

UN WOMEN MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE - CARIBBEAN

Narrative Report Format to be followed in all UN Women partnerships, unless otherwise stated

1. Project Title & Number. Public Education & Counselling Project, BAR/PCA/14UNWOMEN/03
2. Reporting Period / Implementing Agency / Country. October to December 2015, Help & Shelter, Guyana
3. **Project Outcome.**
 - Increased capacity of communities to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and child abuse in communities;
 - Changed attitudes and behaviours in communities in relation to gender-based violence and child abuse;
 - Survivors/victims of gender-based violence and child abuse are empowered to develop necessary coping skills, access support services and build confidence and self-esteem so as to rebuild lives free from violence and the threat of violence.
4. Progress Under the Reporting Period: Brief description of project activities **undertaken during the reporting period**

COUNSELLING & PUBLIC AWARENESS

The counselling(face-to-face and hotline) activities started from the 1st July with four counsellors working 75% of their time on an average of 3.5 days per week with 2 doing court support and 2 doing face-to-face and hotline. During this period one of the face-to-face counsellors is on two months of no pay leave that will extend until mid-May when she will resume duty. This will give the other counsellors the opportunity to work full time and receive their full time fees.

Public awareness outreach activities were conducted with 3 facilitators and 2 mobilizers. in the following communities : Goed Intent Wales, Canal # 2 Polder, Belle West, Vive-la Force and Parfaite Harmonie.

5. Challenges and Opportunities:

The facilitators are still faced with challenges such as difficulty in mobilizing people, cancellation of discussion sessions and a low attendance rate evident at both workshops and discussion sessions. The counsellors are also faced with a low number of clientele visiting the Crisis Service Centre during this period, but the opportunity still exists for participants to attend and visit the office at their convenience. The number of hotline calls was very low in February and none was received in January and March 2015.

6. Results: In this section, describe the actual results (outputs and outcomes) of the project.

COUNSELLING

Output Indicators

360 persons were provided with counselling and referral services.

Results

- During the period October to December 2014, a total of 65 clients, 56 adult women and 9 adult men received face to face, hotline and court support counselling services.
- Within the same period a total of 10 children, 8 girls and 2 boys also received face to face counselling services.
- A total of 35 referrals were made for clients with those for legal aid & court services topping the list. Other referrals made were to the police, probation & welfare services and various employment agencies.
- Court support services, including counselling, attending court hearings and educating clients and family members about court processes, rules and procedures benefitted 10 clients all of whom were adult women.
- In addition, 7 women and 10 of their dependent children were also referred to H&S Ixora Shelter for battered women through Help & Shelter's Crisis Centre.

Project Outcomes

- ❖ Survivors/victims of gender-based violence and child abuse are empowered to develop necessary coping skills, access support services and build confidence and self-esteem so as to rebuild their lives free from violence and the threat of violence.

Results

- Through face to face and hotline counselling clients were able to understand the nature and dynamics of domestic violence and were able to access the required services with the support of our counsellors. Specifically, clients suffering from trauma were helped to understand how stress and trauma affect individuals physically and psychologically. Clients were enlightened concerning the issues of stress and anger management and the techniques to be employed so as to better cope with the difficulties of living in and eventually leaving abusive relationships. Clients were also educated on various aspects of healthy relationships and the building of self-esteem and self-confidence to safeguard against accepting abusive behaviours, staying in abusive relationships or even perpetrating abusive behaviours.
- Many clients were also helped with getting appropriate protection from key service providers through referrals to free legal services, Court, Police, shelter services, social welfare, employment, child care & protection services. Work on healthy eating, family planning, parenting, drug use and abuse, alcohol use and abuse, STI/HIV, child neglect and bereavement were carried out with Ixora

clients. Clients were also referred for HIV counselling and testing, for CT head scans and one client was even assisted in re-adjusting to using her right hand as she had lost the other due to IPDV. Children accompanying their mothers to the Ixora are able to continue their schooling through transfers to nearby schools in the neighbourhood of the shelter.

- Individual and group counselling services for men by male facilitator/counsellors were found to be successful not only for male domestic abuse survivors, but also for male perpetrators of domestic abuse. Court support counsellors were able to guide clients through diverse court procedures thereby helping them to resolve court matters successfully. As a result of court support counsellors' participation in a capacity building workshop on the Domestic Violence Act convened for magistrates by the Chancellor of the Judiciary and funded by UN Women; Magistrates have been referring domestic violence cases to Help & Shelter for counselling. Clients often expressed appreciation of the counselling services and support they received from Help & Shelter.
- A total of 73% of all adult female face to face clients and 66% of all adult male clients experienced some form of spousal abuse with physical abuse being the most prevalent for females and physical and non- physical being the most prevalent for males. Intra family abuse was experienced by 27% of female face to face clients and 33% of male clients with psychological and non- physical being the most prevalent among females and psychological being most prevalent among males. One (1) female experienced intra family rape. Among hotline callers spousal and intra family abuse were evenly distributed.
- The majority of adult court support clients were survivors of domestic violence pursuing assault charges, Domestic Violence Act protection orders and maintenance orders. Out of the 5 new court support cases, one defendant was sentenced to 2 months for assault of adult client. One (1) DVA interim protection order was granted together with one (1) final DVA protection order. In one case, arrears for child maintenance were paid up and the matter was dismissed. In another case, however, the defendant pleaded guilty to an abusive language charge and was fined \$5000. Additionally, 2 cases were dismissed. In one of those 2 cases, the clients completed their counselling sessions at H&S, so the Magistrate dismissed their case. In the other case, client did not show up for Court and matter was dismissed. The majority of court support cases are still continuing as Courts in Guyana are notorious for being very slow in completing these matters.

Below are a few examples of some of the cases dealt with by counsellors during this reporting period and their outcomes.

- A female client found herself in a relationship with a married man for whom she bore 2 children. She wanted to escape from him and the physical, financial and psychological abuse that she was subjected to. In fact, she was not allowed to work, have friends or go anywhere and was kept in total isolation. She finally came to H & S with the assistance of her friends. Client was able to access the shelter with her 2 children.

- A female client who was referred from a community on the West Bank of Demerara said that she had some difficulty communicating with persons at all levels and blamed herself for not being able to maintain any intimate relationship. After 4 counseling sessions client was able to be less fearful and able to be more confrontational, was more self -confident and has set plans and goals for her future.
- COURT; Client who has an affiliation matter regarding the seeking of increase in child maintenance was guided by counselor in preparing her list of relevant expenses for supporting her child. This she will have ready for her trial to prove her need for the financial increase in this matter.
- A client's ex-partner stabbed her several times in her head and he was charged and placed before the Court for attempted murder. He was remanded to prison. Subsequently, he was released on bail and thereafter he began stalking her at workplace and at her mother's home. The client was very fearful for her life and returned to the counsellor seeking advice. She was counselled on DV information and options that are available for her protection. The client decided to apply for a protection Order and access H&S shelter, and therefore she is safe from further harm to her life. In addition, the client is presently receiving court support.
- A client has been married for two years, but she and her husband have been together for seven years. Client said that from the very beginning of the relationship, her partner physically abused her and is unfaithful. Client had sought the intervention of her pastor, but to no avail. Client is fed up with the situation and therefore came to H&S seeking advice and intervention for herself and partner. Client was counselled on DV information and options that are available to her to deal with the situation. Client said that she would like both herself and husband to receive counselling, and therefore a letter was sent out requesting his participation in the exercise.
- A female client in a relationship with a married man with whom she got 2 children, wanted to escape from the physical, financial, and psychological abuse she was being subjected to. Clients said she was not allowed to work, have friends or go anywhere and lived in total isolation. She finally came to H & S with the assistance of her friends. Client was able to access the shelter with her 2 children

The table below represents a monthly figure of clients reached:

Nature of activities	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total
Hotline	0	2	0	2
Repeat clients	38	38	27	93
Client referrals	21	10	4	35
New clients seen	29	15	22	66
Court support	21	19	24	64

Non client referrals	2	0	2	4
Women referred to shelter	3	3	6	12
Children with their mothers	4	6	8	18

Public Awareness in identified Communities- Output indicators

Estimated 1800 persons (1300 women and girls 500 men and boys) in communities directly and indirectly reached through community social mobilization efforts focused on the prevention of gender based violence and child abuse and the availability of social support services.

Results

Date of Activity: 1st January – 31st March 2015

Name & Location of CBO/FBO/School/Health Centre:

CBOs:	Belle West policing Group, Vive-la-Force and Canal Polder (Belle West.
FBOs:	Free & Easy Church of Christ and Stanleytown Full Gospel Church.
SCHOOL/S:	Endeavour & the Commons Secondary and Vive-la-Force Primary.
HEALTH CENTRE/S:	Goed Intent Health Centre, Wales Dispensary, Canal # 2 Polder Health Centre, Belle West Health Centre, Vive-la Force Health Centre and Parfaite Harmonie Health Centre

Awareness sessions on GBV were conducted in the communities

This table represents the target groups and the number of sessions held with them;

A total of 565 persons were reached during the period, 387 were persons reached for the first time.

Age range	12-18		19-25		26-40		41-60		61+	
Sex	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total	74	81	11	50	14	93	19	35	6	4

Project Activity: Reproduction and dissemination of IEC materials to community members, schools, NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, youth groups, police and community policing groups

Outputs: Dissemination of IEC materials including posters and brochures will increase awareness and knowledge of gender-based violence and child abuse.

Output indicators: Increased knowledge & awareness of GBV and child abuse issues including accessing of available GBV services.

- Target-approximately 2,000 persons reached through dissemination of IEC materials;
 - Target – 25 persons accessing GBV prevention services
- Topic(s) Discussed: Self, Gender: Roles, Norms, Socialization and Gender based Violence (forms, causes, etc.)

Leaflets/Posters/Other IEC Materials Distributed (name & quantity) Activity & Location (w/shop, house to house, awareness sessions etc)

Child Abuse	300+
Children & Drugs	150+
Domestic Violence Act	50+
Sexual Offences Act	25+
Protection of Children’s Act	100+
Anatomy of the Mind (handout)	7

Name of referral service # of females referred (indicate if adult or child) # of males referred

(indicate if adult or child)

Help & Shelter	1 adult (female)	1 adult (male)
Police	1 adult (female)	1 adult (male)

Activity: community level dialogues on gender based violence

Outputs: Groups including CBO, FBO, schools, health centres and other key stakeholders sensitized to understand the dynamics of gender-based violence and child abuse and empowered to take action for its prevention through community social mobilization initiatives. Knowledge and access to available support services for survivors/victims of gender-based violence and child abuse

Output indicators: Number of persons in communities directly and indirectly reached through community social mobilization efforts focused on the prevention of gender based violence and child abuse and the availability of social support services

Target -Approximately 1800 persons (1300 women and girls 500 men and boys) through community level dialogue

Community Outreach

Community outreach sessions in the Parfaite Harmonie community organized for the period has been rescheduled for April due to unfavourable circumstances.

Male Engagement Group Sessions

These sessions are conducted at the office of Help & Shelter for perpetrators of domestic violence referred by the court. They are engaged in a total of seven (7) compulsory education sessions over a seven week period. During the reporting period five 5 new men were referred to the sessions and are presently involved in the process.

With respect to engaging the business community, a total of 15 men were engaged in discussions on self, why men are violent, and domains of development. This group continues to be engaged once monthly.

International Women's Day

- H & S partnered with other NGOs in observing International Women's Day. The documentary "Break the Silence, Stop the Violence" was shown at an event organized by the Guyana HIV/AIDS Business Coalition.
- H & S also participated in the "#Up For School" exhibition organized by the Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association.

Other activities

Awareness sessions were conducted at the schools, health centres, community centres, churches and PTA's in the target communities during the period.

Assessment of Activities

Participants were reminded that:

- Children are most vulnerable to most social maladies because they lack the means to respond.
- With the absence of nurturing and care, children will be vulnerable and can become easy targets for abuse and exploitation.
- Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is one of the most underreported crime, because of the interpersonal nature of its existence and because a high number of the perpetrators are relatives, family members or close friends.
- There needs to be better communication to resolve problems between the youths and community policing group members.

1. How did your distribution of IEC materials increase knowledge & awareness of the laws, GBV & Child Abuse?

- Child abuse poster containing the types of abuse was displayed and discussed with the group, for many it brought the awareness that many of the treatment that they considered normal were actually abusive. This was evident in their discomfort and an urge for clarification of the kinds of actions which constitutes abuse.
- Participants were made aware of child sexual abuse its occurrence and how it affects the individuals (long & short term effects).
- Participants received hand-outs on Protection of children's Act and they were encouraged to read and share with others.

2. How did your distribution of IEC materials lead to referrals for GBV & Child Abuse services?

- Participants were encouraged to report any case of CSA even when it is suspected. The CPA hotline Number was given out for persons to record it.
- Included in the materials were numbers to H & S and participants were encouraged to call or visit the office if further clarification or assistance was required for any matter that may have arisen from the discussions.

3. Do you know if person(s) referred accessed services?

- One woman referred has accessed counselling at H & S.

And what were the outcomes?

- Client is presently engaged in a period of counselling.

4. List topic(s) Discussed (please summarize as best as possible)

- Child Abuse - Types & Form
- What make children vulnerable
- Pregnancy & Abuse
- Protection of Children's Act
- Anatomy of the Mind
- Children's Rights and Responsibilities
- Sex and Gender
- Domestic violence Act.

5. List tool/materials/ electronic media, educational curricula and participatory techniques used and assess impact?

Posters, leaflets, question and answers and open discussions were used to communicate information. The posters proved effective for some as it gave graphic representation of what was being discussed and participants were more reactive to same. The Q & A session allowed for participants to address issues that were of greater concern to them, while it also allowed the facilitator to gauge the knowledge of the group and to address specific and relevant issues rather than general info. The group discussions provide an opportunity for participants to speak freely on the topics discussed, to share their views and opinions in a non-judgmental way.

6. Explain how topics discussed have sensitized participants in understanding the laws and dynamics of gender-based violence and child abuse?

- Participants learnt that childhood was a very important period of everyone's life cycle and whenever there is pain, exploitation and abuse, it determines the type of adult an individual may become, notwithstanding the fact that choices made do have consequences.
- Information shared will help persons to better understand their roles and responsibility in reducing and changing the drivers of family violence.
- Participants learnt that it was important to understand people before you try to judge their behaviour and in time you may be in a position to offer help or intervention through having a relationship with them.
- Ideas of gender were examined for their efficacy, and the consequences and the inability to live up to the ideas of manhood , masculinity , femininity and womanhood were discussed at length with the participants. Students indicated that they better understand the differences between sex and gender.
- Children learnt about the various forms of abuse. Many of them before this session were unable to identify these forms, though there was an understanding of what constitutes physical and verbal abuse. Students also learnt about why, where and when child abuse occurs, who is affected and who is most likely to be abused. They were also given information on sexually transmitted infections, date rape and the effects of alcohol and drugs.

- Discussion on Johari window has helped participants to better understand themselves, respect and better understand others.
- Participants are more aware of actions that constitute sexual abuse.
- Participants are better aware of the rights of children; as many had only heard of children's rights before without actually knowing them. Participants were made aware of the factors that contribute to the vulnerability of children to abuse, including sexual abuse.
- Mothers were made aware of abuse that can occur before, during and after pregnancy. The causes and contributing factors to this problem and how women can protect themselves and children from abuse were also examined.

7. Explain how topics discussed have empowered persons to use the laws, change behavior/ take action to prevent GBV & Child Abuse?

- Showed participants the effects of abuse on children and why it is necessary to practice non- violence, especially when raising and nurturing children.
- The Anatomy of the mind model serves the group by building their capacity to deal with issues of a social nature in the line of their community crime prevention mandate.
- Participants indicated that they are empowered and will share what they have learnt with others.
- Participants were given information on steps to take if they are raped.
- Individuals have made commitments to educating their relatives and to improve communication and their relationships with their children.
- One participant indicated that she has stopped beating her children and is using other disciplinary measures such as denying them certain privileges, for example, watching TV.

8. Explain how topic(s) discussed have increased awareness of child abuse and social support services in participants?

• More than 50% of participants in these sessions received new information. Many persons while they had heard about child abuse and the rights of children were not knowledgeable of what these were. The information shared provided clarifications for many persons and this was evident in the sessions.

Some participant's feedback

At health centres

- ✓ The body language of the persons revealed that they were struggling with the ideas of what was now called abuse, because they were subject to the same treatment during their childhood.
- ✓ The Medex stated quite emphatically that she still thinks that corporal punishment has its place among the methods of discipline.
- ✓ 90% of the persons in the dialogue stated that they had endured some form of physical punishment and that is why they still viewed it as being acceptable.
- ✓ Persons reflected and recounted some occasions during their childhood, when they felt abused or manipulated.

- ✓ One visitor to the clinic also reflected deeply on a time when she was violated by a cousin's friend who was just about 5 years her senior at the time.
- ✓ When a child abuse is reported, except the parent(s) are very forceful or have connections it is usually "pushed under the carpet"
- ✓ Alcohol consumption is still a key player in family violence and when children are raised in that type of environment, before you know it the child starts to follow the same steps
- ✓ "A child has no control over the things that happen between the parents and adults in the home, but the child becomes the worse off" stated by a participants.
- ✓ Information was new
- ✓ Lots of parents in the Goed Intent community abuse their children. Many children face neglect, they are denied an education and many are not in school.
- ✓ One parent indicated that her son has taken his right to privacy too far in that he padlocks his room.
- ✓ Some persons felt that counselling makes situations worse.
- ✓ Children need to be made aware of their responsibilities as well as their rights.
- ✓ A woman indicated that organizations like H & S create problems for women by providing them with knowledge of certain things, as she did not believe that women should report abuse. She even told her daughter-in-law who was present that should her son hit her, she should tell her and not anyone else.

At community sessions

- ✓ More people need to be made aware of the Convention on the rights of the child
- ✓ Parents confessed that they have all in one way or another abuse their children
- ✓ Parents need to pay more attention to their children and look out for signs.
- ✓ Men do not take family life seriously; they are supposed to be head and foundation for the family. However, when difficulty arises, they are usually caught unaware and are not cognizant that they are.
- ✓ Men are selfish thinkers today and are mainly responsible for the problems.
- ✓ The CPG Chairman explained that he understood the need to make meaningful outreaches to persons within the community, so as to better understand the reasons for their disposition.
- ✓ H & S should call in parents/guardian and speak to them about their abuse of children.
- ✓ Men usually become upset when women try to take up responsibilities.
- ✓ Men hit for cross talking or in retaliation.

At schools

- ✓ A woman does "got to get beat up" when they show off
- ✓ A man should not go to report that a woman beat him up, because he should be the one beating her in the first place.
- ✓ If a man working and giving the wife all his money to cook he should not come home and see no food.
- ✓ Men are supposed to be tough Women are supposed to wash and cook One young female student during the session had stated that most of the child abuse is done by step fathers right in the home.
- ✓ Students witness abuse in their homes and many of them consume alcohol regularly.

- ✓ Students indicated the need for protection from sexual abusers.

Evaluation

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
How would you rate participation?	7	14	9		
Ask participants to rate their understanding of topics discussed?	2	17	10	1	
Ask participants to rate you as facilitator?	8	20	2		
Ask participants to rate the overall session?	12	19			

9. Challenges

- Some participants were very reserved in their responses
- Poor turnout at community sessions
- Cancelled sessions
- No response forthcoming from churches

10. Successes

- ❖ The Poster had the capacity to increase the depth of discussions via every depiction it exhibited.
- ❖ Though uncomfortable at the beginning, the few persons present were very open and expressive, as issues that affect children, and which in most cases were perpetrated by adults, were ventilated.
- ❖ There was a high level of interest shown by the willingness of persons to re-evaluate the things which they used to view as normal, even when they were ventilating views concerning the situation of others.
- ❖ Request for second session addressing the anatomy of the Mind
- ❖ The level of interest in the topics was very noticeable. The form teacher also was paying keen attention to the topics, and she expressed her gratitude for the session. She acknowledged it was a very sensitive topic that she might not have been able to handle with her students.

Other matters

- ✓ It was observed that many of the students consume alcohol regularly and many are exposed to abuse or abusive behaviours in their home.
- ✓ Students openly disclosed that they were suicidal and would prefer to live outside their homes.
- ✓
- ✓ 0.Posters and leaflet design were completed. These were approved and are scheduled for printing in April 2015.

Reports made to facilitators

- A young woman with 6 months old twins is an alcoholic. She would usually leave these infants in the care of a twelve year old. These children are constantly left without food and it is left to neighbours to provide assistance. Reports were made to the Child Care & Protection Agency, but no action was taken.
- A woman sought the facilitator's advice and on her way home she was attacked by her husband (perpetrator) who is wanted by the police. Fortunately, the facilitator was able to speak with the perpetrator. They were encouraged to visit H & S. The woman has since visited and is presently receiving counseling.
- A couple sought advice on some issues they are having with an in-law. The male claims that his mother is very abusive to his wife and to him. She would walk into their home and make demands along with abusive and disrespectful remarks. Now she wants to engage the probation services, threatening to have their child taken away. She insists that the mother must not breastfeed the baby. She also wants a DNA test done as she is not convinced that the child belongs to her son. The situation has climaxed to the point where they believe it may become violent. The couple was encouraged to make a report to the police and to seek further counseling at H & S.
- A 22 year old mother of two indicated she was being emotionally and financially abused by her husband, he does not provide for the family and she has to rely on neighbours for assistance. She was encouraged to file for maintenance through the courts, she was also encouraged to visit the crisis service centre for assistance.
- An intervention is to be made for a student who indicated that he has been cruelly beaten and forced to smoke weed and cocaine by his stepfather. He revealed also that his sisters were molested sexually by this same individual who has since committed suicide after the sexual abuse was reported. The young man appears traumatized by the situation, since he speaks as if the events are still occurring.