

HELP & SHELTER
in collaboration with
WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER GERMAN COMMITTEE

NARRATIVE REPORT
1 April 2009 – 31 March 2010

REDUCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
in
Den Amstel, Good Hope, Covent Garden and Kaneville
Guyana

Project #: 5302

May 2010

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Executive Summary/Overview

For the second project year, the project team has been able to increase the level of awareness of the different issues that relate to Gender-based violence against women, girls and children within the four communities.

Summary of Project Activities

Community Educators and Community Mobilizers have been fully engaged in each of the communities and are reporting the implementation of project activities. The beneficiaries of these project activities are women, children, youths and men to a lesser extent. From the inception of the project, engaging men has been one of the identifiable challenges and this remains the same. However numbers of men reached and participating in activities have gradually increased within the second project year.

Steering Committees have been meeting throughout the second project year, with participation among members remaining constant in Kaneville but fluctuating at times in Den Amstel and Good Hope. Covent Garden has since established a Steering Committee and the members have been pledged their support to the implementation of project activities. The involvement of men at Steering Committee meetings remain at an all time low throughout all communities except for Kaneville which has greater participation from males. Steering Committees have also been benefiting from awareness sessions in Kaneville and Good Hope during the year.

There was an increase in the number of awareness sessions that was conducted during the second project year when compared to the sessions that were done within the first project year. During the period April 2009 to March 2010, 122 awareness sessions were conducted across the four communities as compared to the entire first project year whereby only 85 sessions were done. Organizations such as religious groups, literacy classes/groups, schools, health centers, community groups and steering committees benefited from these sessions.

The project team implemented a Monitoring & Evaluation and Advocacy workshop with community Educators and community mobilizers with the aim of familiarizing participants on the concepts of monitoring, evaluation and advocacy and equipping them with skills to monitor, and evaluate project activities as well as advocate effectively for change within their communities. This workshop was implemented over a three day period and was facilitated by the, monitoring & evaluation officer and one of the community educators. The M&E and Advocacy workshops were very successful and productive. The focus on group work served as an effective mechanism/tool to facilitate discussions with the team and responses garnered from these activities were very favourable, as the team demonstrated a clear and explicit understanding of what was expected of them when they are operating within their respective communities.

Community residents who were trained in Peer Education within the 2nd project year were evaluated on the progress made in the communities during the period. These evaluations were conducted in 3 of the 4 communities, Den Amstel, Good Hope and Kaneville during the months of August and September. The evaluation for the community of Covent Garden was cancelled since many of the participants were students who were preparing to leave school and were no longer available for this activity to be executed. The evaluation meetings were chaired by the project coordinator. A brief summary report was given by the M&E Officer at each evaluation meeting on (a) participants evaluations forms filled out and submitted at the end of the two peer education workshops held in each community and (b) reports on peer educators' community work plans and implementation of work plans.

As was recommended within the first project year, a four-day workshop in Basic Counselling and Training was held within the period April to September 2009. This workshop was held over a period of 4 days, August 26th & 27th, September 9th & 10th 2009, with participants from the communities of Kaneville, Den Amstel, and Good Hope.

The Gender-based Violence Reduction survey was conducted within all four communities over a three month period which commenced in early January and concluded in February 2010. Within each of the four communities, interviews were conducted with 25 residents totaling 100 residents across the board. These interviews were conducted with female residents within various age groups and ethnicities.

Peer Educators' and Religious Leaders' Workshops continued with great support from community residents and networking bodies. Even though attendance and participation was not always 100%, the quality of work that was conducted was exceptional and participants have been honouring their commitment to the continuation of project activities.

A complete financial report is attached to this document with reports on the following:

1. General Ledger Trial Balance as of March 31, 2010
2. Statement of Expenditure for the period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010
3. Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2010
4. Bank Account Reconciliation as of April 2009 to March 31, 2010
5. General Ledger April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

In addition, a detailed explanation is also attached addressing the year to date variances within the budget.

As expected, there were challenges faced during the second project year that was beyond the control of the project team. Nonetheless, to date, the project has been able to successfully implement all project activities within the various communities and have been getting the fullest participation from team, other organizations and some residents across communities.

Project Activities and Outcomes

Persons Reached

The second project year April 2009 to March 2010 was approached with great optimism and much zest. As compared to the first project year April 2008 to March 2009, there has been a significant increase in the number of persons the project made direct contact with.

A total of approximately 5116 persons, 1654 males and 3462 females were reached during this project year reflecting an increase of 3,508 persons in comparison to first year’s total of 1608. The numbers reached of females increased by 2,442 and males by 1,066 when compared to the first project year and more women and girls than men and boys were reached via community activities. Good Hope was the closest to an equal number of females (370) to males (180) reached even though this community recorded the lowest number of persons reached as against the other communities. Kaneville recorded the highest number of females (1413) and males (733) reached. In Den Amstel 1032 females and 463 males were reached for the period and accounted for the second highest number of persons reached. There was significant improvement in number of persons reached for the year for Covent Garden; 647 females and 278 males. See Figure 1(a) below.

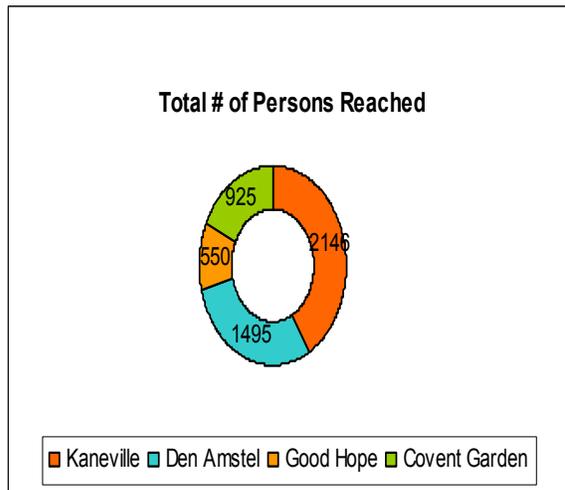


Figure 1(a)

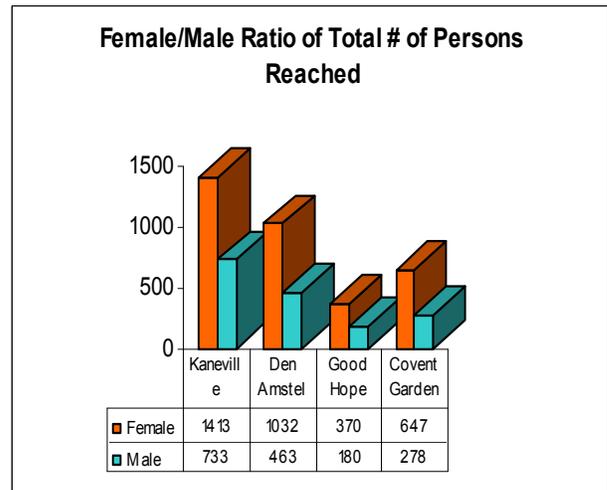


Figure 1(b)

The introduction & continuation of M&E registers for community groups made it possible to track new and previously reached persons in each of the four project communities. Based on these a total of 3246 persons were newly reached during the second project year. Figure 2(a) below illustrates that Kaneville recorded the highest number 1254 or 39% of all newly reached persons; Covent Garden recorded the second highest number 826 or 25%; Den Amstel recorded 701 or 22% and Good Hope recorded the lowest number 465 or 14% for the period.

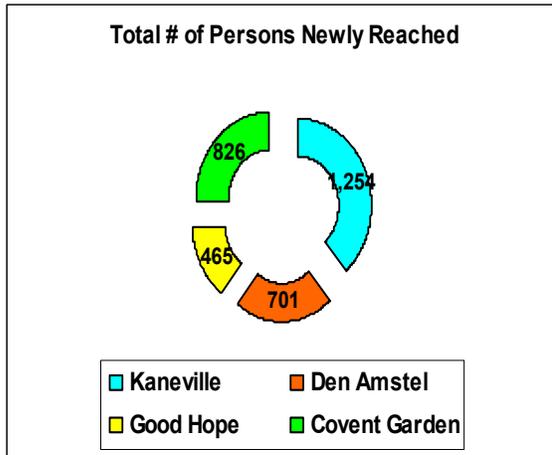


Figure 2(a)

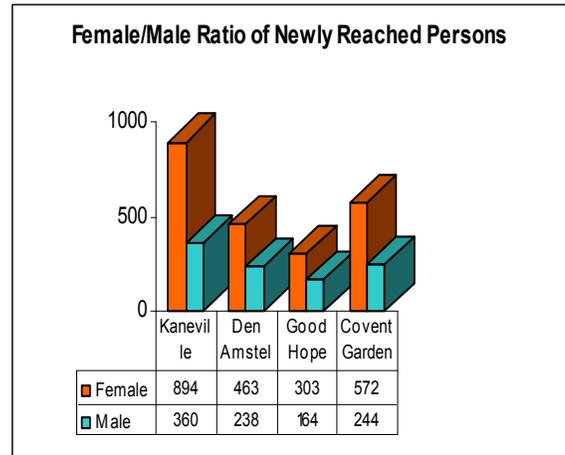


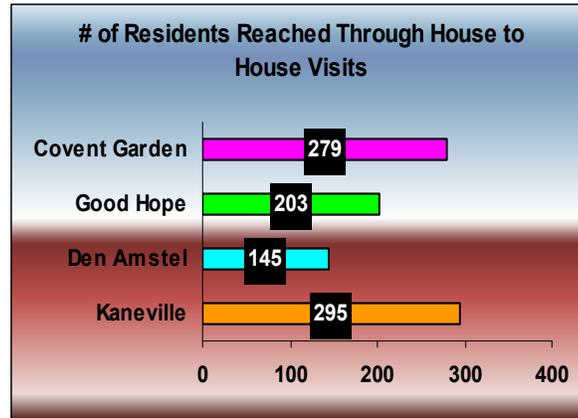
Figure 2(b)

As is illustrated in Figure 2(b), the female/male ratio had escalated significantly for persons who were newly reached during the period. Kaneville accounted for the largest number of female/male ratio totaling 894 females and 360 males; Covent Garden recorded a remarkable increase as having the second highest female/male ratio totaling 572 females and 244 males; Den Amstel recorded 463 females and 238 males and Good Hope recorded the lowest female/male ratio for the period 303 females and 164 males.

House-to-House Visits

This was used as an effective strategy to continue the process of sensitizing community residents of the existence of the project within the communities and raising awareness on issues of GBV. Through house to house visits, community educators, mobilizers and peer educators on many occasions received reports or witnessed actual incidents of domestic violence, such as child abuse and neglect that occurred within in the various project communities. Such incidents and reports have necessitated counselling and other types of interventions. House to house visits have also been a very effective way in which project team members were exposed to the many shared challenges and problems that residents of communities faced on a daily basis. These visits have also been the vehicle through which a significant number of males especially young men in the community were reached. Both Covent Garden and Kaneville have reached a significant number of persons through this strategy. Kaneville recorded the highest number 295 of persons reached through these visits; Covent Garden recorded 279 persons; Good Hope recorded 203 persons reached and Den Amstel recorded the lowest number of persons reached through these visits which accounted for 145 residents. See figure 3(a) below.

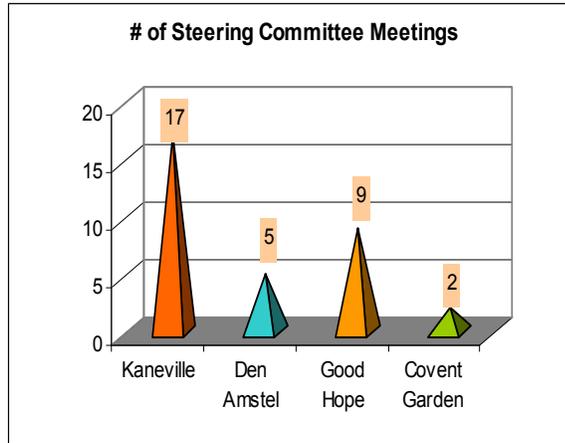
Figure 3



Community Steering Committees

The roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committees have been re-emphasized throughout the second project year. The Steering Committees continue to meet on a regular basis with Kaneville, being the most active of all the steering committees, meeting twice monthly. A Steering Committee for Covent Garden has recently been formed and residents have committed to engaging in a number of project activities to reduce GBV and enhance community development. A total of 33 meetings were held by the Steering Committees of the four communities, 17 or 52% was held in Kaneville; Den Amstel 5 or 15%; Good Hope 9 or 27% and Covent Garden 2 or 1%. These Steering Committees continue to actively participate in implementing project activities within the various communities even though numbers in attendance varied from month to month. Some of the activities which steering committees have engaged in have been the holding of community meetings, a first anniversary church service in Kaneville to mark the successful completion of the first year of the project; this formed part of a week of other activities such as a Community March, Spelling Bee for children and a visit for children to the Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Kaneville also marked Education Month by holding a church service for children and their parents, Good Hope and Den Amstel organized movie nights featuring films with a GBV focus followed by discussions as a means of raising awareness. A March to advocate for a violence and alcohol free community in Good Hope was also successful in alerting the community about issues of domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse. The painting of a pedestrian crossing in Den Amstel has also facilitated an easier pick up and drop off of children attending schools and a day care centre. Children from the community of Kaneville also benefited from participating in a summer camp where craft skills combined with religious and moral values were taught. Steering committees have also been engaged in small fundraising activities to help meet the costs of hosting some of their own activities. See Figure 4

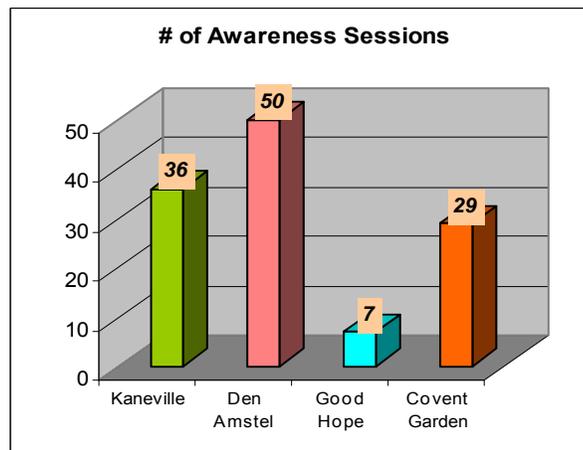
Figure 4



Awareness Sessions

A total of 122 awareness sessions were held during the second project year compared to 86 for the previous year indicating an increase of 36 sessions. Den Amstel, which is the community that has the largest number of organized groups, held the highest number of awareness sessions at 50 or 41% of the total. Kaneville was second with 36 or 29% and has extended sessions to nearby schools and health centers which also serve the residents of Kaneville. Covent Garden which held 29 sessions or, 24% was the community that registered the highest increase in awareness session (20) from year 1. Good Hope, one of the two communities without educational or health facilities located within its environs held, the least number of sessions at 7 or 6% of the total. Good Hope like Kaneville is now targeting schools and health centers in nearby communities which also serve the needs of its residents. Please see Figure 5(a). Good Hope in particular, has faced some challenges in terms of engaging the anticipated number of residents in awareness sessions primarily due to the reluctance of residents to come out in numbers to group activities and workshops. It is projected that for the final year of the project, the project team will continue to explore various methodologies of engaging these residents in all four communities.

Figure 5(a)



From the awareness sessions conducted in the four communities, there were approximately 2104 participants, 916 from Kaneville, 610 from Den Amstel, 136 from Good Hope and 442 from Covent Garden. See Figure 5(b) below. Of this total there were approximately 1603 females and 501 males who benefited from these sessions. However, the project team continues to target men to solicit their maximum involvement in the community based activities of the project.

Figure 5(b)

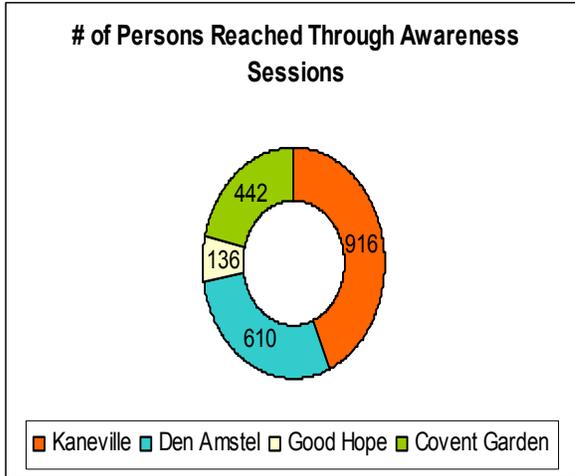
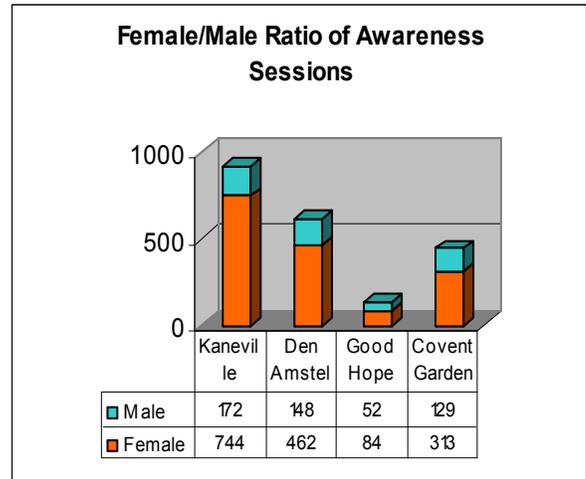
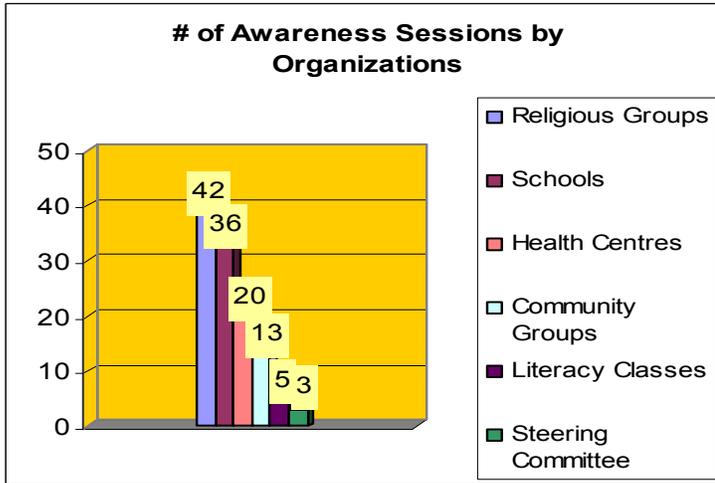


Figure 5(c)



Various organizations have benefited from awareness sessions implemented by the project during the second project year. Some of these organizations were religious groups, literacy groups, schools, health centers, community groups and steering committees. There were 42 awareness sessions done with religious groups across all 4 communities; 5 sessions were done with literacy groups/classes in 1 of the communities; 36 sessions were done with schools in and surrounding 3 of the 4 communities; health centers catering to 2 of the project communities also benefited from 20 awareness sessions; there were 13 awareness sessions done with the various community groups and steering committees also benefited from 3 awareness sessions. In comparison to year 1 the largest increase in awareness sessions took place among students and teachers at nursery, primary and secondary schools moving from 8 in year 1 to 36 in year 2, and among pre and post natal mothers, fathers and guardians moving from 5 in year 1 to 20 in year 2. Comparatively there was a slight decrease in awareness session for FBOs and literacy classes from year 1 to year 2.

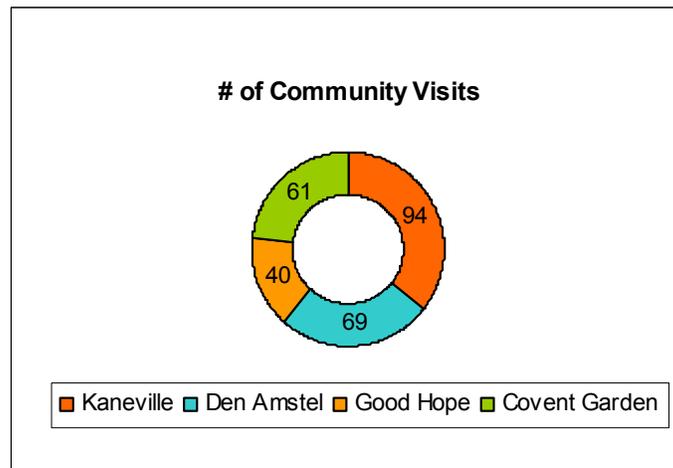
Figure 5(d)



Community Visits

During year 2 of the project, a total of 264 community visits were done in all four communities combined by community educators. Good Hope had the least community visits totalling 40. Kaneville had the most with 94 visits, Den Amstel and Covent Garden had 69 and 61 visits respectively.

Figure 6



Targeting of Men

Engaging men in project activities has been an ongoing challenge throughout the implementation of the project. However, men have been benefiting from project activities throughout the four communities. Moreover, Community Educators have been meeting men at their hangout and recreational spots and engaging them in one-on-one sessions.

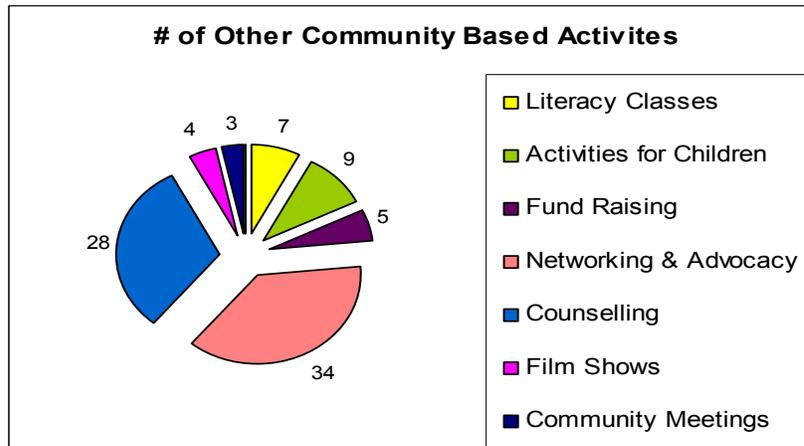
Feedback from these men has been very positive and encouraging to the project team to continue working with them.

Other Community-Based Activities

Residents have also been benefiting from other activities that the project facilitated throughout communities. The break down of community based activities as shown in figure 5 below indicates that networking and advocacy accounted for the largest spread at 34 or 37%, followed by counselling at 29 or 32% then activities for children at 9 or 10% and literacy classes at 7 or 8%. Other community based activities such as fundraising (5), film shows (4) and community meetings (3) made up the remaining 13%.

Networking and advocacy activities included two community Marches, one in Good Hope to advocate for a violence and alcohol free community and the other in Kaneville/Grove area to mark International Day against Violence against Women (IDAVAW). Both of these marches proved to be successful in raising consciousness and sensitizing residents to issues of GBV prevention. The March against Domestic Violence in Kaneville/Diamond had as its slogan ‘Save the Children, Stop Domestic Violence’ and ‘Youth in Unity against DV’. A Prepared Speech Competition for school children was also organized based on the topic “*Gender Roles do they Promote Domestic Violence*” and well supported by students from participating schools, topics were generally well presented and researched. Meetings with key persons in the NDC’s, health centers, religious organizations, school administration and teaching service, police stations, business establishments, taxi services, youth groups, and government ministries also formed the bulk of networking and advocacy actions. The community of Kaneville through advocacy actions has been instrumental in the repair of community access roads, installing of pipes for potable water and the developing of a community playfield. Some of these activities were a direct result of the M&E/Advocacy workshop.

Figure 7



Counselling

As a result of the counselling workshop, counselling of adults especially women and children has increased quite dramatically as has reports of domestic violence and other family conflicts. Cases seen ranged from the burning down of a house by an abusive and irate husband leaving a mother and her 5 children homeless, wife and elder abuse occurrences, serious child neglect, children not going to school and or being physically abused by parents, relatives and other care givers. A few cases of domestic violence have been followed up in Magistrate's Court by Community Educators and Community Mobilizers. Home visits continue in order to monitor and assist families and at risk adults and children. Referrals to relevant governmental agencies and follow up calls are ongoing in a few cases. Help & Shelter is also in the process of finalizing a Child Protection Policy for itself which will give better guidance and outline steps to take in the reporting and follow up of child abuse cases.

Survey of Gender-Based Violence

Between the months of January and February 2010 a survey on GBV was conducted with 101 women between the ages of 18 to 65+ from the communities of Kaneville, Den Amstel, Good Hope and Covent Garden. The average number of women interviewed per community was 25. A questionnaire was developed and approximately 15 persons were trained to administer the questionnaire.

In terms of perceptions of GBV in their communities 69% of all respondents knew of someone experiencing domestic violence 56% said they knew at least 1 person, 21% knew of 4 persons and 23% knew of over 10 persons. Forms of domestic violence most frequently occurring were verbal abuse 28%, physical abuse 22% and threats of violence 14%. When respondents were asked about the type of action/s abused persons in their communities take to prevent continuing or escalating violence they reported that 31% took no action at all; 20% reported to the police; 20% told family and friends and 9% moved out or left the relationship. A small percentage of 7% according to respondents accessed services from H&S, Government Probation & Welfare Services or spoke to religious leaders.

With regards to the attitudes towards violence reassuringly 99% of all respondents held the view that domestic violence is not acceptable and 96% felt that victims of domestic violence should be helped or given assistance. Across all communities 61% respondents felt that the police were not doing enough to prevent domestic violence. Law Courts received a more favourable rating with an average of 44% of respondents satisfied with the work they were doing in domestic violence prevention.

When asked about their own childhood experiences 64% of respondents said they experienced physical abuse with mothers being identified as the persons most frequently perpetrating the abuse. Interestingly 62% of respondents witnessed DV as a child and fathers or stepfathers were identified as the main perpetrators.

In discussing respondents' personal experiences of domestic violence 68% revealed that they had been verbally abused; 60% had experienced physical and emotional abuse, 46% verbal threats, 44% controlling behaviours, 37% financial abuse, 23% sexual abuse, 21% assault and wounding with a weapon, 19% damage to property and 18% experienced being put out of the house. The average for the frequency of such abuse taking place according to respondents was often.

On average 27% of respondents interviewed disclosed that they were continuing to experience domestic violence; of these 36% said the violence was getting worse, 50% felt it was decreasing and 14% said it was remaining at the same level. Twenty six percent (26%) of respondents who were experiencing domestic abuse chose to disclose this most frequently to a female family member while 18% told no one at all. Reasons given for not disclosing abuse were due to feelings of shame, not trusting anyone and feeling that nothing could be done. When asked to identify persons who were most helpful to them in coping with abuse, the majority of respondents said talking it over with family and friends.

In terms of knowledge of services for domestic violence survivors 40% of respondents identified Help & Shelter, 30% Police, 12% Governmental social and welfare services etc.

In assessing their risk of violence in their communities 70% of respondents said they felt safe as women in their communities, 16% felt safe sometimes and 13% did not feel safe. Additionally 60% of respondents felt that they was no risk of them being raped while 40% felt there was a low to high risk of this occurring; 56% felt there was no risk of being sexually assaulted, 44% disagreed feeling there was a low to high risk; and 60% felt that there was a low to high risk of being robbed or property theft.

Evaluation of Year 1 Peer Educators Workshops

An evaluation of the first set of peer educators workshops were held in 3 of the 4 project communities. The objectives of this evaluation were to determine whether objectives were met, to assess the impact made by the peer educators' involvement in community activities and to explore recommendations & requests made by peer educators for continuing work within the communities.

Peer educators were given an overview of participants' evaluation of the previous workshops and a summary of activities planned, executed and reported on. The objectives of the workshops were outlined and peer educators were asked to comment on whether these objectives were met and in what ways. The reporting forms that were used were also examined to determine their appropriateness.

In evaluating the previously held peer educators workshop, peer educators said they had gained knowledge and understanding of GBV, DV, child abuse, healthy relationships and how these affects persons but were still a bit unsure about peer education. They also felt that they had gained more confidence in themselves and as peer educators were able to overcome their shyness, speak out and interact with members of the community on GBV, DV and child abuse issues. Peer educators also felt that their community action plans were positive and residents were responsive to message shared and activities carried out. Generally it was felt that the workshop evaluation forms were useful.

In terms of challenges peer educators identified community residents wanting to see tangible things happening in their communities with some complaining of getting weary of just hearing about GBV.

Peer educators requested more flyers, posters and other materials for dissemination in communities, workshops targeting just men and facilitated by men and more emphasis to be placed on child abuse and parenting. Hosting of movie nights were recommended, formation of youth clubs and steering committee members and teachers to attend future peer educators' workshops.

Since the completion of the first set of workshop a core of peer educators from the communities have continued to work alongside community educators, mobilizers and in their own peer educator groups to reduce GBV in project communities.

Activities have included the following:

- House to house visits and one on one talks to residents by peer educators have resulted in approx. 500 persons being reached in one community. In other communities peer educators had extended their house to house visits to neighbouring communities.
- Information on GBV, DV, sexual assault, child abuse and related topics was disseminated by peer educator on a regular basis in project and surrounding communities.

- A few participants/peer educators have facilitated or co-facilitated awareness sessions on GBV and other issues with religious groups, youth groups and with school students in their communities.
- Successful one-on-one interventions were done by peer educators resulting in an improved situation for two abused, and neglected children who were being forced to work instead of attending school. Saving a young girl and another person from committing suicide using the information learnt at the peer educators workshops. Intervening in a situation of conflict between the families of a husband and wife resulting from a domestic violence offence. The husband is now back home and being polite and well behaved. One participant/peer educator was told by men in the community that she was doing a very good job and had helped them with domestic problems they were facing.
- One peer educator, who is a police woman, has and is continuing to use knowledge and skills learnt at the workshops to empower and educate a vulnerable and at risk youth group who meet at her community police station.
- Another participant/peer educator reported that she has been working on a one to one basis with parents on child abuse issues while others have said they were able to speak to friends and family about healthy relationships and advise them on how to improve their relationship.
- HIV prevention was done through house to house visits and one on one talks with adults, demonstrations on the correct use of condoms and distribution of female and male condoms as well as leaflets on HIV prevention were distributed. Older men and women were not as receptive to this information or the use of condoms. They both said that the information was more suitable for younger adults.
- One participant, who is a nurse attached to a health centre, said she is using the skills learnt and knowledge gained on GBV and other issues to counsel and advise women who attend clinics at the health centre.
- Participants/peer educators also saw the workshops as benefiting them in their own personal development and said that youth and other persons in the area see them as a positive influence and listen to their opinions and words of advice. Due to the work being done by peer educators on a one to one basis residents are now looking at peer educators as role models in the community.

Workshops & Evaluations

WWDPGC M&E & Advocacy Workshop - June 16-18, 2009

Background

On June 15-17, 2009 Help & Shelter convened a capacity building Monitoring, Evaluation and Advocacy Workshop for community educators and community mobilizers attached to the four project communities of Good Hope, Covent Garden, Kaneville and Den Amstel. The three day workshop was divided up into the two main areas of interest, M & E and Advocacy.

Objectives

- To Introduce the concepts of monitoring & evaluation and how these relate to project activities
- Be able to identify the benefits of M&E and their role in a participatory M&E process
- Become familiar with the different methods of M & E and their application at community level
- To equip participants with the knowledge and skills to advocate effectively for change in their communities
- To understand and apply the concept of behaviour change in order to influence effective change in individual in communities

Programme

- M&E- (Definitions, Key Features & Benefits, Key Participants)
Data & Data Quality, (Qualitative & Quantitative Data, Data Collection Methods)
- Steps for Effective Planning
- Planning & M&E a Community Project Activity
- Definition of Advocacy (types, benefits & drawbacks)
- Steps in the Advocacy Process
- Tools for Analysing (SMART Analysis, SWOT Analysis, Problem Tree)
- Planning a Community Advocacy Activity

Participants' Evaluation

In evaluating the workshop 100% or all of the participants agreed that workshop objectives were met and they now have a clearer understanding of M&E and its importance including the timely collection and recording of information Participants also indicated that they learnt to be more accurate in their M&E reporting and had a better understanding of the importance of planning.

One participant said she had a completely different idea of what advocacy was but now knows where to start and where to end. Another participant said the workshop helped her to be better able to apply M&E strategies in their community

In outlining skills learnt participants identified learning about different methods of collecting data and benefits of using quality data so as to monitor effectively. Participants also said they learnt that data can be qualitative or quantitative and that there are 4 levels of evaluation – reaction, learning, behaviour, results.

Through the advocacy role play participants said they learnt that advocacy calls for knowing exactly who and what you are advocating against and planning effective strategies for success. CEs and CMs also said that the workshop helped them to understand how to bring about change for maximum benefit through advocacy, including how to assess strengths and weaknesses.

CEs and CMs said that they are now better equipped to plan advocacy actions using SMART objectives learnt at the workshop. Better reporting and documenting of issues in their communities was also identified as one of the outcomes of the workshop. Participants' also indicated that they were now in a better position to plan for the well being of the community as well as being able to use SMART objectives to plan advocacy work

Workshop in Basic Counselling

Objectives

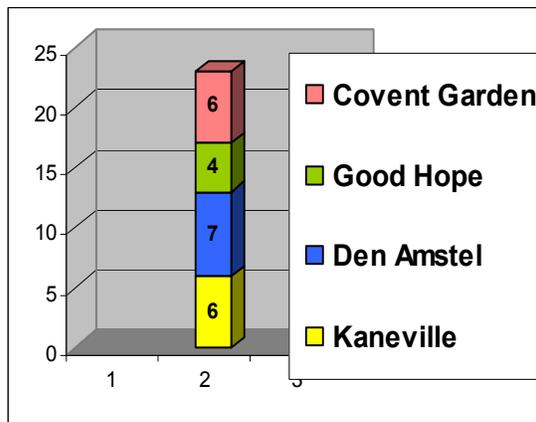
The objectives of this workshop were as follows:

- To introduce key aspects of counselling and the counselling process to participants
- To empower participants to acquire basic skills to assist them in lay counselling in their communities

Attendance

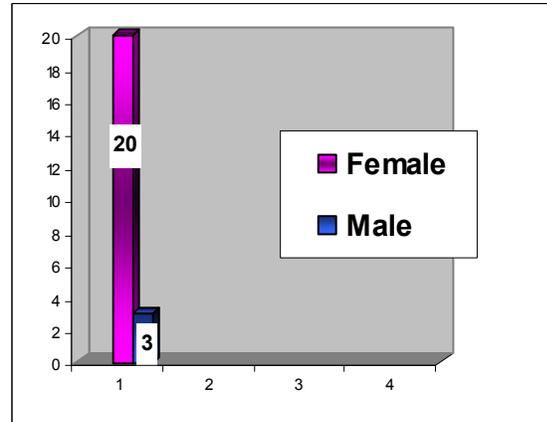
Twenty three residents (23) from each of the 4 project communities participated in 4 day workshops in Basic Counselling. The community of Covent Garden was not at the time able to participate in the first joint workshop so another 4 day workshop was held for them later in the project year. Out of a total of 23 participants, 20/87% were female and 3/13% were male. The requirement was that participants had to attend all 4 days of the workshop before they could be considered to assist with lay counselling in their communities.

Figure 8(a)



Attendance at Counselling Workshop

Figure 8(b)



Male/Female Attendance

Age

Participants' ages ranged from fourteen (14) years to sixty two (62) years.

Programme

The programme was quite a comprehensive one as it facilitated a wide range of topics including Understanding Self; Values; Definition of Counselling; Role of the Counsellor; Qualities of an Effective Counsellor; Counselling Skills and the Counselling Process all of which were done on the first 2 days of the workshop. The reception from these

sessions was very fruitful as participants were given an opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge into hypothetical situations or role plays. Participants also demonstrated great enthusiasm for working in their communities providing basic counselling.

The second 2 days of the workshops focused on the challenges that are faced in counselling and the dynamics of domestic violence with particular emphasis on the web of abuse, entrapment and the cycle of violence. An entire session was done on counselling domestic violence survivors: Change Process, Options & Consequences, DVA, Safety Plan, Services; Child Abuse was also covered in its entirety including the Forms, Signs, Behaviours and Counselling Guidelines on Child Abuse. Participants were given an opportunity to engage in group sessions where they created Plans for Community Counselling.

Community Counselling Plans

Participants committed to start lay counselling as needed with individuals, families and groups in their respective communities. Individual and group counselling for students, child inmates at an orphanage near to one of the project communities and youth groups were also planned.

Participants' Evaluation

In evaluating the workshop 100% of participants felt that the workshop increased their understanding of counselling and the role and qualities of counselors. Additionally all of the participants also said that they learnt new ideas and skills, were now better able to help/counsel persons who were experiencing domestic violence and learnt about the services available for victims/survivors of DV.

All of the participants also assessed the facilitators as doing a good job in presenting topics and found the workshop venue comfortable and conducive for learning; training materials were also found to be informative and helpful.

Between 92% - 91% of participants indicated that they acquired counselling skills which they could use with adults and children and they learnt how to assist survivors of abuse in making safety plans.

A total of 45% of participants however felt that adequate time for group work and sharing of information was not given.

Peer Educator Workshops

Seven 2-day peer educator workshops were held between the months of October – December 2009 for residents of project and adjoining communities. Two 2 day workshops were held in each of the communities of Kaneville/Diamond, Den Amstel, and Covent Garden and one joint 4 day workshop was held in Good Hope. The workshop objectives and programme followed the same format as those in Year 1.

Objectives

The workshops' objectives were to:

- Explain the nature and dynamics of gender based violence and its relevance to the communities
- Demonstrate confidence in the ability of participants to implement a plan of action for their community
- Use appropriate facilitation skills to educate community members about gender based violence and their role in promoting its reduction
- To evaluate the community plan of action
- To examine the dynamics of peer education, healthy relationships and child abuse
- To sharpen the facilitation skills of potential peer educators

Programme

The workshops were successful in sensitizing and educating participants about topic areas such as self, gender, gender based violence, healthy relationships understanding self and child abuse as well as teaching facilitation skills and types of methodologies that can be used by peer educators to create awareness of GBV, child abuse and other related issues. Issues such as qualities, work and skills of peer educators were focused on at both the first and second workshop as this was seen as a key aspect in ensuring that the communities are given the skills and support so as to increase their capacity to deliver awareness programmes to reduce GBV within their communities.

Attendance

A total of 109 participants attended the first 2 days of workshop, 80/73% were female and 29/27% male. At the second 2 days of workshops there was an overall drop in participants from 109 to 91 of these 64/70% were female and 27/ 30% male. Interestingly even though attendance was less for males at all workshops they were more consistent than females in attendance.

The age of participants ranged from 13 to 73 with the majority of participants 85% between the ages of 14-19. A decision was taken to target students for peer educator

workshops this year except for the community of Covent Garden which held peer educator workshops for students and youth the year before.

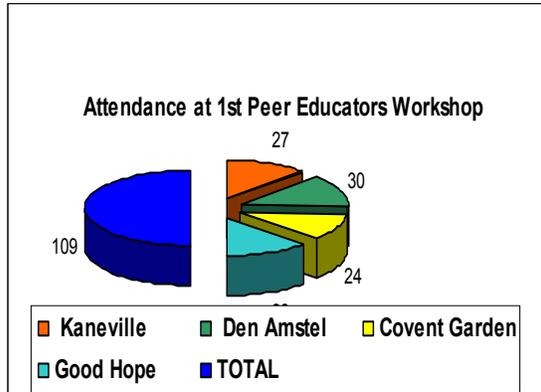


Figure 9(a)

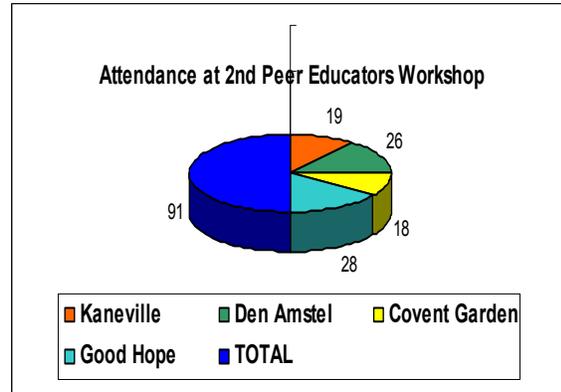


Figure 9(b)

Community Action Plans

At the first four workshops, 13 groups were formed each preparing their own plans for reducing gender based violence including domestic violence and sensitization on other related issues. Plans included community house visits, awareness sessions, research, essay writing and distribution of brochures and leaflets. Target groups identified were students, youth, teenagers and adults. Topics identified included self, gender, child abuse, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Results of Community Action Plans

At the follow up peer educators' workshops held, participants reported that a total of 375 persons, including approximately 250 students from schools and residents from 50 households were sensitized on the issues of teenage pregnancy, gender, domestic violence and child abuse, peer pressure, self, self esteem, confidence building and facilitation. Leaflets were also distributed to students and small groups formed in one school to discuss child abuse issues. Other groups focused on youth in the communities and discussions were held with both males and females on sexual abuse and assault. Awareness sessions were also held with community residents on GBV to sensitize them that there is help for persons who are living in abusive relationships. As was expected some groups were more successful than others in following through with their plans but they all seemed to have an appreciation for the critical role they can play as peer educators in the development of their communities.

Participants' Evaluation

Based on the overall response 99% of all participants felt they had definitely learnt new ideas and skills and increased their knowledge and understanding of domestic violence (DV). 98%- 97% said the workshops had definitely increased their knowledge and understanding of self, healthy and unhealthy relationships, gender and gender roles.

Between 96% to 95% also indicated that they liked the way in which the workshops were facilitated, definitely gained new knowledge and understanding of peer education, increased their knowledge and understanding of child abuse, thought their plan of action was a good one and found the workshop handouts to be both useful and informative.

Additionally, 94-92% felt information was presented in a way they understood, and the workshops helped them to understand the role of the facilitator, the entrapment process, qualities and work of peer educators and increased their understanding of how to help abused persons.

A total of 91% were of the view that the workshops were definitely successful in promoting positive action to reduce DV and GBV whilst 87% assessed the workshop venues, arrangements and food as good.

The lowest rating of 82% was given to adequacy of time allotted for group work and sharing of information.

Participants also said that they appreciated the creative way in which the facilitators presented workshop topics using drama, role plays and other participatory methodologies. They also highlighted the fact that communication and participation by all was encouraged. Many of the participants also felt that the workshop should be taken to other communities so that the knowledge and information they benefited from could reach many other persons including more males, students and adults.

Generally participants felt the workshops were educational and enlightening and well organized. Topic areas which participants found to be most useful were self including ways to develop and increase self esteem, domestic violence - learning about the different types, forms, how to respond effectively to situations of abuse, healthy and unhealthy relationships and child abuse.

In terms of improving on workshops participants identified punctuality, time management and advance notice for workshops as areas for improvement as well as more follow up workshops for themselves.

Religious Leaders Workshops

Three 2-day workshops for religious leaders were held in the month of February 2010 in project communities of Kaneville/Covent Garden, Den Amstel and Good Hope. The project communities of Kaneville and Covent Garden were joined together for 1 workshop as they are situated fairly close to each other and have less FBOs located within their boundaries. The Den Amstel and Good Hope communities each held separate workshops for religious leaders and members of FBOs.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshops were as follows:

- To explain the nature and dynamics of gender based violence and its relevance to the community
- To commit to facilitating change among members of the FBO and within the wider community with respect to the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours relating to gender based violence

Programme

The programme for the workshops focused on the following main topic areas:

- Exploring Self
- Sex & Gender
- Gender Based Violence/Domestic Violence
- Sexuality, Violence & Sexual & Reproductive Health,
- Promoting Positive Action to Reduce GBV

Attendance

A total of 42 religious leaders and members of FBO attended the three (3) 2 day workshop. Out of the 42 religious leaders who attended the workshop, 35/83% were female and 7/17% were male. The age range among participants was between 16 – 70+ years

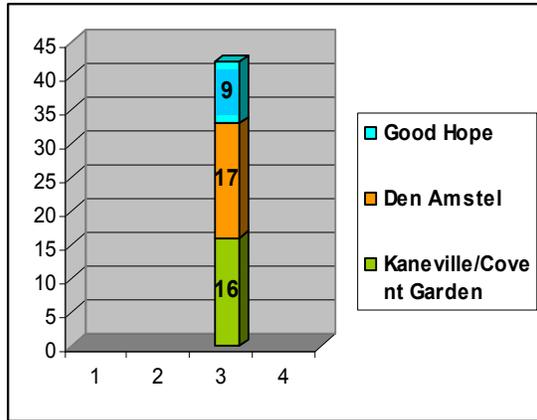


Figure 10(a)

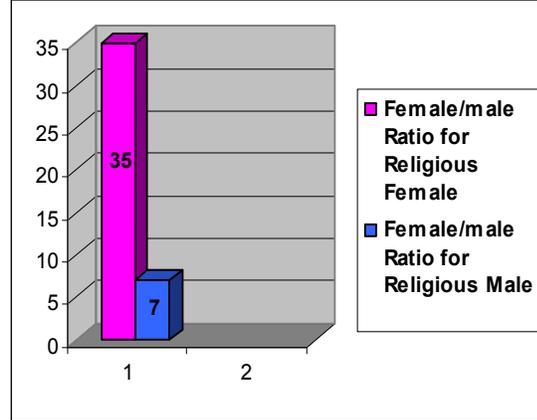


Figure 10(b)

Community Action Plans

A total of 8 groups came up with plans of action, which targeted church and mandir members, youth groups, women’s groups, residents and community sports groups. Awareness sessions, house to house visits, sport development activities, distribution of leaflets, showing of educational videos and DVDs, workshops and family counselling sessions were part of group’ planned activities. Activities were to be carried out once to twice a month.

Participants’ Evaluation

The overall response from participants showed that between 95%-92% felt that the workshops definitely increased their knowledge and understanding of self and they were prepared to give support to activities in their communities to reduce domestic violence and other forms of GBV.

Similarly 95%-92% appreciated fully the way in which the workshops were facilitated and found the handouts to be very useful and informative.

Additionally 87%-85% felt they had definitely learnt new ideas and skills, increased their knowledge and understanding of sex, gender, gender roles, and domestic violence and felt the workshops were successful in promoting positive action to reduce domestic violence and other forms of GBV in their communities.

83-81% of participants also said they definitely understood the way in which information was presented and the workshop deepened their understanding of sexuality, violence and sexual% reproductive health.

A total of 73% of participants also assessed the workshop venues, arrangements and food as definitely good.

Participants generally felt that there was not adequate time given during the workshop for group work and sharing of information as only 56% rated this positively. Community plans for action were also rated generally poorly with an overall definite positive response of only 52%. At one workshop 67% of participants did not answer this question which affected the overall response.

Participants highlighted the fact that the workshops encouraged them to be creative and self reflective in their responses and the methodology used by facilitators encouraged all participants to share opinions and views and be heard.

One participant disclosed that it was useful learning that men and women are equal in everything.

In their comments on topics they found to be most useful participants included understanding self; recognizing that one has to work on developing one's self before you can effectively help others. Other topics identified included domestic violence, the cycle of violence and the victim and perpetrators checklists- which allows participants to assess their own abusive/non abusive experiences and behaviours in detail. Learning about perpetrators and anger management, understanding the differences between sex and gender and the different forms and types of sexual abuse were also identified as being particularly useful for some participants.

Participants' responses as to how they would use knowledge gained focused on educating men in and outside of the Church. Going into their communities and helping persons become more aware of DV. Sharing, leaflets, sensitizing and teaching others in the family, community, Mandir and Church about the different forms of domestic abuse and how to address these.

Women also identified working with women's groups in their Church and with women in their communities. Counselling for individuals and families at risk were also identified as an important service which residents should access.

Participants also identified the need to first deal with personal and family situations including identifying any forms of abuse they were not aware of beforehand and trying to correct these before moving to help others.

Participants also stressed the need for more workshops in communities as many persons in society did not know enough about DV, GBV, child abuse etc The need to encourage more persons to attend such workshops was also raised.

Management and Coordination

The Management Committee met with the Community Educators on the first Wednesday of each month at the Help & Shelter office. Each Community Educator and member of the Management Committee made special effort to be present at all the meetings. At these meetings Community Educators were given the opportunity to share their Successes, Challenges, Issues & Concerns and Upcoming Events of their respective communities.

The Management Committee also met every third Wednesday for the second project year. The agenda for these meetings varied as specific to project activities each month. Nonetheless the agenda included Matters from Community Educators' Reports, the Project Coordinator's Report, the Financial Report and M&E Officer's Report. Issues and Concerns faced during the period were also discussed.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation was done throughout all communities during the period April 2009 – March 2010. The various M&E tools are being used in communities. These include Monthly Reporting Forms; Monthly Awareness Forms; Registers; Workshop Registers and Reporting Forms for Community Peer Educators.

Production & Dissemination of Materials

Brochures, Leaflets & Posters

A total of 8,527 leaflets and brochures and 961 posters were distributed during the project year.

Financial Report

The following documents accompany this narrative report:

1. General Ledger Trial Balance as at 31st March 2010
2. Statement of Expenditure for the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010
3. Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2010
4. Bank Account Reconciliations 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010
5. General Ledger 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

Folders containing original receipts, vouchers, bank statements etc. also accompany this report.

Budget Variances

As can be seen in the Statement of Expenditure Sheet, the travelling expenses for Community Educators all had a balance of G\$6,300 and G\$19,520 respectively. (See account description 7011 Den Amstel and 8011 Good Hope). This was primarily because less visits were done in some months and more visits in other months as in the case of account description 10011 K/Ville and 9011 Covent Garden which had a surplus of G\$4125 and G\$3,000 respectively. More visits were done within the Kaneville and Covent Garden community because of the positive response garnered from community residents who were willing to participate in project activities. Unfortunately this was not always the case for the other three communities, as they faced challenges in working with residents who were unavailable during specific periods of the year such as the summer (August – September) and December during the Christmas season. Some visits were also postponed due to the intermittent weather conditions.

Facilitators' Travel also had a balance of G\$4,000, G\$1000, G\$4,000, G\$4,000, G\$1000, G\$1000, G\$1760 respectively. (See account description 11000 Religious Org; 7002 Den Amstel Peer Ed; 7006 Den Amstel Peer Ed Follow-up; 8002 Good Hope Peer Ed; 8006 Good Hope Follow-up; 9002 Covent Garden Peer Ed and 9006 Covent Garden Peer Ed Follow-up) This was due to the fact that some facilitators did not claim travelling expenses while others donated the fees as a gift towards the initiatives of Help & Shelter.

As can be seen in Account Description 11001 Religious Org -2dys W/S – Participants' Travel, a balance of G\$18,688.00 had remained from the budgeted G\$40,000.00 for year 2. The balance is reflected due to the fact that there was not full attendance of participants at workshops in that the estimated attendance of participants was not 100%.

In Account description 11002 Religious Org -2dys W/S – Internal Travel, the budgeted amount of G\$2000 was not utilized because travelling expenses were not claimed for by Management team. Some management personnel used their own private vehicle for travelling hence there was an oversight in making claims.

A balance of G\$2,477 had also remained from M&E and Advocacy Workshops as can be seen in account description 14003 mainly because not all money was utilized for transportation costs for participants as some participants used their private transportation.

The Management Committee did not utilize the total budgeted cost of G\$6,000 for travelling to Den Amstel, Good Hope and Covent Garden. This could not have always been possible because not all the committee members were available to make visits to communities at the specified times community activities were implemented, hence the underutilization of funds. (See account descriptions 7000 Den Amstel, 8000 Good Hope and 9000 Covent Garden)

Account description 13001 Pub Ed – Photo Handouts shows that there is a year to date balance of G\$14,889 & in account description 13002 Pub Ed show that there is a surplus expenditure of G\$18,000 on Photo Leaflets These figures are a representation of the decision the Management Committee made to print more Photo leaflets as it was seen as an effective tool and has a greater impact in area of Public Education as compared to the Photo Handouts which were only distributed in training sessions/workshops held.

Unfortunately, the project team found it challenging to identify a suitable mobilizer who was willing to conform to duties and responsibilities for the post in the Covent Garden community thereby lengthening the process of selection and appointment. Moreover, a suitable community mobilizer was identified and had only been appointed in December 2009, therefore from the period April to November 2009, there was no work done by the community mobilizer which resulted in the balance of G\$13,000. (See account description 9012 Covent Garden Mobilizer Stipend)

During the second project year, the project team also experienced the challenging of identifying and appointing a community educator for the Covent Garden community. However, two existing community educators agreed to function in the post of “Joint Community Educator” for the community until a suitable person was selected and appointed. This agreement was in effect from May to October 2009, when one of the two community educators gave up the post. During the period of November to December only one community educator was functioning within the community. Therefore payments were only made to one community educator (which is half the fees) In January 2010, another person was identified and appointed to fill the post of Joint Community Educator and is currently holding this post. (See account description 9010 Covent Garden Community Ed Fees)

Contingency fees had a surplus of expenditure of G\$4,154 as this was used to offset some expenses for the assessment of gender-based violence survey. (See account description 15001) Moreover, Help & Shelter has agreed to utilize the administrative costs allocated to them to facilitate the payment of fees’ increases and other administrative costs towards the German Project.

Successes

All project activities are being implemented in the four communities. Community members are becoming aware of project activities and have given their support thereinafter.

Some of the major successes during second project year are as follows:

1. There has been a significant increase in the number of house-to-house visits as is seen in Figure 3, hence a larger number of community members have been reached during the period.
2. The Steering Committee of Kaneville has been able to formalize the group and is now registered under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports as “Kaneville Development Group”.
3. As a result of the first workshop for religious leaders the project has been successful in reaching and maintaining contact with key members of the Hindu religious community in Good Hope.
4. The Steering Committee for Covent Garden has been formed even though few in number and members are engaging in some project activities.
5. The Community Mobilizer for Covent Garden has been appointed and has since been engaging fully in project activities.

Challenges

As expected, this year was not without its challenges some of these being:

1. Neutral and adequate places to hold meetings, the community of Kaneville is particularly disadvantaged by this as the Church building in which meetings were normally held has been affected by internal Church problems.
2. Power failures and flooding in communities have affected the delivery of activities
3. Maintaining and keeping the interest and ability of peer educators to carry out voluntary/ non paying work on a regular basis. Due to financial and family time constraint it has been difficult for many community residents to engage in voluntary work for the project.
4. Implementing a strategy for more male involvement including awareness sessions for male only facilitated by men. Some men are somewhat reluctant to engage in project activities, hence only a small number have been reached and were engaged in these activities.
5. Strengthening and building capacity of steering committee members to better implement and sustain project activities. In some communities, the project team faces the challenge of retaining the interest of community residents in project activities since some residents are more concerned with developing the physical infrastructure of the community rather than committing to behaviour changes as it relates to reducing gender-based violence within their communities.