

## HELP & SHELTER

### PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE PROJECT

(BY AGREEMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION: EUROPEAID/130-666/L/ACT/GY,  
EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS)

#### M&E REPORT- FEBRUARY 2014

#### OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to improve the lives of women, children and men who are experiencing domestic and sexual violence and child abuse.

The specific objectives are the provision of free services to victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse survivors to assist them to develop the necessary coping skills and build their confidence and self esteem, to support them through the judicial process, and to advise and assist them in accessing support services, so that they can rebuild their lives free from violence and the threat of violence.

#### ACTIVITIES

##### **1. PROVISION OF FREE FACE-TO-FACE AND HOTLINE COUNSELLING TO 2,175 VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE**

#### Expected Results/Outcomes

- Victims/survivors able to understand the nature and dynamics of the violence
- Victims/survivors develop necessary coping skills, self confidence/self esteem and access support services
- Family members including children affected will benefit directly and indirectly from counselling as the violence is reduced
- Counselling for family members will help to foster positive changes in their own lives while at the same time encouraging support and assistance to those relatives who have experienced domestic/sexual violence/child abuse

#### Achieved Results/Outcomes

##### Face-to-Face Counselling

##### Quantitative Data

- **New Adult Clients**
  - A total of 17 new adults clients, 14 females and 3 males received face to face counseling
  - Spousal abuse was identified as the type of abuse experienced by 12/92% of female clients, with physical spousal abuse at 6/43%; psychological abuse at 3/21% and non physical abuse at 3/21%

- Spousal psychological abuse was identified as the type of abuse experienced by 1/33% of male clients
  - During this month 2/14% of female clients also experienced intra-family psychological violence
  - During this month a total of 2/67% of male clients experienced psychological intra-family violence with 1/33% experiencing psychological abuse and 1/33% experiencing 'other' type of intra family abuse
  - For females a total of 2/14% were between the ages of 19-25; 6/43% were between the ages of 26-40; 5/36% were between the ages of 41-60 and 1/7% was 60+
  - For males- 1/33% were between the ages of 26-40 and 2/67% were between 41-60 years
  - A total of 7/50% of all female clients described themselves as Black, 3/21% of female clients identified themselves as East Indian and 4/28% described themselves as Mixed.
  - A total of 2/67% of male clients identified themselves as Black and 1/33% as East Indian
  - In terms of employment status 1/7% of female clients described themselves as full time; 2/14% as part time employed; 3/21% as self employed; 5/35% as unemployed; 2/14% as homemakers and 1/7% as retired
  - For male clients 1/33% described themselves as full time employed; 1/33% as self employed; and 1/33% as 'other'
  - A total of 9/64% of female clients and 2/67% of male clients resided in the county of Demerara; 4/28% of female clients and 1/33% of male clients resided in Georgetown. A further 1/7% of females resided in Essequibo
  - A total of 3/17% of all cases seen this month were alcohol related.
  - A total of 2/12% of all cases were drug related
  - A total of 9/53% of clients were married; 5/29% were in common law unions; 2/12% were in visiting relationships and 1/6% was widowed \*
- **Returning Adult Clients**
    - A total of 38 clients, 29 females and 9 males returned for follow up counselling this month \*
- **New Child Clients**
    - There were 2 new child clients, 1 female and 1 male client received face to face counseling.
    - The type of abuse experienced by the 1/100% female child client was 'other' abuse
    - The type of abuse experienced by 1/100% of male clients was delinquency
    - The 1/100% of the female child clients was between the ages of 12-18
    - The 1/100% of male child clients was also between the ages of 12-18
    - The 1/100% of female child clients was of Black ethnicity
    - The 1/100% of male child clients was of East Indian ethnicity
    - The 1/100% of female child clients' education was described as 'other'
    - The 1/100% male child clients' education was described as 'other'
    - The 1/100% of female child client resided in Georgetown
    - The 1/100% of male child clients resided in the county of Demerara \*
- **Returning Child Clients**
    - There were 2 returning child clients. 1 female client and 1 male client, seen for face to face counselling this month \*

### **Qualitative Data**

- A female client, age 31, who was sexually molested by her brother and psychologically and mentally abused by her mother sought help from H&S. Client complained that her mother controls the money

she works for and does not allow her to attend classes. Client said that whenever she gets the courage to move out her mother would find out where she is, make a scene by verbally abusing her; resulting in client being asked to leave premises and having nowhere else to go returning to her abusive home. Client further stated that because of the trauma and stress she took sleeping tablets and that is when her brother would take advantage of her by sexually abusing her. Client disclosed that her mother took no action to stop this sexual abuse and caused her to do approximately 3 abortions after becoming pregnant from the rape. Client expressed her fears of her parents and her brother. Counselor informed client of her options including accessing the IXORA shelter and applying for DVA Protection Order against her parents and brother. Client did not want to go to the shelter because her mother knows the location and the Manager and she felt that confidentiality would be compromised. Client opted to apply for the DVA P.O. but dropped the matter after her mother turned up to court with a lawyer, Client said that she was staying at a location her employer provided for staff. Client and her mother later spoke and client's mother acknowledged the wrong that was done to her and asked client's forgiveness, she also assured client that she will not bother her anymore. Client is now residing at another brother in peace so far. Client is now attending classes and keeping up with her counseling. After a session on "environment and how it affects persons future" client was able to identify all the wrong things that occurred to other persons (adults& children) at various government institutions and now has a passion to become an advocate against violence and abuse. She vows to keep up with her counseling and when unable to attend she would call the counselor and inform her of the reason for her absence. Client is also attending a health center as advised by the counselor with regards to her health and is struggling to stay off the sleeping pills

- Counselor did 2 counseling sessions with a couple who were having marital problems and after a session on "effective communication", clients were able to identify that as the main problem in the relationship and each has promised to work on their communication skills.
- Client said her partner had abused and cheated on her for many years and she took it all. Client also disclosed that she caught her partner peeping at her daughter, causing her daughter to sleep with a knife under her pillow. During all the time when the abuse was taking place, client said she didn't have the courage to move on with her life but decided a year ago to take action after another encounter of infidelity. Client reported that one year after leaving her partner's home and moving on with her life, her partner is now trying to reunite with her. Client said she cannot go back with him because she will have to endure all those behaviors all over again and she cannot do that. The reason for her coming for help, and advice is because of her partner's threats and stalking. Client was encouraged to seek legal advice and apply for a DVA protection order against him. Client was also counselled and brochures on DVA, wife abuse and child abuse were given to her. Client is still following up with her counseling
- Client was brought in by her mother because she threw a TV remote at her out of anger, causing Injury to her mother's ear. Client said that recently she found herself feeling very angry at everything her mother would say to her and would act out. Client said she doesn't know what is causing her behavior to change towards her mom, but would like to be able to deal with her anger and build back the relationship with her mom. Client was counselled and it was recognized that she was angry with her mom for not having her father in her life, although she knows that he is dead, but to lose him since age 8 and not growing up with a father figure hurts her a lot. Client was counseled on anger management and building self esteem. Client is still accessing counseling so far. Client's mom suffers from Alzheimer's disease and she said it was very hard on her as she is the only child for her mom and is a student of the University of Guyana. Client said she finds it difficulty coping with her studies and her mom, is financially challenged and is seeking help with a home for her mother to stay as she doesn't want to put her in the Palms. Caller was told about other homes and was encouraged to make enquires. Client was also encouraged, if she was successful in finding a suitable home for her mother, to visit her mom on a regular basis.

## **Hotline Counselling**

### **Quantitative Data**

#### **• Adult Clients**

- A total of 14 hotline calls from 10 females and 4 male were received this month through H&S 24 hr hot line service.
- A total of 3/30% of all female callers experienced spousal abuse with 2/20% experiencing physical abuse and 1/10% experiencing abandonment
- A total of 7/50% of female callers experienced intra family abuse with 1/10% experiencing physical abuse; 4/40% psychological abuse; 1/10% sexual abuse and 1/10% 'other' abuse
- A total of 3/100% of male callers experienced intra family abuse with 2/50% experiencing non physical abuse; 1/ 25% experiencing sexual abuse and 1/25% experiencing 'other' type of abuse
- Of the 10 female hotline callers, (4/40%) were between 19-25 years; (5/50%) were between 26-40 years and (1/10%) did not state their age
- Of the 4 male callers (1/ 25%) was between 26-40 years; (2/50%) were 41-60 years and (1/25%) was 60+
- Seven 7/50% of all hotline callers were from the county of Demerara.; 5/36% were from Berbice; and 2/ 14% resided in Georgetown
- In terms of employment, 3/23% were full time employed 4/28% were self employed; 4/28% were unemployed; 2/14% were home makers and 1/7% was employed as a contract worker
- A total of 2/14% of callers received counseling; 5/36% were given advice and 7/50% were given referrals \*

#### **• Child Clients**

- One 1/100% call was received from 1 female child to H&S 24 hr hotline service this month
- The 1/100% female child caller was experiencing psychological abuse and was between 12-18 years
- The1/100% female child caller resided in Georgetown and her educational enrollment was listed as 'other'
- The1/100% female child caller was given a referral \*

### **Qualitative Data**

- Caller disclosed that she had been molested by her step-father from age of seven, she said due to the frequent molestation she became pregnant for him, she also said that she wasn't the only one he molested as her two other sisters were also molested. Caller said that her mother was also told about the sexual abuse, but refused to believe it because her mother loved the step father more than her own children. Client's mother is now deceased and her step-father is trying to bully her into moving back in to live with him, claiming that the child who is now 8 yrs old needs to grow up with both her and her father. Caller was encouraged to report the matter to the police station and was referred to GLAC. She was also encouraged to come into H&S and taking out a DVA P.O. and maintenance order was also discussed with caller
- Caller called to say she was beaten by her partner, and told her to leave the home they shared. She said she had no place to go and has a two year child for her partner and they were both put out of the home. Client was encouraged to visit H&S. DVA was discussed; she was also told about the cycle of abuse.
- Caller said she was depressed and frustrated by having to take care of the children all by herself as the father is seldom at home. The eldest child, who is four years old, would constantly lock her out of the home and she cannot deal with it anymore. Client was told about child development and the stages, she was also advised to check up on parenting skills and was encouraged to come into H&S

- Caller had some doubts on his HIV/AIDS status after losing a partner to the virus. He needed information on the window period, accuracy of the test etc. Caller explained he had never shared as much as he did on that call. Due to counselor's knowledge on HIV/AIDS, it was easy to communicate with caller, counsel and give information
  - A regular caller shared about her new development, and how things have worked out for herself and family
- 2. DELIVERY OF FREE COURT SUPPORT SERVICES (COUNSELLING, PREPARING CLIENT FOR COURT PROCEDURES, ATTENDING COURT SESSIONS) TO 150 SURVIVORS/VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE**

**Expected Results/Outcomes**

- Reduction in psychological trauma associated with domestic and sexual violence and child abuse suffered by victims/survivors and their families during the judicial process as a result of counselling
- In court support and information provided about relevant legislation and services available for prevention of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse and protection of and legal redress for victims/survivors.

**Achieved Results/Outcomes**

**Court Support Counselling**

**Quantitative Data**

- **New Adult Clients**
  - A total of 3 new adult female clients were given court support service this month.
  - The 3 new female clients were applicants in Court for Assault (2); Assault/ DVA P.O/ Threatening Language
  - All 3 of the female clients were between the ages of 26-40
  - Two (2) of the Court cases were held in Region 4. One (1) case was heard at Leonora Magistrate Court
  - The accused for female clients were husband (1); accused in other 2 cases were not stated
  - Outcomes – All 3 of the cases are continuing
- **New Child Clients**
  - There were no new child clients seen this month
- **Returning Adult Clients**
  - A total of 9 returning female adult clients were given court support assistance through court attendances and counselling.
  - Four (5) female clients were between 19-25 years; (1) female clients were between 26-40 years; (1) female clients was 60+
  - Female clients were pursuing; Assault (5); DVA P.O. (1); Division of Property (1); Variation on Alimony (1); Simple Larceny (1)
  - All 9 cases were heard in Region 4. Perpetrators ex-husbands (2); common law partners (5); child father (1); employee (1)

- Outcomes – 7 of the cases are continuing
  - 1 client was granted DVA PO & request for child maintenance to go to trial
  - 1 case was dismissed, no evidence was offered
- **Returning Child Clients**
- A total of 7 returning female child clients received court support assistance through court attendances and counselling.
- Clients were survivors of the offences of Carnal Knowledge (4); Rape (1); Rape (1); Buggery (1)
  - Perpetrators were fathers (2); brother in law (1); stranger (1); neighbours (1)
  - Clients were < 6 years (1); 6-8 years (1); 9-11 years (2); 12-18 years (3) between
  - Court case was held in the Region 4. in Providence Magistrate Court (5) and in Region 3, Vreed en Hoop Magistrate’s Court (1) and Georgetown Magistrate’s Court #1 (1)
  - Outcomes – All 7 of the cases are continuing \*

**Qualitative Data**

- Counsellor helped one father/husband to become aware of the negative impact of living in a small space, that is not big enough for his family of five inclusive of his young teenage daughter, and even his spousal relationship. As a result father/husband was motivated to begin work on the foundation of his land, which he acquired five (5) years ago from the government
- Client and her husband were referred by the court for counseling. They parties have been married for three years, but are together a total of ten years. Both parties accused each other of infidelity. Client’s husband was informed that he was required to attend of the Men’s Session at H &S, however he was reluctant of attending the sessions stating that he does not see himself as an abusing, since he had only hit his wife twice and it was due to provocation. After much explanation and persuasion of the benefit of attending the sessions, the client’s husband agreed. Two weeks after, the client and her husband returned for follow up counseling and the client’s husband reported that he had attended two sessions and found the sessions very beneficial. He further stated that the topics discussed helped him to view his attitude and behavior differently, and he even admitted that he had already made up his mind to leave his wife but he is now willing to work on their marital relationship

**3. PROVISION OF FREE ADVOCACY AND ADVISORY COUNSELLING AND REFERRAL SERVICES TO 450 VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CHILD ABUSE**

<p><b><u>Expected Results/Outcomes</u></b></p> <p>Victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• informed of the legal, health, educational, housing, employment, financial and other services available to them, and</li> <li>• supported in making informed choices through accessing a multi-agency network of services</li> </ul>
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## Achieved Results/Outcomes

### Advocacy & Advisory Counselling & Referral Services

#### **Quantitative Data**

- **New Adult Clients**

- A total of 6 new female adult clients, were given advisory counselling and referral services for this month
- One (1) of the female clients was between the ages of 19-25; (1) was between the ages of 26-40 and (4) were between the ages of 41-60
- One (1) of the female clients were referred to Probation & Welfare Services; (2) of the female clients were referred and or accompanied to the GLAC for legal services or accessed other legal services; (2) clients were referred to Court; (2) clients were referred for Police services; (1) client was referred for housing/Shelter services; (1) client was referred for employment services and (1) client was referred for 'other services'
- Five (5) of the female clients was Black; (1) female client were of East Indian ethnicity;
- One (1) of the female clients was legally married; (1) client was single; (2) female clients were in common law relationships; (1) female client was in a visiting relationship and (1) was widowed
- All 6 of the female clients had between 1-9 children
- All (6) of the female clients resided in Region 6

- **New Child Clients**

- No new child client received advisory counselling and referral services for this month

- **Returning Adult Clients**

- A total of 6 returning female client was given advisory and counselling and referral services for this month.
- The returning female client were of Black ethnicity (1); of East Indian ethnicity (3); of Mixed ethnicity (2)
- Two (2) of the returning female clients were between that ages of 19-25; (2) were between the ages of 26-40; (1) returning client was between the ages of 41-60 and (1) client did not state her age
- Five (5) of female returning clients had between 1-9 children; (1) had no children
- All 6 of the returning female clients lived in Region 4
- Two (2) of the returning female clients were married; (2) were in common law relationships; (1) was separated and (1) client was single

- **Returning Child Clients**

- There were no returning child clients who received advisory counselling and referral services for this month

#### **Qualitative Data**

- Client is a returning client of H&S. Client was advised by Court officials to plead guilty to guilty to a charge she was falsely accused of. Counselor advocate made contact with GLAC on behalf of client and spoke to Mrs. Ramlall, who advise counselor/advocate to let client come in and see her. Client did as was suggested and client was able to get a lawyer to represent her on the date she had to return to court. Client's court matter is continuing
- Client partner does not work and depend on his family for a living, whenever he cannot provide for his family, he usually become very abusive to client. Client says she wants to live a happy life free from stress and abuse. Client was referred to the Ixora after being brought to H&S Crisis Centre by

Lifeline Counseling. Client left the Ixora after a very short stay and is now with her father and siblings at her father's home at Berbice

- Client was physically abused, mistreated and divorced by her partner, leaving her with no form of support. Client has a matter in court against her partner for maintenance for the children and she is presently seeking employment. Client was referred to CR&MA; she is presently waiting for a placement from the agency.
- Client's partner continued to abuse her and told her to leave his home. Client was referred to the Ixora and encouraged to seek employment in order to fulfill her basic needs, DVA was also reinforced and self-esteem and self worth was discussed.
- Client broke off relations with partner 1year ago, now he wants her to make back with him and is stalking and threatening her. client said she don't have the money to file for divorce as yet and is giving herself some time to acquire the money , she also said she went to the police station and he was warned, so she will not file for the protection order now, and they are both accessing counseling at crisis centre
- Client reported that her partner went behind her back and made claims for her land and property after she left him and went to live in Suriname. Client, who is a mother of 5 dependent children, was able to get the necessary help pertaining to some of her basic need from her referral to FFTP. Client was also referred to Ministry of Housing for help in securing a house lot and is to return for follow up counselling and assistance
- Client wants to collect her and children's personal effects from the house she has left. Client was referred to her area police station and with their assistance she able to collect her and her children's belongings, and said she is very happy to be out of the relationship. Client is continuing to access counselling at H&S.

#### **4. ADVOCACY FOR ADVANCES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY**

##### **Expected Results/Outcomes**

Through its representation on the Domestic Violence Oversight Committee, H&S will advocate, support and participate in overseeing and implementation of all aspects of the National Domestic Violence Policy. including:

- Assessment of the Domestic Violence Act with a view to necessary amendments
- Development of inter-agency domestic violence protocols for frontline workers
- Training for health workers including the development of a standard curriculum on domestic violence intervention
- Collaboration with key decision makers in building the capacity of rural and hinterland communities to respond to domestic violence
- Encouragement and monitoring of a public awareness campaign targeting students and other members of the public on domestic violence prevention and gender and gender discrimination



### **Achieved Results/Outcomes**

- No statutory meeting of the NDVOC was convened this month.

### **5. COUNSELLING SUPERVISION**

- Counselors during the month of February reported an adequate case load
- Client files are reportedly updated upon contact either by physical visits or by telephone. Records are generally attended daily and weekly as necessary
- The Counselor Advocate continues to offer counseling to clients as needed, while performing her counselor advocate role

### **Intervention**

- Counselors were encouraged by Supervisor the network and collaborate with each other on issues affecting clients. They were also advised to maintain cordial relationships among themselves and be conscious of the possibility of clients playing them against each other.
- Counselors have begun their submission of leave requests for the compilation of the Leave Roster.

### **Training/Learning Needs**

- No reports on this area made for this month

### **6. COUNSELLORS' PROFESSIONAL/PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Counselor continues to use her skills and tools that were garnered through past training, workshops etc
- By liaising with counselors and gaining information, knowledge and strategies that are necessary to be effective, reading books and researching the internet for information that can be useful
- Counsellor has developed professionally via the means of continued practice of her skills in counseling and has used research as her personal development
- Counsellor continues to read on topic areas that would help in her work

### **7. CHALLENGES**

- Noise continues to be an issue, hearing clients clearly especially the soft spoken callers

### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- No recommendation received this month