were very interactive and the majority were hearing of the topic for the first time. This evoked lots of questions and was an eye opener for some. Assurance was given that the knowledge gain would be put into practice
- The session went well; reinforcement was done to help participants understand what the project is about and their involvement as a community. Lots of clarification on issues were established to further their involvement of
- The session at the Leonora HC was well received and the participants discussed and shared lots of experiences relating to the topic. The topic on why children get lick and discipline vs punishment was heard about by participants for the first time and this kept their attention. Experiences were shared and questions were asked as persons were able to identify their parenting practices and understanding now the need to make adjustments
- The activity was conducted with mothers at the Kwakwani HC antenatal (infant) clinic. The facilitator led discussions on Self, Johari Window and reasons why children get licks. Participants were guided through an interactive session on recalling early childhood experiences; discussions on the impact of good and bad experiences. Participants listened attentively to the information shared.
- The activity at the Kwakwani 7 Day Adventist Church included members of the congregation and male and female members of the Kwakwani basketball group. The discussions focused on the Johari Window, domains of development and the anatomy of the mind, components in addressing Self. Many persons were exposed to these topics for the first time and their interest in the information was evident. Group participation and interaction was good. Participants were challenged to become involved in changing the present culture of sex and abuse, to consider how they can help others rather than past judgments recognizing the negative impact this practice can have on the next generation.
- The activity at the International Gospel Centre, Kwakwani was a last last minute and the mobiliser did an awesome job in organizing participants. Facilitators made opening remarks, introduced the project and welcomed the participants then led discussions on Understanding Self, with a general focus on the Johari Window. Participants were guided through an interactive session on recalling early childhood experiences and the impact on the individual, after which they were taken through the various aspects of the Johari Window. The discussion was brought to a close with the cycle of dysfunction and some real life stories of the impact of child abuse was shared. This was followed by questions and comments from the participants.

Feedback from Participants (what they learnt, what they shared, found useful, how they will use knowledge)

- Feedback from participants indicated that parents are important but some parents act out of frustration towards children; making sure the children are safe is good parenting; setting a good example is good parenting; “ I beat but not for everything” one parent stated; peer pressure is a challenge to good parenting; The church has a big role to play in good parenting practices. Parents said they learnt that- a child 's mind is very open to learning, and they learn from everything around them; a parent is model even when they act badly around children; a childhood experience can shape adult behavior; parents need to listen and pay attention to our children. Parents in sharing experiences said that most of what they had learned about parenting is from the way they were treated as a child and one parent said he focused on religious teaching for guidance on parenting, but there was still room for more information. As to how they would use information gained one parent said she will try to be more attentive to how she communicates with her children; another parent wanted to learn more about these interesting topics as they seem very new to her; a third parent said that “It’s good to share and discuss about parenting styles, to see what is working in a positive way.” The oldest participant (68yrs. old) remarked that tried to raise her children with lots of love and they have now grown up to be respectful to her and other in the community.
- Participants in reflecting on their childhood experiences and memories identified the following: Plenty licks, Sometimes stress, Fresh food, Sacrifice, Play, Punishment, Socialization, Childhood exposure to violence; Care & attention; Suppressed feelings. The list was discussed interactively and there

overwhelming consensus and agreement that the very experiences that were part of the childhood years sometimes are indelibly etched in our memories and is sometimes reflected in our actions and reactions. As a result of the session participants said they learnt that the review of discipline vs. punishment was an “eye opener”; open communication is important for Parent/child relationships; some people are still struggling with childhood issues; a childhood experience can shape the adult behaviour of the parent. There was a lot of sharing by parents who wanted to explore and examine their personal parenting style for its efficacy. Some parent gave examples of what was actually transpiring within their home with their children, and sought clarification on a practical way or resolving some issues while other parents wanted to know whether they had really damaged the relationship between themselves and children due to their actions (and sometimes reactions). By the end of the sessions participants said they would continue to reflect on information received, would share info with other parents and felt that schools needed this type of information.

- In discussing Self and issues surrounding self, the youth participants identified childhood confidence, parent child relationships, communication, suppressed emotions & abuse, verbal & non verbal communication and physical and psychological shapers as having particular importance to them. On the topic of sex and gender the majority of the group was of the opinion that sex and gender were actually the same. Some participants were adamant that there was some difference but they weren't sure how it was defined. Masculinity / femininity were then introduced in an effort to deepen the understanding of Gender, using the Gender Box model. The participants were then encouraged to list their thoughts and feelings on all aspects in relation to the definition of sex. Gender norms and practices, and its impact on male / female relationships were also discussed interactively with the group. Gender roles were then explored with intense sharing by the group on how they viewed gender roles and their experience in their individual families, communities and the society in general, which helped to shape their understanding of gender roles. Other topic discussed included - gender suppression; effects of abuse on girls and boys; ideas that the man is the “head of the house”; gender equality; jobs which redefine gender roles; gender models in the family; violence resulting from misunderstanding of gender roles.
- The participants at the Stakeholder & Parenting Forum in Kwakwani all said they had learnt something new from the session specifying the impact of family violence; more than one thing helps to shape a person; S.P.I.C.E – the most significant dimensions of early childhood development; discipline does not mean beating; early childhood experiences sometimes stay with an individual throughout their lives; most parents don't review their parenting action, they just respond to how and what they experienced as a child. In sharing experiences their experiences most of the parents confessed that they had never considered how effective parenting would impact the child as an adult, they just followed the model which they were exposed to and hoped for the best results. One parents (a Teacher) spoke about the need for this type of initiative in Kwakwani, and said she was 100% behind the project action. Another parent shared that she would like to see a community group established to spread the work of the project once they are given the tools and a health worker identified sexual violence and teenage pregnancy a major issue in the community. Parents also promised to find ways to share and spread the information received. One parent indicated that change is always difficult, but she will try out the first step of some of the parenting tips, especially on how to relate to my 10 yr. old daughter while another person said that they will be sharing this information with a close friend who they know needs it in her parenting action.
- A participant at the Stewartville COC shared that - “yes we need this programme in Stewartville and we will work to see it becoming a success”. The participants came up with the idea of taking letters to all the FBO by means of door to door exercise and also to erect posters in the community. Participants were able to establish date and time for these activities. Another participant shared “ I don't know how serious persons are in this community but if they know the benefits of this programme and how it impacts one's life in that changes are made” further mentioned “ they should not miss not one of the sessions, I have been applying what I have learnt to my life to make a difference”.
- The majority of the Kwakwani participants were of the opinion that raising awareness of child issues and effective responses was a key area that need an integrated community approach. Core groups were identified who needed to be engaged and supported and it was agreed that the building of a network of persons within the community who can promote and initiate community action for the effective protection of the community's children was needed. By the end of the forum the entire group signaled their commitment to form bridges of support for information sharing and social attitude change.

- Though the youth participants of the AOG Church in Lusignan did have some basic knowledge of child abuse, there was tolerance to child physical abuse when it was perpetrated by a parent or guardian. Participants also said that they didn't know it was their duty to report abuse in any form, even if it's only suspected; that children bullying other children was a big issue in schools. They also said they learned that everybody has a role to play in protecting children and that their community needs more help to deal with the many issues affecting children. Participants also shared that many parents can't handle their own frustration and their children at the same time. Some participants promised to share the information with other youths, while some stated they will share with the adults in their homes. The hotline number for the Childcare and Protection Agency was circulated to the group and participants were encouraged to share the number within the community and at the same time be vigilant in order to identify children who may be at risk of abuse.
- When on the topic "Why do children get licks?" the participants shared some stories of their childhood days when they themselves had gotten licks and they said that they now understand that they were beating their child/ children for the same reason. The reasons they listed were: to go to sleep, for skipping school, for being stubborn, for playing, breaking rules etc. A 28 year old first time mother said that every time her mother would beat her she would run away and her mom would have to go and look for her, the participant stated that her mother had made some bad decisions that had affected her a lot but she promised herself that she would never be like her mother. When asked if your four year old son wrote on the wall with his crayons, what would you do? Their responses were: I would put him to clean it, I would put him to kneel down or I would lash him on his fingers. After the session the participants learnt that the right thing to do is give your child a paper to draw on. On the topic "Discipline Vs Punishment" the participants said that while they were growing up there was no such thing as discipline, all they got was lashes with bamboo, leather, broom, and pot cover etc. After the session the participants learnt that the best way to teach a child from his mistakes is through discipline because punishment does not teach a child his/ her mistakes.
- The youth from the Good Hope Mandir were able to identify quite a few types of child abuse as well as some signs and behaviours associated with child abuse. In relation to child neglect this was new to some of the participants, e.g. "I don't know about neglect, I just thought we were poor"
- At a follow up session at the Good Hope Mandir feedback was very good. Despite most of the participants being young they are really great thinkers. When asked to share three ways they felt about themselves, majority of the participants said they felt happy. Some other responses were "I feel handsome, I feel bright, I feel nice". The Participants said that they understood what self-esteem was, the advantages of having high self-esteem and the disadvantages of having a low self-esteem. Participants also shared what they thought a person with a low self-esteem does and says, example; I can't, I'm not able to, I won't, they fight with other persons, don't go to school etc. On the other hand a person with a high self-esteem would say; I can, I am able to, I will, they would go to school and they would respect other persons. On the topic Johari Window, participants clearly understood the different types of self. Some secrets were also shared from the hidden self, e.g., an eleven year old girl said that she steals her mother's milk, she curses and she fights. A seven year old boy said he hides his mother's picture under his mattress, a nine year old boy also said he steals sweets from his grandmother. The participants enjoyed themselves while learning; they also learnt that sharing things from the hidden self can be beneficial and how they react towards a person can be different when that person reveals something from the blind self to them.
- Feedback was good, participants agreed on all the parenting tips. A 23 year old father of one, who was accompanying his wife to the clinic, also joined in the session. He shared that two weeks back he had an argument with his father and raised a cutlass on him while his father raised a bat on him. He said that that his two year old son was present when the incident took place and a few days later he overheard his son telling his aunt that he will fight her and he's going for his cutlass. The father said that he was shocked at his son's reaction at such a young age. The father said that he learnt from the session that he should be careful about how he should behave around his son. A question was asked on what would you do if your seven year old child breaks a glass vase, some of the responses were "I would not beat him, I'll understand that it was a mistake", "I would clean it up", "I would ask him why he did it" and "I would just be glad he didn't cut himself".
- On the topic of suicide and risk factors associated with Suicide, participants spoke on what was on all of their minds the case of 'Kevin's suicide', what came out also was stories of several failed suicide attempts by other teenagers. A few young persons were listening attentively. Parents asked relevant questions and most were adequately handled. The participants were happy that the H&S counsellor came and had a nice talk with them and she promised to visit again soon.

- Feedback from the session with students at the Primary School revealed that the children felt that the 'Police' and bandits are the ones children should be protected from, others said mothers and older siblings. One twelve year old girl claims she gets licks daily and she keep running away from home. A male teacher said that he could see why. The girl then replied that once she reaches sixteen years old no one could stop her and if they try, she will kill them.
- The feedback was good, a 35 year old mother of two said that her six year old daughter doesn't eat healthy (vegetables) but her four year old does. She said that her four year old would constantly say "Mommy beat her to eat it", the mother said that the session made her understand that she must model the behavior she wants to see in her children. A first time father who was waiting on his wife joined in the session; he listened attentively but said nothing. A question was asked on what a parent would do if their three year old child takes his /her crayon and drew on the wall. A thirty year old mother of one said that she would take the crayon away from the child and give him/her two lashes. Another participant said that she would make him/her clean it. After the session the participants learnt that they should give the child a paper to draw on and hitting a child is wrong and that they should set rules and also explain the reason for it. One of the Doctors who came in late stopped and listened into the session. Afterwards she said that she would like to join in the session the next time as it would be beneficial to her.
- At the Stewartville PTA meeting one parent asked for H&S's telephone number. Another parent asked about how active the project was. Questions were asked as to whether attendance non-resident of Stewartville could attend the educational sessions. The facilitator and H&S were complimented on work done with students of Stewartville Secondary School over the years and how this has tremendously benefited the teachers and children and they looked forward for facilitator's continuous support
- A parent at the Leonora HC shared- "I haven't start beating as yet, and I would not hit my children after I learnt this." "Learning that our core self, our values whether positive or negative are passed onto our children is very important". Another participant said -"I will definitely be communicating better with my child now that I have learnt how important bonding, nurturing helps both parents and their children". An additional parent also said- " duplicating this stood out for me and as a parent definitely we have to do better, this is new to us and would be hard because we already know what we have learnt from our parents".
- Participants indicated that they - " will use alternative ways to discipline instead of beating", " now understand why it is important to be open with your child or children so that they will have that trust to talk with you"; " would reward (child) for good grades and for good behavior, I was beaten for lying, not doing chores as a child and now I do the same with my children", "now learnt that I'm continuing the cycle of abuse and violence and not seeing any changes. I will try to apply what I have learnt because it does make sense". The nurse in charge at the Leonora H/C shared she was happy to have H&S being a part of the H/C and the timely responses she has been receiving from our service, she also encouraged the women to speak out if they are suffering from any form of violence and to tell others about H&S.
- A participant shared "yes we need this programme in Stewartville and we will work to see it becoming a success". The participants came up with the idea of taking letters to all the FBO by means of door to door exercise and also erect posters in the community. Also the participants were able to establish date and time for the activity. Another participant shared " I don't know how serious persons are in this community but if they know the benefits of this programme and how it impacts one's life as a result of changes that are being made". This participant further mentioned " they should not miss not one of the sessions, I have been applying what I have learnt to my life to make a difference".
- Parents at the Kwakwani HC indicated that they will make efforts based upon the information received to change how they communicate with their children and their overall approach to parenting. Parents also indicated that it was difficult to provide encouragement to other parents as many persons are offended when confronted with the truth about their situations and are reluctant to accept the need to change certain attitudes and behaviors. One mother indicated that children must be beaten for the wrongs things they do. She has a two year old child who she says gets licks because he knows what is right and if he doesn't do it, he has to be punished. (The difference between discipline and punishment was explained to the parent and she was encouraged to use alternative methods of discipline. The nurses were very appreciative of the information and indicated their support in having the sessions at the health centre, they believe that it will be useful to the mothers particularly the younger ones many of whom encounter very frustrating circumstances.

- Pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist Church express gratitude for the session, indicated that he was sure that everyone gained from the engagement, stating the importance of confronting the past in order to have a positive future. The pastor also underscore the need for information and a working relationship with NGOs such as H&S, he indicated that in his outreach in the community, he has seen the need some families have which cannot be met by the church. One member stress the need for capacity building training to help them in understanding the dynamics of violence and to aid their response to persons who approach them for help. Many of the members are willing to help their community but lack the necessary skills and knowledge to do so. A few persons expressed the need for counseling but was reluctant to access same at the moment. The counselor provided some guidance on how persons can identify issues they would like to address and H & S numbers were shared with participants. Another participant said that she was not aware that past experiences can have the kind of impact as was explained and underscore her need for counseling having experienced some form of sexual violation (she did not indicate type) as a child. Some participants expressed surprise at some of the reports that were coming from the community. Generally, participants felt that the information shared was relevant and timely and indicate their interest in receiving more information. Participants indicated that they would share this information to other members of the congregation, family members and others where necessary.
- Participants were able to make the link between their past experiences and present attitudes to abuse and/or violence. One participant disclosed that he had made a decision to never separate from his children because he grew up without a father in his home and it was very challenging. This was worthy of recognition given that most men from the community leave in search of employment resulting in what is considered by some to be a 95% single parent household headed by women in the community. Participants indicated that the information shared on the Johari window has helped them to better understand themselves. The info on the blind self was most appreciated since persons recognize that there was both good and bad attitudes/behaviours attributed to this aspect of self. (Participants were encouraged to point out the good about their children that they may be blind to and not to enforce the negative messages that are daily perpetrated against their children). One participant shared her experience of sexual molestation and that she has kept her two daughters from any interactions with those family members. It was revealed that though there is knowledge of rape and sexual abuse of children, reports are rarely made because, as one participant noted – *“everybody is related in Kwakwani”*. It was said that there is an alarming rate of teenage pregnancy in the community and many of girls become pregnant are for men 3 - 4 times their age. Persons are really enraged by this phenomenon and those who are concerned are helpless because they receive no support from the police or the welfare services operating within the community. It was said that the police do not respond to reports with any seriousness and the welfare officer within the community is concerned for her safety and this hinders the effective execution of her duties. Persons expressed an eagerness for information and any resources that can be of assistance in helping them to arrest the issues of sexual assault and violence within their community. Participants also complained of illegal drugs being sold to young children within the community and highlighted that the police do very little to address the situations. Some felt that this is due to relationships that have developed between the police officer and the dealers. Some persons highlighted the many changes that have occurred within the community in recent years and spoke of their hope that the community can be restored to its former days. Persons also felt that many parents are to blame for the violations to their children and openly expressed the desire for parents to be prosecuted for violations that they may have caused or allowed on their children. It was reported that some mothers forced their young daughters into prostitution, going as far as taking them to the street corners in the wee hours of the night to solicit affairs. These young girls are used as sex workers for their parents’ benefit. It was disclosed that one parent was able to furnish her home with the proceeds from trafficking her daughter. It was also brought out that many of these girls cross the river at nights to the Bai-Shan-Lin camps to where they are paid around \$3000 GYD per night to perform sex acts with men on the site.

Challenges

- Not being able to use the space that was originally arranged for the session
- Some working parents who had promised to be present didn’t show up and when the mobiliser called, they had not come in from work as yet.
- Persons are reluctant to sign the attendance sheet and give their ages, especially the older participants.

- It was recognized that school welfare representative and law enforcement officers were not fully aware of the laws, regulations and guidelines which exist regarding protection of children
- The hesitation of some of the participants to participate in the session despite being told that they won't be judged.
- The challenges were minor for example the movements of participants to see the Doctor or Nurse or have various medical test done
- Keeping a large class of children engaged in discussion with a lot of teachers present.
- 85% of the parents in attendance at the PTA meeting were not residents of Stewartville or immediate environs. They are living at Parika, Tuschen, Vergenoegen, Zeelugt etc. It was reported the school's PA system was stolen
- Not having enough snacks for parents
- The babies at the HC were at times restless which caused the mothers to be somewhat distracted at times. Probably because it was the first time such a session was conducted, there was not much response from the group
- Because the group included adults and children, I felt the presence of the adults was a bit intimidating for the youths who were somewhat subdued.

Successes

- Though the church was not available, the persons who attended were adamant that the session must go on. They have also promised to speak to their Pastor to have the whole church exposed to the information explored in the session.
- Some church members reflected a willingness to re-examine their styles of parenting based on the expanded awareness which emanated from the discussions and exploration of the various topics
- The youths were very interactive and asked many questions as they posited their own ideas for discussion. Another session was requested for the upcoming month and the opportunity to work at other churches was opened up for the project team.
- The services offered at H&S is reaching a wide population and impacting lives
- This was the first time that this cross section of professionals has been engaged in a forum which focused entirely on child issues, within the community. This group exhibited a passion to work collaboratively
- The participants were open to examine the interpretation of beating children in the context of how physical violence is defined and its long term effects and impact.
- The children were not uncomfortable discussing Child Sexual Abuse or other forms of abuse
- The session was a success, from the reaction of the participants I could tell that they enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot.
- The session was very successful, the participants were welcoming and all the staff at the Health Centre was accommodating
- The children were knowledgeable on types and forms of abuse.
- The session was very successful; the participants listened and participated whenever they were asked to. From their body language and facial expression I could tell that they learnt a lot and enjoyed themselves.
- There was an elderly woman listening on a bench outside who praised us for a job well done. With tears in her eyes, she said she recalled how miserable her kids were growing up with an abusive drunk for a father. She said she was a coward for leaving him but back in the days they did not have this kind of support for victims.
- The meeting was well attended and the support from the parents, teachers and all in attendance was remarkable. A woman was also able to seek intervention for her adult son. Over 150 persons were in attendance. Facilitated counted 84 persons, some persons placed their children ages instead of theirs
- Success was the interaction and positive feedback from the session. Also hearing the younger mothers says they are willing and prepared to parent differently given their new knowledge and would not be abusive to their child/ children was welcomed.

- The services offered at H&S have assisted a woman who was suffering from DV and as a result of our sessions at the H/C she was able to receive help and is being housed at H&S safe home.
- One participant engaged the H & S counselor at the close of the session. There was a captive audience and time was permitted for the session as the nurses ensured all work was halted for the duration of the session.
- The objective of the session was achieved; persons were able to relate to the seriousness of the problems confronting the community and there was notable interest from persons in becoming involved in the change process.
- There was a 25% male participation in this session.
- The pastor of the church express his gratitude for the session and a willingness to support the work of Help & Shelter in the community
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Recommendations:

- Work needs to continue with this group to establish the core Action Group for the Community Action Plan
- Others session with the Youth Ministries of the AOG Church in Lusignan would be very helpful in expanding their awareness
- A room was allocated for counseling. I recommend that this space be utilized urgently with the changes being made to convert same into a child friendly room.
- The continuation of the health centres sessions are needed as there were first time mothers, mothers to be and some teenagers who need all the advice they can get.