

HELP & SHELTER

USAID/Guyana HIV/AIDS Reduction & Prevention Project (GHARP)

Final Report for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 September 2006

Project Title: Training Advocacy on HIV/AIDS and Domestic Violence

I. Executive Summary

The major activities implemented for the period July 1, 2006 to September 30, 2006 were:

- one on one peer education through face to face and hotline counseling
- the delivery of behaviour change communication messages on - abstinence, abstinence and/or be faithful and other prevention messages through one on one peer counseling
- Referrals for other HIV related services which included HIV counseling and testing, STI treatment and other related services to our face to face clients
- Distribution of BCC materials such as posters, brochures and condoms through one on one peer counseling sessions and other public education activities
- Counselling supervision on a monthly basis
- Broadcast of Public Service Announcements (PSA's) on television stations and radio. Our PSA's focus on issues of domestic violence, child abuse, links between HIV/AIDS domestic violence and child abuse, our Shelter for battered women and their children and our counseling services.

Help & Shelter is satisfied with our results over the three month period as we counselled a total of four hundred and seventy nine persons, and delivered behavioural change communication message to them. We are also pleased to see that our after hours and weekend hotline counseling service is being accessed by relatively few, in comparison to our face to face service, but increasing numbers.

The bulk of our referrals are to other services as most of our clients are victims of domestic violence, child abuse or related areas and do not come for specific HIV/AIDS counseling or testing services. However we do have a few HIV positive persons who are clients and who we see from time to time. With all our child sexual abuse cases we routinely stress that HIV and STI testing be done and, if this has not been done will refer client for such tests. However if this is not reflected in our data for this period it is that such clients have already had such test done previously.

Our BCC materials continue to be distributed in two ways from our counsellors to clients and to the public in general through other public education activities.

Counseling supervision continues on a monthly basis and gives our counsellors the opportunity to discuss difficult or challenging cases and get, if needed, assistance in dealing with such cases. Training in enhancing counseling skills among our counsellors is also done at these monthly meeting etc

The Broadcast of our Public Service Announcements (PSA) is an important part of our project as it increases awareness of domestic violence and child abuse and their links to HIV/AIDS while at the same time advertises the services of Help & Shelter which includes our Shelter for battered women, our twenty four (24) hour hotline counseling service and our face to face counseling services.

Help & Shelter has over the years placed emphasis on the usefulness of data collection and has a system in place which collects and analyses client and perpetrator data on a monthly basis. In addition to this counseling data is also collected as well as data on our court support cases.

II. Description of Subproject

A. Background

Help & Shelter's target group are adult women, youth and adult men. According to our crisis service data for the period July- August 2006 the majority of our clients (target group) are adult women is in the twenty (21) to forty (40) age group. Physical spousal abuse is the main reason for our clients seeking our services followed by alcohol and or drug related spousal abuse. We also see a fair number of non spousal/ intra family abuse also and non

physical spousal abuse. Below is a chart which outlines some client data collected by Help & Shelter on types of abuse and numbers. Figures of course reflect only information on new clients seen for the three month period July-September.

Client Data - Types of Abuse and Numbers

Type of Abuse	Physical	Alcohol/Drug related	Non Physical	Sexual
Spousal abuse	65	44	17	
Intra/Family Abuse	13		6	
Child Abuse	3		1	5
Rape (children)				8
Rape (adults)				1

Most of our clients reside in the county of Demerara which includes Georgetown but we have also seen a few clients from Bartica, Berbice, and the Essequibo areas. The majority of our clients described their employment status as housewives or full time employed.

B. Scope of Work

Help & Shelter's work plan for July 1 – September 30, 2006 had six main components to it:

1. To continue the provision of face to face counseling & the provision of HIV/AIDS educational services Monday – Friday from 8am to 4.30 pm to walk in clients.
Assessment and analysis of our counseling services through the use of a short questionnaire which clients will be asked to fill out.
Provision of educational materials on domestic violence, child abuse, sexual abuse and HIV/AIDS
2. To continue the provision of hotline counseling by ensuring that hotline services are available 24/7.
3. To continue the provision of court support counseling which includes giving guidance to clients on how the court process works, preparing clients for court and attending court sessions with them. As most of our court support clients are children who have been sexually abused, exposure to HIV/AIDS is a major issue and we encourage testing through our referral system with the GUM clinic
4. To continue the provision of referral services through agencies such as the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic (protection orders under the Domestic Violence Act), the Ministry of Labour, Human Services & Social Security (welfare assistance), the GUM Clinic and other NGO's (medical and social service to persons who have HIV/AIDS, and other agencies governmental and non-governmental
5. Project Coordination
The project activity essentially involves the operation of counsellors, a monitoring & evaluation officer, counseling supervisor, the accounting officer and project coordinator.
The project is therefore coordinated through the functions of the project coordinator who through direct supervision, reporting and feedback mechanism and intervention is able to ensure that the relevant project activities are appropriately carried out in accordance with the required time frame and cost schedule.
6. Data collection, storage & reporting to GHARP
The collection and compilation of data information on all persons seeking our services is done on a monthly basis by the accounting officer. This information is added to the statistical data for storage on the hard drive, on hard copy and the flash drive.
The monitoring and evaluation officer is responsible to collect, compile and prepare all reports for the various activities under each sub-project to submit to GHARP before the eight of the following month.

III. Subproject Implementation

A. Results

One on One Face to Face Counselling

A total of four hundred and seventy nine persons benefited from face to face and hotline services for the above period. Our client base continued to grow as one hundred and sixty new clients received counseling and other services including behavioural change messages on abstinence, abstinence and/or be faithful and other related messages. Print materials such as brochures with HIV/AIDS information and others with information on domestic

violence, child abuse and sexual abuse were also given to clients.. Added to this we also counselled a total of three hundred and nineteen repeat clients who also benefited from BCC messages and information materials referred to. Repeat clients are clients who continue to access the services of Help & Shelter on a continuing basis. This gives us an opportunity to continue to monitor and help in the process of change of our clients over a period of time.

Activity	Total No. of Persons Reached	New clients	Repeat clients
Face to Face & Hotline Counselling	479	160	319

Client assessment of our face to face counselling services has not worked as anticipated in our workplan.

Our clients at Help & Shelter fall into the categories of youth, adult women and adult men. Unfortunately we only have a breakdown of numbers by these categories for the months of August and September. Likewise data on BCC messages are available for the months of August and September only as outlined by the monthly monitoring tool. The table below shows a total of fifty one (51) males and two hundred and eighty two (282) persons were counseled and received BCC messages. A breakdown by categories is outlined in the table below

Category	M	F
Youths	20	76
Adult Men	31	
Adult Women		206
Total	51	282

Hotline Counselling

Our hotline services were extended as four new hotline counsellors are presently receiving a stipend for after hours and weekend hotline counseling. We believe that our after hours and weekend counseling calls are not as frequent as the need is but we recognize that many persons might not be aware of this service as yet.

Hotline Calls

Month	No. of Calls			
July	27			
August	20			
September	24			
Total	71			

Court Support Counselling

Court support counseling client numbers are included in the totals for face to face counselling, however in addition to counseling at Help & Shelter, court support counsellors also attended court sessions seventy (70) times during the month July-September, 2006.

Court Support Attendance

Month	Times Attended
July	20
August	0
September	50
Total	70

Referrals

As indicated in the workplan referrals were done to a number of agencies for the period July-September 2006

Referrals

Month	No. of Referrals
July	53
August	58
September	27
Total	138

Informational materials distributed including brochures on HIV/AIDS messages were distributed as follows:

Distribution of Materials

Month	Brochures	Posters	Total
July			2,780
August	85	36	121
September	118	51	169

Data Collection

Data collection continues to be collected and stored on a monthly basis for the purposes of dissemination to persons seeking such information and also to agencies such as the Documentation Centre, the Bureau of Standards and the Ministry of Labour, Human Services & Social Security and other contact persons in outlying regions.

Collection of data by our counsellors on the number of persons reached through one on one peer education and BCC messages etc for GHARP's monthly monitoring tool has also been on going for the months August and September 2006.

Public Service Announcements

Public Service announcements (PSA's) were aired on eleven (11) television stations which cover television audiences in regions 2,3,4,5,6,7,and 10. Our PSA's focus on issues of domestic violence, child abuse HIV/AIDS and domestic and child abuse , the Shelter, and our counseling services. Our PSA/s were also aired on two (2) radio stations.

TV Schedule for PSA's

TV Station	No. of Spots			
VCT 28	18			
CNS 6	29			
MTV 65	37			
RBS 13	55			
GWTV 2	26			
NCN 11	19			
HBTV 9	19			
TARZIE (Bartica)	41			
LRTV (Berbice)	24			
RCA (Essequibo)	24			
WHRM 7	17			
TOTAL	309			

In addition to the above two hundred and forty eight (248) thirty seconds PSA's spots were aired on the radio.

C. Constraints

In August Help & Shelter and our counsellors received the new tool 'Prevention Programs Activity Log and training on how to use it which has helped us to more accurately report on a monthly basis.

We have not managed to receive feedback on the quality of our counseling services from our walk in clients due to unwillingness of clients to fill out the evaluation from tiredness at the end of a counselling session or their state of mind due to the nature of the abuse. We plan however to once again examine this area to improve our ability to evaluate our counseling service.

D. Management

During the reporting period one part-time counselor resigned and was replaced by a full time counselor who worked for one (1) month

Apart from this there has been no change in staffing, budget and sub- project duration between the original subproject document and actual project implementation

The key staff who worked on the project are as follows:

Full-time counsellors – 2
Part-time counsellors – 2
Supervisor – 1
Finance officer-1
Monitoring & Evaluation officer -1
Project coordinator -1

IV. Lessons Learned/Recommendations

One of the important lessons learnt by the executing agency is that there is need for expansion in networking with other organizations as it relates to HIV/AIDS for the benefit of our clients. Another lesson learnt from the experience implementing the sub-project was that collaboration must be maintained with the government departments such as the Ministry of Labour, Human Services & Social Security, the Women Affairs Bureau, the Guyana Police Force and the Judiciary, to ensure effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act.

V. Materials/Products

No materials or products were produced during the reporting period.