

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- SEPTEMBER 2011

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 Adults Clients

- A total of 30 new adults clients, 26 females and 4 males received face to face counselling
- Spousal abuse was identified as the type of abuse experienced by all 26 of the female clients, with physical abuse being the most predominant affecting 13/50% followed by alcohol related abuse at 7/26%, non physical at 4/15% and psychological affecting

- 1/4%. One female client also experienced intra family abuse (1/4%) which was not specified.
- Spousal abuse was also identified as the type of abuse experienced by all 4 of the male clients, with 2/50% experiencing non physical abuse, 1/25% experiencing psychological abuse and 1/25% alcohol related abuse.
 - 5 of the female clients were between the ages of 19-25, 16 were between the ages of 26-40 and 5 were between the ages of 41-60. All 4 of the male clients were between the ages of 26-40.
 - A total of 7/26% female clients and 1/25% of male clients described themselves as Black, a similar 11/42% of female clients and 2/50% of males identified themselves as East Indian. A further 6/23% of female clients and 1/25% of male clients identified themselves as Mixed. Two or 8% of female clients described themselves as Amerindian.*
 - In terms of employment status 9/34% of female clients described themselves as full time employed and 5/19% as self employed. Unemployment affected 3/11% of female clients and a further 9/34% of female clients identified themselves as home makers.
 - For male clients 1/25% described himself as full time employed, 1/25% as self employed 1/25% as unemployed and one male client 25% did not specify his employment status.

**Face to Face Counselling
Returning Adults Clients**

- A total of 45 returning adult clients, 42 females and 3 males received follow up face to face counselling

**Face to Face Counselling
New Child Clients**

- Clarification needed if statistics on child clients are in fact court support child clients

**Face to Face Counselling
Returning Child Clients**

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**Face to Face Counselling
Qualitative Data**

- A client who is a survivor of domestic violence was finally able to get access and be re-united with her 3 children. Client and her children are presently at The Ixora.
- A mother and her two sons who are domestic violence survivors were finally able to move from their abusive environment to one that is more peaceful
- The abusive partner of a client came on for counselling as requested. Ongoing counselling for both parties will continue
- 2 female adult clients through counselling and empowerment have decided to attend classes to further their academic qualifications and fulfill their dreams, one will be pursuing studies to qualify for a nursing career and the other client who wanted to become be a teacher will be pursuing Social Work with the Institute of Distance and Continuing Education.
- 4 female clients applied for Protection Orders under the DVA. One client was granted her DVA, P.O., 1 client withdrew her DVA, P.O. application at court and the other 2 DVA, P.O. applications for clients are pending.
- One female client who had been attending counselling with her husband returned to inform counsellors that her husband had refused to continue with counselling and had beaten her. She agreed to report the matter to the Police, this was the first time the client had ever agreed to make a report of domestic violence against her husband. Counsellor

called and gave client a referral for the police station. Counsellor was subsequently informed by client that the police had called and asked her husband to go to the station which he refused to do and instead left the home. Client is now reluctant to pursue the matter as she is afraid that if partner goes to jail he will not be able to provide for her and the children and requested that counselor ask the police to drop the matter. Counsellor informed the client that it was her responsibility to ask the Police to drop the matter and explained the consequences of taking such an action. Counsellor also discussed a practical option for income earning with client. Since then calls to client were left unanswered

- A male client expressed his ongoing concern about his wife's behavior towards him and frustration with the way she treats him. According to the client his wife treats him like a child and her youngest son behaves like he is the man of the house as his mother encourages him. He wanted to know the consequences of moving out for a short period and if this could be used by his wife to get a divorce. The client was told to talk to a lawyer at Legal Aid concerning this matter and also given a letter for his wife to come in for a follow-up session with the counsellor to see if they can come to a common understanding on the issues and have them worked out

Quantitative Data

Hotline Counselling

Adult Clients

- A total of 16 hotline calls were received this month through H&S 24 hr hot line service. All 16 callers were females
- The majority of female hotline callers, 6/86% were between the ages of 26-40 and 1/14% was between 41-60 years old
- Seven (7/44%) of hotline callers were from the county of Demerara, 2/12% came from Georgetown 3/19% of callers were from the county of Berbice, 3/19% were from Essequibo and 1 call 6% was from Linden
- In terms of employment, 1/6% of callers were full time employed, 2/12% were self employed, 8/50% were home makers and 5/31% did not specify their employment status
- A total of 9/56% of the callers were counselled 3/19% was given advice and 4/25% were referred

Hotline Counselling

Child Clients

- No hotline calls were received from children for this month

Hotline Counselling

Qualitative Data

- One hotline caller mentioned that she met a man who is HIV positive and fell in love with him. She said her mother and other family members do not know of this' but two of her friends along with the man's mother and some his family members and friends are aware of this. The problem now is that some of the man's neighbors are always talking about her, which makes her uncomfortable whenever she goes around there. The hotline caller and the HIV positive man are not involved sexually but they would hug and so on, he is sick right now. The client wanted to know if something is wrong with her. The client was reassured that nothing is wrong with her and it is okay to have such feelings, however she must explore her expectations and the extent of her involvement in the relationship. Counsellor also educated the hotline caller about HIV/AIDS and the risks.

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

Quantitative Data

New Adults Clients

- A total of 2 new female adult clients were given court support service
- The 2 female clients were in Court for rapes committed on them with an additional charges of assault committed on one of these clients. The relationship of one offender to client was not known, the offenders in the other case were described as villagers
- Both female clients were between the age of 26-40
- One case was being heard at the Vreed-en-Hoop Magistrate Courts and the other at the Sparendam Magistrate Courts
- The accused are all males, their age was not known
- All 2 cases are continuing

Court Support Services

New Child Clients

- No new child clients were seen for this month

Court Support Services

Returning Adults Clients

- A total of 6 returning female clients received court support assistance through court attendances and counselling
- One client was between the ages of 19-25; 3 were between the ages of 26-40 and 2 between the ages of 41-60
- Four (4) clients were pursuing Protection Orders under the DVA with an additional assault charge also being prosecuted on behalf of one of these clients; 1 client was a survivor of assault causing bodily harm court case and 1 client DOP?
- All 6 of the cases were heard in Region 4 : the Georgetown Magistrates Courts' 5 and 6 (4) ; Sparendam Magistrate Court (1) and High Court, Region 4 (1)
- In all the cases the perpetrators were husbands, partners or ex-partners of clients. Three were legal husbands of clients, 2 were ex-partners and 1 was a common law husband
- Outcomes -3 of these cases are continuing;
- Outcomes- 1 P.O. DVA/ assault case was dismissed; 1 P.O. DVA was granted with maintenance payments of \$4,000 per child per week and visitation rights ordered by Court; 1 interim order ruled on for maintenance payments of \$ 7,500 per week for 2 children and visitation rights by Court; 1 client withdrew her P.O. application

Court Support Services
Returning Child Clients

- A total of 11 returning child clients, 10 females and 1 male received court support assistance through court attendances and counselling
- Clients were survivors of the offences of carnal knowledge (6), incest (2), rape (1), buggery (1) and indecent assault (1)
- Perpetrators were fathers (1), stepfathers (2), ex-partners(1), neighbours (1), villagers (2), strangers(2), pandit (1)
- Clients ranged from 4- 18 yrs with 1/9% under 6 yrs, 2/18% between the age of 6-8, 1/9%between the ages of 9-11 and 6/54% between the ages of 12-18
- Court cases were held in the Region 4 – Sparendam, Providence and G/town Magistrate Courts and Region 3 - Vreed-en-Hoop Magistrate Court
- All of the 11 court support cases are continuing

Court Support Counselling
Qualitative Data

- A client’s mother had reported an improved relationship between herself and client as well as positive behaviour changes in the client who is her daughter.
- Client’s mother reported a cessation of conflict between herself and relatives after counselling sessions were done by counsellor with the said relatives. The conflict with relatives has arisen due to the sexual abuse of client
- A client who had been having suicidal thought called to express her thanks to counsellor as after thinking over all that had been discussed she was able to understand how important it is to be alive and well for herself and her son’s sake
- A client who had been fearful of her accused and his relatives was able after counselling to walk past the abusive relatives outside of the Court room. She was also able to access legal advice and apply for an application for a DVA, P.O. against the accused.
- Counsellor was able to utilize capacity building training on suicide to help client manage depression and suicidal thoughts

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

Expected Results/Outcomes

Victims/survivors of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse

- informed of the legal, health, educational, housing, employment, financial and other services available to them, and
- supported in making informed choices through accessing a multi-agency network of services

3. Achieved Results/Outcomes

Advocacy & Advisory Counselling & Referral Services

Quantitative Data

Adult Clients

- A total of 9 adult female clients were given advisory counselling and referral services for this month
- One client was between the ages of 19-25, 4 were between the ages of 26-40 and 4 were aged 41-60
- Eight of the clients were referred and or accompanied to the GLAC for legal services, 3 were referred or accompanied to local Police Stations, and 2 clients were also referred for temporary housing/ shelter services
- Five (5) of the clients receiving advisory and referral services were East Indian, 3 were of Mixed ethnicity, 2 were Black and 1 was Amerindian
- Six were legally married, 2 were in common law relationships and 1 was separated. All 9 of the adult clients had children ranging from 1 child to 7.
- Clients resided in Region 4 (5), Region 3 (2), Region 5 (1) and Region 6 (1)

Advocacy & Advisory Counselling & Referral Services

New Child Clients

- A total of 2 new child clients were given advisory and counselling and referral services for this month
- 1 client was referred to the Night Shelter and the other client was referred and accompanied to GLAC
- Both clients were 17 years old and both were of East Indian heritage
- One client resided in Region 3 and the other in Region 4

Qualitative Data

- A 17 year old client who was placed in the home of a female family friend by her mother over the past three years was repeatedly psychologically abused by being forced to work and not allowed to go to school. The client made several attempts to run away from the home but was brought back on each occasion to the abusive environment through coercion and threats. Client was referred to GLAC for application for DVA, P.O. to ensure she will not be harassed, threatened or coerced when she leaves H&S Shelter. GLAC advised that if the client was brought to the home to work as an employee and not to reside there as a member of the household then under DVA regulations a P.O. could not be applied for. Legal options are still being pursued
- A referral to LAC in New Amsterdam was made for a female married client for application for a DVA, P.O. and monetary compensation against an in-law relative who reportedly assaulted her.
- Female client reported that her partner put her out of the home. Initially she stayed at her mother's home but due to work commitments could not stay there. Client was first referred to the Night Shelter but opted to stay with relatives instead. Client on request was also referred to GLAC for applications for DVA, P.O. and custody of her 9 yr old child. Subsequently she decided against applying for the protection order after her spouse requested counselling sessions for both him and her and promised to have them move into a home of their own. Client was referred to the nearest Police Station for a rank to accompany her to collect her personal belongings from the house in which she had been previously residing. This was done.
- Female client has been repeatedly threatened and harassed by a man she has accused of raping her, and also threatened and harassed by his relatives. Appointment was made for client with GLAC next month. Client want to apply for DVA, P.O, however client was never in a relationship with the perpetrator and will be encouraged to get legal advice on how best to proceed to get some redress.

- Female client has been separated for 4 months from her reputed husband of eighteen years. He had left her for a younger woman and is now harassing her for the house that she and her children are living in. He also took their eight year old son with him. Client was referred and accompanied to GLAC and was given an appointment to see a lawyer concerning child maintenance, custody and division of property in October
- Female client reported that she was experiencing marital difficulties including infidelity, abuse and threats by her husband. On request by client, counselor advocate accompanied client to uplift her son from school, then accompanied client to the Police Station. At the Police Station client decided not to report her partner's abusive behaviour. She however got a police officer to accompany her to her home to uplift some clothing & personal belongings. On route from collecting her belongings the client's husband followed her back to the Police Station and after a brief discussion it was decided that they would visit their pastor in Georgetown. The client was dropped off to the church, while her husband followed her in another vehicle. Initially the client had wanted to work with her husband on resolving their marital problems which included counselling for her husband. However the husband had refused to submit to counselling and client has not returned for further counselling or assistance.
- Client's husband attacked client hitting her on her head. The attack left a wound that required three stitches. The client was referred to GLAC but did not follow through with applying for a DVA, P.O. against her partner. Counsellor advocate subsequently called and offered to accompany client to GLAC. The client informed that she is still deciding on whether to seek legal advice or not.
- Female client was physically abused by her partner and left the marital home to stay with a relative. The client wants her partner to leave and sign papers giving her ownership of their house. Client was given the option of reporting the abuse to the nearby police station which she reported she did and was waiting on the police to act. When counsellor advocate called back, client indicated that she no longer wishes to go ahead with filing charges against her partner for assaulting her.
- Client has been experiencing abuse at the hands of her partner and now husband for the last fourteen years. She and her husband got married seven years ago. Client's husband is an alcoholic and she said she has tried everything but the situation just gets worse. She wants to leave the relationship and has requested the option of an occupation order and protection order. The client, following a referral to the GLAC, was granted her application for a DVA, protection and occupation order against her husband. Additionally, the magistrate ordered that her husband pay weekly maintenance for their children.
- Young female client is living with a man who, under the influence of alcohol, puts her out repeatedly. Once he is sober, he would take her back into the home. Client also states that her partner would hit her and verbally abuse her if she "talks up". Client was recently put out of the house and she came to Help & Shelter looking for a place to stay since she has no alternative living arrangements. The client was referred to the Night Shelter. She had also asked the social worker at the shelter for assistance in finding a job. Client is still residing at the shelter and unemployed.
- Client came to Help & Shelter and informed her counsellor that she cannot put up with the abuse inflicted by her husband anymore. She wanted a divorce and was referred to GLAC and is presently waiting on attend her appointment date in October

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

Advocacy for Advances in the Implementation of the National Domestic Violence Policy

- No meetings of the Domestic Violence Oversight Committee were held in the month of September
- No word or notice was received from the Minister of Human Services concerning the convening of the DVOC

5. COUNSELLING SUPERVISION

- The Supervisor met with counselors on several occasions during the month of September face to face and court support counselors JH, CIB, PB, MT, counsellor advocate SBH and hotline counselor RC benefitted from supervision sessions.
- Through face to face, hotline and court support counselling, a total of eighty seven clients were seen, including males, females and children.
- A total of eight (8) case files were examined by Supervisor in the presence of counselors and relevant issues were discussed before supervisor signed those files as seen. Generally counsellors were consistent in completion of case records

Intervention:

- Counsellors facilitated the process for clients acquiring protection orders, further educational opportunities as well as employment. Clients and their children were also offered temporary shelter.
- The introduction of the Counsellor Advocate on the staff has been welcomed by counsellors since referrals and other assistance to clients are now more efficient. There seems to be a healthy and collaborative working relationship among counsellors as they seek to compliment each other's efforts. The Counselor

Advocate is proactive and willing to implement innovative strategies in the interest of success.

Training/Learning Needs:

- Counselors agreed that information to fulfill their learning needs can be obtained from internet links and some have been sharing information found with colleagues.

6. CHALLENGES

- Social care plans not being documented in some client case files
- Buzzing on extension phone lines in counsellors offices continued to affect their ability to follow up on their cases, both in making and receiving calls from clients.
- Director of Social Services in Ministry of Human Services who has responsibility for convening DVOC has not scheduled a monthly meeting for September
- Liaising with prosecutors and court officials for court support cases to be called as early as possible

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Group counselling for survivors and perpetrators