

FCO STRATEGIC PROGRAMME FUND AND BILATERAL PROGRAMME FUND

HELP & SHELTER M&E REPORT

1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2015

Project Title: Counselling, advocacy and referrals for the alleviation of domestic & sexual violence and child abuse.

Project Purpose/Objective: The reduction of domestic & sexual violence and child abuse through provision of essential counselling, advocacy and referral services to survivors/victims of domestic & sexual violence and child abuse, thereby empowering them to recognize and develop coping capacity, change negative behavior patterns, enhance personal growth and overcome abuse and violence in their lives.

Output 1: The provision of counselling (face-to-face and hotline) to 250 survivors/victims of violence

Results

- During the period October to December 2015, a total of 84 new clients, 71 adult women and 13 adult men, received face-to-face, hotline and court support services. A total of 56 adults, 48 women and 8 men, also returned for face-to-face follow up counselling services, bringing the total number of adult clients counselled during this quarter to 140, of which 119 were women and 21 were men.
- During the same period, a total of 6 new girl children received face-to-face counselling services for physical, non-physical and other forms of abuse and 3 returning female child clients also received follow-up counselling services, bringing the total number of child clients seen during the quarter to 9, all of whom were females.
- 84% of the new female face-to-face clients and 76% of the new male clients experienced some form of spousal abuse, with physical and non-physical abuse being the most prevalent for female clients and non-physical and psychological being the most prevalent for male clients. However, the severity of the spousal abuse experienced by female clients was far greater, more frequent, more intensive and life threatening than that experienced by male clients.
- 13% of new female face-to-face clients and 8% of the new adult male clients also experienced intra-family abuse, with physical and non-physical abuse being the most prevalent for female clients and non-physical being the most prevalent for male clients.
- As part of the healing and empowerment process, clients are counselled on the cycle of abuse, self-esteem, and the importance of being independent. Many clients are routinely informed about the DVA and how to access DVA protection and maintenance orders.
- During the reporting period, H&S counsellors were able to assist clients with obtaining DVA protection and maintenance orders against abusive intimate partners who were also refusing to financially support their children. Two women in a joint abusive relationship with the same man were both referred to the shelter and while there applied successfully for child maintenance and DVA protection orders against their partner and father of their children. Counsellors were also able to help clients recognize their addiction to alcohol and the need to get the necessary help with this. One male client referred to the AA programme was proud to report his sobriety of 23 days. Many clients accessing H&S counselling services are fearful for their lives, depressed and without resources. Counsellors assist clients through the process of self-development, self-esteem building, anger management and conflict resolution. Counsellors also accompanied clients to police stations to ensure their right to collect personal belongings from abusive partners' homes are enforced in the presence of police officers. One hotline caller living in an abusive relationship, who felt that due to financial constraints; she had no alternative but to stay in the relationships and cope, was assured that she does not have to endure her partner's abuse as there were alternative options which she could pursue together with counselling. A female client who was despondent and suicidal was counselled and the positives and negatives in her life discussed. At the end of the session client said she felt better and promised to explore options that would enhance her life.
- Adjusting and helping clients to deal with the stress of unfaithfulness after years of marriage has been of great assistance and comfort to some clients. Couples have also benefitted from counselling sessions on effective communication, good parenting skills, anger management, conflict management

and understanding gender socialization patterns as they seek to improve their intimate partner relationships. One couple who completed 4 counselling at H&S acknowledged that there were big communication problems within their relationship. They said that they now understand that good, effective communication is vital to their existence and peace within the home.

Output 2: The provision of in-court support to 25 victims of violence

Results

- Court support services, including counselling, attending court hearings and educating clients and family members about court processes, rules and procedures benefitted 19 new adult female clients. Court support counsellor was able to help one of her clients to understand relevant facts in order to prepare for her court hearing, with regards to maintenance application for her five (5) children, as the father was denying paternity for two (2) of the children.
- The majority of adult court support clients were survivors of domestic violence pursuing assault charges (6) Domestic Violence Act protection orders (7); child maintenance (6); threatening behavior (1); custody (1); attempted murder (1); rape (1); simple larceny (1); violations of court order (1) (NB some clients sought assistance for several matters).
- Outcomes of court support cases resulted in: 5 DVA protection orders being granted to clients; child maintenance orders granted to 4 clients, with 2 of these fathers ordered to provide in kind contributions in lieu of monetary contributions; 1 defendant being placed on a 1yr bond to keep the peace; 2 cases being dismissed, one after court- required H&S counselling was ordered by the magistrate. A further 9 cases are continuing.
- Clients continue to express appreciation of the counselling services and support received from Help & Shelter counsellors.

Output 3: 100 victims/survivors of domestic and sexual child abuse are informed of the legal, health, educational, housing, employment, financial and other services available to them and supported in accessing these

Results

- 30 clients (26 women and 4 men) benefitted from referrals for legal aid services (7); magistrates' courts (9); the police (6); Childcare & Protection Agency (3); health services (2); Ministry of Social Protection (2)
- In addition, 10 adult women and 15 of their dependent children were referred by to our shelter for abused women. Abused clients who have no safe place to live are referred to the shelter where they can access counselling and other free services for themselves and their dependent children for a period of up to 6 months or longer depending on individual circumstances. Counsellors also sometimes accompany clients for DVA protection orders and magistrates' courts have become much more responsive in expediting the hearing of applications.

Output 4: Ongoing advocacy for effective implementation of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Acts

Results

- During the face-to-face, hotline, and court support counselling process clients were informed of the provisions of the Domestic Violence and Sexual Offences Acts and encouraged to utilize these laws for their protection, prevention of abuse and access to justice. This resulted in 16 client referrals to legal aid and the magistrates' courts for DVA protection orders etc.
- Help & Shelter together with 3 other NGOs had a meeting with Mr. Paul Williams, head of the Guyana Police Force Training School on collaboration with the police training school programme.

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