

HELP & SHELTER

COUNSELLING, COUNSELLING TRAINING & ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT

(Funded by CIDA's Gender Equality Program)

Narrative Report 4

Report by: Margaret Kertzious, Project Coordinator

Reporting period: 1st to 30th November 2009

Submission date: 8th December 2009

Project activities comprise:

1. The expansion of our counseling services to Moruca, Region 1 and Leguan, Region 3 (the latter changed to New Amsterdam, Berbice Region 6 in October 2009)
2. Building the organisational capacity of 2 Berbice-based NGOs, namely FACT and Comforting Hearts
3. Providing counseling training to the Essequibo Coast-based NGO, Hope for All at Suddie.

Activities Report

Counselling in Moruca

The scheduled counselling activity was conducted by the counsellor, who visited the community twice during the month and did group sessions with 15 persons (13 males and 2 female). One new DV case was attended to and referral made to the Probation and Welfare Department. Because of the low number of persons seeking the service on scheduled counselling days group sessions were decided on by the mobiliser, counsellor and the project coordinator. The sessions will continue in different communities with persons who are willing to participate and to make a meaningful contribution to the growth of themselves and the residents of the community at large until the project cycle ends.

Counselling in New Amsterdam

Counsellors saw 10 new adults (8 females and 2 males). 5 DV cases were attended to and referrals made in 4 of them for social and financial assistance and legal aid and to Food for the Poor.

A peer educator from a sister NGO uplifted Help & Shelter brochures for the purpose of conducting educational sessions with his organisation.

The feedback received from the counsellor was that residents were enquiring through the hotline as to why the service is only available on Thursdays.

Counselling Training with Hope for All and others

The general objective of the programme was met in terms of participants' knowledge base of the topics presented, the technical skills learnt during the one-on-one assessment, the written assessment and the final test written by all 18 persons.

The participants are now equipped with frontline intervention skills and able to work with children who have been abused, women who are victims of DV. They are also equipped with information and knowledge about dealing with associated issues such as suicide prevention, sexuality, substance abuse etc.

The training came to an end on 21st November 2009 and graduation is scheduled for 12th December 2009 in the auditorium of the Cotton Field Secondary School, Anna Regina, Essequibo.

Organisational Capacity Building

The follow-up 2-day institutional capacity building workshop was conducted with Comforting Hearts in New Amsterdam on the 25th and 26th November 2009 and is due to be conducted with FACT in Springlands, Corentyne on the 8th & 9th December 2009.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The relevant evaluation forms were completed for each of the activities and analysis of completed forms was done by the M&E officers.

Project Management

Project activities were executed as planned.

The project coordinator visited Suddie and New Amsterdam on several occasions to ensure that the objectives of the relevant activities were met.