

## 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. July to September 2014, 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.

Public awareness outreach activities were conducted in 3 identified communities with 3 facilitators and 3 mobilizers working in the communities.

5. **Challenges and Opportunities: Explain the bottlenecks faced and how these were overcome; outline any (if any) emerging opportunities. It is in this section that any request for revision to partnership would need to be proposed, accompanied by a revised budget and revised work plan.**
  - The counsellors had no major challenges
  - Facilitators under the public education program are faced with a high cost of travel when visiting the communities especially in region 3 West Bank of Demerara, a sugar cane farming environment. Access transportation is difficult during certain time in the day.
  - Mobilizing the members especially the men and youths in the community of Bell West proved to be the most difficult since that community is plagued with problems associated with use and trafficking of drugs.

- The members of the policing groups in several communities are also not performing their legal duties; in general the members are there for their personal gains.
- Facilitators are however still standing their ground and moving on with their work by doing house to house visits

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

- ❖ **Describe actual achievement of results in terms of change in intended beneficiaries (e.g. change in capacities, knowledge, behaviours, institutional systems, policies etc.) that have resulted from activities. Do not just list activities but try and answer the question: “What change in capacities, awareness and knowledge, (output level results), or behaviours, action, institutional systems or policies (outcome level results) have the activities led to?” Identify the results first and then explain the activities that led to the result.**
- ❖ **In describing the results particularly in terms of awareness, capacity, knowledge and behaviours, provide evidence that support the statement of results achieved.**
- ❖ **Reporting on actual results should relate to the planned results that were presented in your project document so that you can compare whether your actual results were in line with what you had planned. If there were any particular gaps in the planned and actual results achieved, or unintended results (i.e. results that the project did not originally plan for) both positive and negative, explain why this may have happened.**

## **COUNSELLING**

### Output Indicators

360 persons provided with counselling and referral services.

### Results

- During the period July to September a total of 88 clients, 70 adult women and 18 adult men received face to face, hotline and court support services
- Within the same period 2 female children also received face to face counselling services
- A total of 25 referrals were made for clients with referrals for legal aid & court services topping the list. Other referrals made were to the police, social welfare agency, probation & welfare services and employment services
- Court support services, including counselling, attending court hearings and educating clients and family members about court processes, rules and procedures benefitted 23 clients, 22 adult women and 1 adult man. Eight (8) children, 7 girls and 1 boy also received court support services.

- In addition 8 women and 16 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 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 gender and domestic violence; how to develop coping skills, through the support of our counsellors. Clients suffering from depression and trauma were aided to understand how stress and trauma affect individuals physically and psychologically and how to adopt the related coping mechanisms to deal with such situations.

In fact, they were taught stress and anger management techniques so as to better cope with the difficulties of living in and leaving abusive relationships. Clients were also exposed to behavioural therapy, communication skills, types, causes, signs and effects of domestic and sexual violence and child abuse. They were given appropriate informational leaflets and brochures on these topic areas for further reference. Many clients were also given assistance in getting appropriate protection from key service providers through referrals for free legal services, police and court interventions, shelter and social welfare, employment, child care & protection services.

Help and Shelter is now offering group therapy discussion/counselling by male facilitators with men who are clients/survivors of DV and perpetrators referred from the court system (where our court support counsellors operate when supporting clients) to access the services of H & S. As a result of our 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, the Magistrates are now referring domestic violence cases to Help & Shelter for counselling. Many of these cases tend to get dismissed as after attending counselling sessions both parties usually decide to drop charges made against each other and or reconcile their relationships. In general, clients often expressed appreciation for the counselling services and support they received.

A total of 82% of all adult female face to face clients and 50% of all male clients experienced some form of spousal abuse with physical abuse being the most prevalent for females and psychological and non- physical being the most prevalent for males. Intra family abuse was experienced by 18% of female face to face clients and 42% of male clients with psychological and non- physical being the most prevalent among females and psychological being most prevalent among males. Among hotline callers 56% of female callers and 50% of male callers also experienced some form of spousal abuse.

Under the Domestic Violence Act the majority of adult court support clients were survivors of DV who pursued the court processes for the institution of assault charges; for the application of protection and occupation orders; for threatening/ abusive behaviour; and for division of property and breach of the peace. Child clients accessing our court support services were predominately survivors of sexual violence including rape (2 cases), carnal knowledge (2 cases), indecent assault (1 case), buggery (1 case) and assault (1 case). Six of the child protection cases are continuing as only the assault case was dismissed for want of prosecution i.e. the client decided to abandon her case. Out of 7 of the DVA cases, 2 were successfully granted protection orders and 5 cases are continuing. In 4 cases involving threatening behavior and assault, both parties were referred by the Court to H&S for counselling and after counselling sessions were completed, cases were dismissed with the agreement of both parties. .

**The table below represents a monthly figure of clients reached:**

<b>Nature of activities</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Hotline</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Repeat clients</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Client referrals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>New clients seen</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Court support attendances</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Non client referrals</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Women referred to shelter</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Children with their mothers</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>

**Below are a few examples of some of the cases seen during this reporting period and outcomes**

- A female client who lived at her mother's house with her husband and children, reported that her husband was physically abusive to her and their children. She said that sometimes he would leave the home voluntarily after an altercation, but after the last abusive incident she asked him to leave. Client wanted to know what she could do to keep him out of the home. Counselor informed client of the DVA Protection/Occupancy Orders and advised that she report the physical abuse to the police to which client agreed. She was then given referrals to the police station and the Georgetown Legal Aid Clinic for legal support.

- A student robbed and threatened at gunpoint was very fearful, unable to sleep, eat or go about her daily activities without feeling as though she will be attacked by the same person again. She was counselled on symptoms of trauma and ways of coping after experiencing such a traumatic event. Client was much relieved after attending the one counselling session, as she was leaving the very next day to return home. Counselor and client continued to keep in contact via telephone and student client indicated recently that she is emotionally in a better place and will be returning to complete her studies at college even though previously she felt unable to do so.
- A male teacher was referred to H & S services after he was suspended from school due to an alcoholic problem. He attended 3 sessions of counseling on process of behaviour change; how alcohol affects the family, personal health and domestic violence and abuse”. Client said that he has benefitted greatly from the counseling sessions and that his partner who had left him is preparing to return to him with their young son as she has seen some change in his behaviour. He also said that he is prepared to work harder and to empower the male youths of his school. Client further stated that whenever it is possible he would continue to access services of H&S
- A couple who had attended 5 joint counselling sessions expressed gratitude to the counsellor and said that their relationship has mended and the children are all happy. This relationship was nearly severed due to infidelity on the male’s part when the woman he was seeing bore a child and said that it was his. The wife was on the move to file for a divorce after her husband refused to come in to H & S when a letter was sent inviting him in at her request. When the husband realized that his wife was serious about divorce he reconsidered and started attending counselling sessions. Counsellor had introduced the husband to H&S Male Session and he has been attending these sessions along with joint counselling sessions. Husband has vowed to continue attending the male sessions as he is enjoying it and has been learning a lot which he said will continue to enhance his life and relationship. The couple had a Thanksgiving service in honour of their commitment to save their marriage which was attended by over 100 persons including children.

**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

Awareness sessions on GBV were conducted in the communities in Bell West, La Vive Force, Canal # 2 and Patentia.

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

Names of location CBO’s/FBO’s/schools health centres/	# sessions
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H/centres	17
Schools (PTA's)	7
CBO	8
Cancelled sessions	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

Target groups, nos. and sex of participants

Age range	12-18		19-25		26-40		41-60		60+		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
<b>Participants</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>567</b>
<b>Teachers/parents</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>6</b>			<b>21</b>
<b>Nurses</b>				<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>2</b>			<b>14</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>602</b>

**Topic(s) Discussed: Self, Gender: Roles, Norms, Socialization and Gender based Violence (forms, causes, etc.)**

- Groups including CBO, FBO, schools, health centres and other key stakeholders were sensitized to understand the dynamics of gender-based violence and child abuse and were empowered to take action for its prevention through community social mobilization initiatives

- Participants were made aware of knowledge, information and access to available support services for survivors/victims of gender-:

Forty-six copies of IEC materials including 1175 brochures and leaflets were distributed to participants for increased awareness and knowledge of gender-based violence and child abuse.

Results: from a session conducted in Bell West

Feedback from residents:

- A number of school-aged children are being kept at home and residents are very concerned, but are unable to intervene since they are fearful of the potential consequences of interfering in other people's business
- A number of homes were identified where serious abusive behaviours are practiced, but reaching these individuals proved futile.
- Drug and alcohol abuse is very prevalent particularly among the youths and it would appear that no one cares as no one is seeking to help the community's

youth and nothing is being done about those who peddle the drugs in the community. Homes were identified where illegal drugs are being sold.

- Residents were also concerned about the fact that even though it is against the law to sell cigarettes and alcohol to minors, shops in the area continue to do so with no regard for the law.
- Persons indicated that we are doing something wonderful by visiting homes and encouraged us to continue since this kind of service is needed in the community
- One resident claimed that many parents know their children are involved in drugs yet they turn a blind eye to the problem.

**Successes:** Facilitators were able to provide guidance to at least three persons experiencing difficulties in their relationships by providing them with the numbers for H & S and information on how they can access help. This group included a young woman with two children who was having some severe problems. It is expected that she would visit the crisis service centre.

## 7. **Project Impact: success stories and achievements.**

### **(a) How did the project improve participants' ability to take advantage of new opportunities?**

Ninety percent of the participants' were able to understand the topics presented to them. It may be too early to identify if the project has an impact in the community, since it's the first time most of the participants attended sessions as these and with topic areas such as gender roles, sex and self, Participants are now able to identify their roles as male and female, to be able to recognise violence in the family; and that violence in the home is where they would have learnt that kind of behaviour.

### **(b) Did it bring about systemic change that will increase participants' choices or promote their empowerment?**

The possibility exists for this to happen through referral to other agencies where their needs are or could be met.

### **© How did UN WOMEN's assistance help in building the executing agency's capacity to monitor the project and empower the project participants?**

The receiving of the relevant financial assistance or funding allowed the organization to take our public education and outreach services to these communities where we had never worked before. Project participants were therefore empowered with knowledge concerning the issues of gender-based violence and the existence of supporting services available to victims.

### **(d) Did the project offer opportunities to link with work in other communities/countries and promote internal, cross-regional information sharing and collaboration?**

Whenever we work in communities such as these the 'news' of the project and the nature of the topic areas spread like hot cakes and so as the work progresses, other communities did request to have sessions done with various target groups.

**(e)What are the lessons learnt from the project and what follow-up activities do you envisage from the project**

That each community has an array of problems with a diversity of people of different race, culture and political affiliation was a major lesson learnt. We did not conduct a survey before we started the project, something we would normally do and so we experienced the issue of not being too welcomed in a few communities, but this situation was quickly corrected through the facilitators who assisted in mobilizing the participants for the sessions. We would want to continue working in these communities even though the challenges are great. It may take more than a year to identify any major change in people' behaviour.

