

Help & Shelter / EU
Child Protection Project
Project Coordinator's Report - March 2011

Overview:

*This reporting period covers all the activities of the Child Protection Project for March 2011. This includes the second Community Launch in Hague (**see Annex 1**), and also the third Community launch which was held in Good Hope. (**see Annex 3**)*

Community feedback and expectations reflected an allegiance of key community stakeholders who have pledged support of the Projects objectives which necessitates community ownership and participation.

Parenting Sessions and Training as outlined in the project implementation itinerary, and monitoring of results gleaned from the indicators are all captured in this reporting period of the Project. Faith based and other groups were engaged and follow up engagements are imminent. The counseling service within one Target community has expanded with the establishment of an additional counseling site, while the first site has been moved to a more comfortable location within the community. Several fruitful interventions were amicably facilitated by the project also in this reporting period.

1. To raise awareness of Child Protection issues and alternative ways of parenting in a non- violent environment.

*Parenting session was held in Zeelugt on Thursday 24th February, at the Zeelugt Health Out Post. This session was attended by parents who had taken their children for check up or other health care services. Both men and women were part of this session (**see CCC Report Annex 4**)*

*A parenting session was held at the Zeelugt Masjid on Friday 25th March. The group engaged was the women's arm of the Majid, Nacosa, and also present were several children. At this session the Chairman Mr. Khan who had organized the group for the session stated that he would like to have a follow up session with both men and women from the Masjid.(**see Annex 2**), for report.*

2. Introduction of standard protocols for care givers - Teachers, nurses, day care staff, by enhancing their ability to recognize and give correct responses in cases of child abuse.

Training sessions for nurses through Guyana Nurses Association commenced on Wednesday 23rd March. The second session was held with the nurses on Wednesday 30th March, two other sessions will follow.

3. Empowering children and Families to report child abuse and offering of counseling and court support services for affected children.

The second counseling site Zeelugt at the Primary began working on Wednesday 23rd March.

There are now two (2) sites in two communities, Zeelugt and Sophia.

Mondays has been designated for counseling in Hague and the prerequisite permission from the R.E.D.O is being sought before counseling commences in the Hague Community. One on one parenting sessions are also held with Parents whose children are being counseled. The total case load of the project is 75, and 55 children were exposed to Be -Safe sessions for this period. (CCC Reports Annex 4 & 5))

4. Creating an effective network of persons and organizations within the target community communities.

At the Community Launch in Hague and Good Hope, the Community stakeholders who comprise religious leaders, Teachers, Regional Representatives, Health Care workers, Policing groups, business owners and parents have all pledged support of the project activities and objectives as they now have a better understand of the roles they all play in making their communities a safe and viable place for children. Keen interest is also being placed on responsiveness to children in vulnerable situation within the boundaries of the target communities.

Other Persons reached by the Project to Date:

- Twenty eight (28) Teachers

- 54 Parents – Parenting sessions and home Visits
- 17 youths (unmarried & without children)
- 3 Parents have benefited from interventions of the Project (got support from the Min. of Human Services, Min. of Housing and Food for The Poor).

Project Impact:

- ▣ A child who was referred to the CCC as being in a vulnerable situation in the home where she was left by a parent has been placed in the care of a member of the community who is proceeding with foster care arrangements.
- ▣ A child who approached the CCC with a request for help to be reintegrated into school has brought another child who needed similar intervention and help.
- ▣ The Nurse at the Health Centre has requested that the Centre be a main point of dissemination of all literary and non- literary project materials in the community.
- ▣ During a session with a women's group, one woman stated that she wants her husband to get some of the information too and another follow up session was scheduled right away, because they all agreed that their husbands need to know about alternative parenting methods.

Challenges:

-Some parents have reported that they have a problem in reporting child abuse or any other sensitive issue because they don't trust the confidentiality of the Police officers.

- Engaging the most vulnerable targets within the community will expose the project Team and community persons to those who abuse alcohol and also have a penchant for violence. In two (2) communities there are reported cases of parents who allegedly abuse alcohol and the children are exposed

to abuse, but no one in the community wants to approach them and they are fearful of involving law enforcement because of confidentiality issues also. They mentioned they tried the CCPA and have not gotten results.

Community Launch:

The Sophia Community Launch is scheduled for the Sunday May 1st 2011 at the Pattensen Multipurpose Community Centre.

Project Plan:

A fore cast of 30 days Project activities

- o Final Community Launch*
- o Community Meeting*
- o Meeting with Commander of D Division GPF*
- o Session with Guyana Nurses Association*
- o Dissemination of Printed materials*
- o Counseling sessions*
- o Acquisition of Parenting hand Books*

Colin Marks- Project Coordinator - March 2011

Annex 1

Hague Community Launch

The Community Launch of the Child Protection Project in the Hague Community was held on Saturday 5th March, at The Hague primary school.

Overview

The Project Coordinator Chaired the Launch Ceremony that was attended by some key stakeholders from within the Hague community. Background information on funding partners, objectives and implementation strategies were presented to the Attendees. Community expectations and feedback also came from those who attended.

Present were:

<i>Names</i>	<i>Contact / Organization</i>
<i>Rajkumarie Jeewan</i>	<i>Community Mobilizer – Mandir Leader</i>
<i>Parbattie Ranglall</i>	<i>Hague Coordinator</i>
<i>Vinola Lallman</i>	<i>Parent</i>
<i>Bhaggandai Khedu</i>	<i>Head teacher – Hague Nursery School</i>
<i>Hemwattie Ramnaraj</i>	<i>Parent / Community Worker</i>
<i>Kamini Persaud</i>	<i>Rep. Hague Front Hindu Temple</i>
<i>Dawn Agam</i>	<i>PTA Rep. Hague Front</i>
<i>Davi Bridgemohan</i>	<i>Parent</i>
<i>Fazuela Bridgemohan</i>	<i>Parent</i>
<i>Fazeela Rozan</i>	<i>Parent</i>
<i>Bibi Ramon Rozan</i>	<i>Parent</i>
<i>Ghansham Surujdai</i>	<i>Neighborhood Democratic Council –Rep.</i>
<i>Michell Ramkissure</i>	<i>Parent</i>
<i>Bibi . S Canat</i>	<i>Parent</i>
<i>Davika Tyman</i>	<i>Parent</i>

Padmani Bhajan

Acting HM Hague Back Primary

Haiwattie

Parent

Savatrie Chandrobose

Midwife – Leonora Cottage Hospital

Jomo Paul

Volunteer

1. To raise awareness of Child Protection issues and alternative ways of parenting in a non- violent environment

Project Implementation:

- *Parenting Sessions*
- *Faith based Groups sessions*
- *Youth groups engagements*
- *Public awareness materials to be shared.*
- *PTAs sessions*

Schedule for sessions drafted, with input from community groups

2. Introduction of standard protocols for Health Care givers and other professionals to recognize child abuse, enhancing their ability to response to incidences of child abuse.

Project Implementation:

- *Health and Care Providers engagement*
- *Training for Nurses*

3. Empowering children and Families to report child abuse and offering of counseling and court support services for affected children.

Project implementation:

- *Counseling services for Children*
- *Court support for children*
- *Introduction to Be- Safe kit*
- *Parents counseling and support*

A counseling site already identified in Hague

4 .Creating an effective network of persons and organizations within the target community communities.

Project implementation:

- *Working with community groups and external agencies to find common grounds for collaboration that support Child Protection and welfare.*

Through the community meetings a plan of Action will be drafted with inclusive inputs from all the groups existing in the community.

Community Expectations & Feedback

Members from the groups within were asked to express their expectations of the Project and make their general comments on issues of concern.

- ▢ *Counseling needed in the community for both youths and Parents*
- ▢ *Parents need to attend sessions*
- ▢ *Help & Shelter helped in the community before so we're looking forward to this project*
- ▢ *Smoking & drinking a problem among parents*
- ▢ *Some parents get support but don't send children to school*
- ▢ *Evidence of emotional abuse by Teachers exist in the schools*

- ▯ *Teachers need training in Parenting too*
- ▯ *Some children are abusive to Teachers*
- ▯ *Great project for the Community*
- ▯ *PTAs need to benefit from the Project*
- ▯ *Need posters that reflect the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse*

Recorded Reflection

Other comments from attendees at the launch were recorded by audio device.

Mobilizing Groups and persons

There was an undertaking by Group heads and other persons to engage the Project team on the possibility of sessions being held for the various target groups within the community. The coordinator encouraged the groups to draft a plan that targets young people in activities that empower them and widen their awareness of their rights and responsibilities.

Project Plan for Community

- *Counseling*
- *Parenting Sessions*
- *Focus Group discussions*
- *Literary & non- literary materials dissemination*

Colin Marks – Project Coordinator – March 2011

Annex 2 Parenting Session Report

Friday 25th March 2011

Zeelugt Masjid - Women's Group

Facilitator: Colin Marks

Overview:

The Chairman of the Zeelugt Masjid requested a Parenting session for the women group called Nacosa. This session was held at the Masjid and was attended by eight (8) women from the Nacosa and nine (9) female children. This is the first engagement for the Muslim community and Mr. Khan has also indicated that he would like to have follow up sessions. The young children in the group were encouraged to freely speak of their thinking and their relationships with parents.

Objective: Raising the awareness of non-violent ways of parenting and alternative ways of discipline and Child protection issues.

The objectives and background of the Child Protection Project was outlined to the group and the initial interaction was focused on talking about their childhood favourite fruits was introduced to help the women relax while getting some background on their personal lives,

It was then pointed out by the facilitator how even the choice of a favourite fruit was a reflection of self and how describing themselves and thinking about something they liked helped to strengthen their self awareness.

Parenting Methods

The group was how would understanding self help them is how they parent their children and these were some comments.

- Helps in how you feel for children*
- Compare my life with my child's life*
- Want the children to do better than us*
- Both parents should be here to learn how to deal with children*
- Parents don't always know how to treat their children*

- *Parents beat, but they don't really want to hurt the child*
- *Parents follow the rules they came up with.*

Discipline and Punishment

The group was asked to discuss whether discipline and punishment was the same. Most parents admitted that they thought the two were the same. The facilitator then explained that when discipline is meant to teach a child something, on the other hand punishment leaves the child feeling hurt and sometimes angry. Parents in the group were then asked to reflect on when they were children how licks, (corporal punishment) made them feel. They then agreed that punishment was indeed not the same as discipline.

When the children were then asked whether they got licks at home they all said yes. Some of the children even stated that they got licks because they were bad. These statements from the children opened up the opportunity for the Facilitator to share how beating children made them feel like that were not good and this affects the concept they have of themselves.

The group then accepted that that beating was indeed harmful to a child in many ways This talking point caused parents in the group to reflect deeper in their past to see how the impact of corporal punishment affected how they deal with their children in terms of discipline.

Shapers

The group was then asked to reflect on some of the things that shape children. The facilitator then explained the concept of the four petal seven shaper. One parent then interjected that because the present group was so small she thought that this information needs to reach a larger group. The facilitator supported that view, then asked those present to focus on one shaper, the environment. These were the comments during the in dept interaction when they were asked to discuss how a child's environment help to shape the person they be.

- *The home must be comfortable*
- *Children should feel loved by family*
- *The level of education can make a difference*

- ▢ *Children should be clean and tidy*
- ▢ *The community should play a role*
- ▢ *Single parent homes always have lack.*
- ▢ *Children follow adults outside of the home when the home has problems.*
- ▢ *Some children just grow in a home, but get no positive guidance.*

S.P.I.C.E

Communication with young children with consideration to their growth and development was highlighted in the facilitator's presentation of the SPICE elements of early childhood development:

Social - Physical-Intellectual- Creative- Emotional

It was further explained that a child's early experiences influences how they adjust to their natural growth through puberty and adolescence and even to adulthood.

Alluding to the possibility of the abused child is more likely to become an abuser or to continue to be abused. Parents expressed their renewed understanding of how child development, care and protection are important to building strong families.

Reporting Child Abuse

Parents were then implored to be responsive, once they are aware that a child exists in an abusive home or environment. The CCPA hotline number was given to the adults present.

- ▢ *Participants were made aware that they have a right and responsibility to report any cases of child abuse or about any child in a vulnerable or at risk situation.*
- ▢ *Even if they feel they may be in danger if the report, then they should pass the information to someone else who will report the abuse.*

Counseling Support:

Participants were informed of the counseling services the Child Protection Project offers and they were given the schedule of when the counseling site operates.

Verbal Comments at the conclusion of the session:

1. *Communication is very important for a good relation with our children*
2. *I now know we need to give children time and attention*
3. *I thought child rights meant parents have no rights.*
4. *Beating is not really discipline*
5. *I look up to my mother because she treats me good (a child view)*
6. *My Teacher is my role model (a child view)*
7. *Children don't seem to take advice anymore, but we need to try to reach them*
8. *I really learn some new things today.*

Recordings

Audio recordings of comments were also taken at this session

List of Participants at Session

- 1) *Jacklyn Inshan - Housewife*
- 2) *Bibi Zohorrah Hussain - Student*
- 3) *Zaleena Hafuz - Student*
- 4) *Zelena Yusuf - Student*
- 5) *Shahida Kayum*
- 6) *Natalia Ali - Housewife*
- 7) *Shameina Baksh - Housewife*
- 8) *Shomeeza Seepersad - Housewife*

- 9) *Shanefa Mohommed – Nurse*
- 10) *Bibi Fazilla Khan – Student*
- 11) *Bibi Farisha Khan – Student*
- 12) *Bibi Farina Khan – Student*
- 13) *Alicia Kadir – Student*
- 14) *Prittysha Alfred – Student*
- 15) *Shafena Inshan – Community Worker*
- 16) *Bibi Farida Ghanie – Student*
- 17) *Shabana Kidir - Student*

Submitted by:

Colin Marks – Project Coordinator – March 2011

Annex 3 Good Hope Community Launch

The Child Care Project had its third Community Launch in Good Hope on Sunday 27th March 2011, at Norma Patadin's Residence.

Overview

Community Stakeholders from the Hague Community attended the Community Launch of the project. Attendees were given background information on the Projects funding partners and implementation strategies by the Project Coordinator Who Chaired the proceedings. A cross section of persons who represented Faith based groups, social interest groups, the Community policing group, business persons and parents expressed support and interest in the Project. One of the children from the community recited a poem which was seen as a significant gesture of the Project's focus.

The list of Attendees at Launch:

NAMES & DESIGNATION

- 1. Kamla Maniram - Lusignan Assembly of God (AOG)*
- 2. Leno Jiwanram - President - Women's Group*
- 3. Stella Singh - Lusignan AOG*
- 4. Rita Singh - Women's Ministry*
- 5. Savitri Looknauth - Women's Ministry*
- 6. Gowmattie Thomas - Parent / Community Rep.*
- 7. Lilowtie - Parent*
- 8. Samo Persaud - Parent*
- 9. Rita Seepersaud - Community Worker - GH*
- 10. Zeena Zaman - Masjid Representative*
- 11. Susan Chung - Community Mobilizer*
- 12. Parbattie Rai - Baptist Church*
- 13. Sunita Singh - GBV - Steering Committee Member*
- 14. Anjamie Balasar - Baptist Church - Project Mobilizer*
- 15. Raj Kumar Budhoo - Child*
- 16. Ravindra Singh - Parent / Policing Group member*
- 17. Dudnauth Budhoo - Child*
- 18. Rajendra Kumar Budhoo - Child*
- 19. Neville Ramkissoon - Parent / Youth facilitator*

- 20. Phillip Dass – Community Policing Group - Chairman
- 21. Eima Patadin – Community Representative
- 22. B. Simsahi- Parent
- 23. Danny Seegobin – Pastor – Vision AOG Church
- 24. Leslie Chung- Community Interest group
- 25. Bevan Thomas - Resident

Community Expectations & Comments

-A parent from the community expressed her appreciation for the Project's focus on children in the community, but cautioned that the community has in the past had recorded low responses to previous social change initiatives.

Other comments:

- Alcohol being sold to children in the community*
- Student absenteeism is high and the ministry seem not to be responding when contacted*
- Other persons in the community need to be trained in counseling*
- Poster need to be placed within the community with information on reporting child abuse*
- Awareness sessions with the children needed*
- Mentoring programme needed in the community*
- Suspected cases of child prostitution present*
- Evidence of physical abuse of children*
- Suspected cases of incest*

Project Implementation in the Community

- 4. To raise awareness of Child Protection issues and alternative ways of parenting in a non- violent environment.**

- o *Parenting sessions*
 - o *Youth sessions*
 - o *Child Protection sessions*
5. ***Introduction of standard protocols for Health Care givers and other professionals to recognize child abuse, enhancing their ability to response to incidences of child abuse.***
- o *Training for Nurses*
 - o *Teachers exposure to Child Protection sessions*
 - o *PTA – Child Protection sessions*
 - o *Dissemination of Literary materials*
6. ***Empowering children and Families to report child abuse and offering of counseling and court support services for affected children.***
- o *Counseling*
 - o *Court Support for children*
 - o *Reporting Child abuse*
7. ***.Creating an effective network of persons and organizations within the target community communities.***
- o *Linking community Groups, persons and agencies to respond to child issues.*
 - o *Drafting strategies for child safety and protection*
 - o *Preventing child abuse through information and heightened awareness.*

Audio Comments

Added comments and concerns of the community were recorded, and will form the basis for responsive implementation initiatives.

Mobilizing the Community

- ▣ *Mr. Neville Ramkissoo has undertaken to youth for awareness session*
- ▣ *Pastor Danny Seegobin has volunteered the Church premises as a Counseling site.*
- ▣ *Community Policing Group's Chairman has indicated he would be involved in the dissemination of materials and promoting the responsibility and procedures for reporting child abuse.*
- ▣ *The AOG church women's group will organize parenting sessions*

The Project Coordinator has been invited to meet with individual groups to consolidate their understanding of how can become involved in the Project's activities.

Annex 4

Child Protection Project submitted by Chabela Lord

Child Counselor's Report for the month of March, 2011

Counseling:

Number on Case load twenty-one (21) of which four (4) cases is for monitoring Number of new cases eight (8)

Awareness Sessions

Be-Safe sessions continued in Sophia Primary, two sessions were held for this month, all twelve cards were completed during this time.

Cards #	# of students attended	# of boys	# of girls
10-11	27	11	16
12 and recap	28	12	16

Parenting Session

On March 24th, a session was held at Zeelugt Health Centre. A total of 14 persons attended, which included eleven (11) females and three (3) males also four (4) babies and one (1) toddler, one (1) nurse was also present.

We spent approximately two (2) hours with the group which was very attentive and interactive. We shared on 'The Project Objective'; to better explain who we are and what work we intend to do in the community. To make the session livelier we allow everyone to introduce self using the name of a fruit that begin with the first letter of their names. The parents all had time to think of their early childhood experiences and share a little on what life they had back then. After the stories were shared, we further shared how

their parenting skills and past experiences help to shape how they parent their children. In discussion a father explained 'He never like school, he is a school drop out and now beat his children to pick up their books because he don't want the same for them'.

Mr. Marks introduced S.P.I.C.E to the group to best explain why children behave the way they do at the different ages of life. During this time a toddler was in our midst and best displayed the age he was in. The four petal seven shapers were tied into the S.P.I.C.E which helped to identify shapers of our development. In closing we shared the number for CPA and also leave a printed copy of the number on the health centre door, where all can see. Brochures were left at the centre for those who need further information on the following topics:- Domestic Violence fact sheet, The Shelter, Anger Management, Harmful Drugs, Child Neglect, Wife Abuse, Child Abuse, Rape, Sexual Assault by someone you know and Information for Parents, twenty-five (25) of each.

An evaluation was given to each participant to best understand how they found the session, many shared how enjoyable it was, they look forward to have many more sessions like this, and recommendations were given for sessions to be held at other locations in the community, persons ask for snack and drinks next time. Those were just a few of the feed-back as the session came to an end.

'Be-Safe' Training

A 'be-safe training was held at Help and Shelter on 3rd and 4th March. This session help to give me a better understanding of the Kit used in the sessions and to approach the subject of safety in a non-threatening way so that children is not fearful but cautious and aware. An overview of the strategies to teach 'Be Safe' was done. The facilitator also showed me ways in which I can use Trusty (the turtle) in my sessions to grab the attention of the children for long periods.

Home Visits

A total of six (6) homes visits were made for this month two (2) in the Sophia area and (4) in Zeelugt.

Case Study

An eleven (11) year old male was referred by his class teacher for counseling. The boy is the fourth (4) of six (6) children and lives in a single parent household as middle income family. The mother works as a seamstress in the city and try hard to provide for her children every need.

The boy was one day caught stealing lunch out of a child bag and removing a ruler from the headmistress room. The mother was called into the school; she was shocked to hear of such behavior since she claims she never had such problem with the boy at home. The mother explained over the pass month she has been directing more finances to grocery since she realize her son has been eating a lot. The mother blamed the father of the child since there has been limited quality time spent with him and the boy feel neglected and he loves attention.

On the day the mother visited the school the CCC was present and got a chance to meet with her for the first time. The mother shared the biggest problem she have with the child lately is him being stubborn. The counselor took the time to do a parenting session with the mother as she (mother) started to disclose about the pains and frustration she have in her own life that she think may have contributed to the new behavior the child is now acting out.

I explained to both mother and child every Tuesdays when visits are made to the school he would be counseled. The mother promised to visit at lease once a month to check up on child and share on matters in the home. In discussion I have pointed out to the mother I realized she was comparing siblings and many times this is one mistake parent's make that undermine the children self-esteem. After exploring behavior and consequences with the child, it was revealed that hunger is one of the main underlying factor for the child's behavior, due to this the child act out disobedience, lying, stealing and avoiding school. I shared with the mother how important it is for her to involve the child when establishing rules and routines. To make it even more fun I explained how tokens can be given as a reward for desired behavior and can be taken away as a punishment for undesired behavior.

My assessment of the situation is that this is a parent who basically cares about her children and is willing to try and learn to handle the discipline

issue differently. The boy is eager to learn new things and have attended every counseling session to date.

Submitted by

Chabela Lord

Annex 5

Child Protection Project submitted by Karen Shaw

Child Care Counselor's Report for March, 2011

In month of March, the following were accomplished:

Counseling:

- *Total Caseload Fifty-four (54) of which twenty-four (24) cases are counseling, one (1) case with the school welfare, twenty-one (21) cases with Child Protection and nine (9) cases are monitoring.*
- *Eleven (11) children received counseling.*
- *New cases (10) ten.*
- *Three (3) children were referred to the Vergenoegen Community School for admission.*
- *Seven (7) children were referred to the Child Protection Agency for intervention and protective custody for sexual abuse, physical abuse and abandonment.*
- *One (1) child was referred to the Family Welfare & Probation for Public Assistance.*

Home Visits:

The homes of fourteen (14) children were visited.

Parenting Session:

One to one sessions held with six (6) parents addressing issues such as school attendance, alternative discipline methods, parent/child conflicts and family relationship. A parent reported that he had stopped beating his children. However he said that he had tried the alternate discipline method recommended and it is not working. It is recognized that parents have limited alternative discipline methods to work with since most of them do not have a television, neither are their children given pocket money or treats.

Impact

- While conducting home visits in Zeelugt, , a young boy approached me and said that his friend who is thirteen years old, had not attended school for over two years and he would like to return to school. The boy's home was subsequently visited and his mother is happy that he had requested to return to school. Child was referred to the headmaster of Vergenoegen Community School and to commence attending school next term.*
- A single parent who is the father of five girls, age ranging from 6-15years, visited the CCC and reported that he is an alcoholic and is physically abusing his children due to frustration of his wife leaving him. He is seeking to have his children removed from his home. Case was referred to the Child Protection Agency.*
- As the result of intervention by CCC and the Child Care Agency, a girl age 13 years who was abandoned by her mother was placed in the care of a responsible community member*

Prepared and submitted:

Karen Shaw

Child Care Counselor