

Youth and Citizens' Participation Program (YCP)

Submitted to: Counterpart International
Submitted by: Help & Shelter

Period: 1st September - 30th September 2016

MILESTONE 4 Reports

Activities: Social Cohesion Dialogue sessions / Skills Exchange sessions / Media Training Workshop

Date: September 10th, 12th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 26th, 28th, 30th.

Communities: Stewartville, Belle West, Good Hope, Sophia, Uitvlugt

Prepared by: Colin Marks – Project Officer

Purpose of activities: (1) 2 Social Cohesion Workshops in 5 communities (2) Skills Exchange training in 3 communities (3) Media Training Workshop (4) Community Murals in 5 communities

Venue Documentation:

Social Cohesion Dialogue Sessions

No.	Communities	Place / Address
1	Stewartville	Stewartville Secondary School Stewartville Scheme. WCD
2	Belle West	Belle West Community Centre Belle West Village, Canal no. 2. WBD
3	Good Hope	Norma residence Good Hope Main Road. E C D
4	Sophia	Pattensen Community Centre – Lot 1000 Layne Drive, Pattensen (Sophia) G/ Town
5	Uitvlugt	Uitvlugt Secondary School Uitvlugt Public Road

Venue Documentation

Skills Exchange Programme

No.	Communities	Skill Training	Place / Address
1	Belle West	Computer training	Belle West Community Centre. Belle West Housing Scheme
2	Sophia	Music Training	Pattensen Community Centre- Sophia
3	Good Hope	Food Preparation training	Samanta's residence – Good Hope Phase 1. Housing Scheme

ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT

Activity: Community Sensitization Sessions – Social Cohesion Dialogue

Community: Belle West

Date: 10th & 21st September 2016

Venue: Belle West Community Centre – Belle West Canal No. 2 West Bank Demerara

Prepared by: Colin Marks _ Project Officer

• Participation

The participants for this session were from both phase 1 and 2 of the Belle West community, which included women, men and youths. One participant was a member of the Neighborhood Development Council (NDC) which is the local organ which provides services for the community catchment area.

The groups also consist of teachers, housewives, pensioner, students, shop keeper, a member of the Community Policing Group and a businesswoman

ID	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Age Group	Sex
1	Domione	Sankar	Community	57	F
2	Wanda	Austin	Community	54	F
3	Suzy	Persaud	Community	23	F
4	Omwattie	Bedesse	Community	43	F
5	Judith	Narllong	Community	36	F
6	Hamedan	Shariff	Policing Group	69	M
7	Rosaline		House wife	55	F
8	Nollie	Readie	Neighborhood Council	38	F
9	Shirley	Persaud	PTA	45	F
10	Karon	Hermanstine	Businesswoman	23	f
11	Indra	Manichand	Teacher	36	F
12	Lisa	Edwards	Teacher	34	F
13	Valerie	Garraway	Community	47	F
14	Mohamed	Khan	Community	53	M
15	Chandrouttie	Rookmin	Community	49	F
16	Amanda	Somwaru	Self employed	40	F
17	Rosanna	Brook	student	24	F
18	Denzil	Rawlins	Student	16	M
19	Shemar	Charles	Student	17	M
20	Mahendranie	Ramdat	Community	38	F
21	Nivita	Munilall	Community	43	F

• Agenda

- Presenting Self
- Defining Social Cohesion – Group discussion and reporting back
- Creating a poster model of social cohesion – Group work
- Core & flex values – group discussion
- Social Exclusion – The in-group / out-group concept discussion

- ROLA – Reflection on local arts (Guyanese poem)
- Appreciative Inquiry
- Mediation / conflict resolving – Role play by groups
- Restorative circle exercise
- Mural branding – an experience in “togetherness”

- **Key issues, and decisions ;**

Most of the topics discussions were presented in what participants coined a “new approach”, this fostered an atmosphere of openness among participants.

In some cases participants expressed situations of concern as it existed within the community but the facilitator encouraged opinions and views from all sides and realistic decisions evolved from the open discussion and provided the participants with opportunities to commit to a process which combined their individual efforts to resolve some prevalent community concerns. The issues which evolved out of the session were mostly of an environmental and social nature but the presentation on Appreciative Inquiry allowed for a period of reflection and renewed interest in working together.

The participants identified that cleaning up the environment and engaging the youths who are unemployed was a good start towards addressing some of the main issues in the community

- **Participant feedback/evaluation**

The majority of participants expressed a renewed understanding of how working together did not mean that everyone had to be the same.

Other sentiments expressed were:

- We have to get involved again to make our community better
- We get too dependent on the government
- We need to speak in one voice to the authorities
- We have to begin to look out for each other again
- We have to do something to straighten out youths

(Evaluation sheets provided)

- **Pictures**



6. Attachments: Copy of Register

- Copy attached

ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT

Activity: Community Sensitization Sessions – Social Cohesion Dialogue

Community: Sophia

Date: 12th & 25th September 2016

Venue: Pattensen Community Centre – lot 1000 Layne Drive Pattensen (south). Sophia

Prepared by: Colin Marks _ Project Officer

- **Participation**

The participants for this session comprised persons from 4 sections of the community Section A, Section B, North Sophia, Turkeyen and Block E south Sophia. Among the participants were 2 teachers, 1 head Teacher, a shop-Keeper, an electrical contractor, a member from a community organization and students who reside in the community. Participants from all eight sections of the community had indicated their intention to be in attendance however some were absent.

ID	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Age Group	Sex
1	Abina	Lewis	P.U.S.H	18	F
2	Roinel	Smith	Teacher	23	M
3	Kiven	Bonds	Pattensen Youth Club	16	M
4	Ruel	Pompey	P.U.S.H	15	M
5	Toniya	Ince	Youth Club	16	F
6	Desmond	Hinds	Community	62	M
7	Arnold	Lowtan	Self employed	49	M
8	Lawrence	Fowler	Community	53	M
9	Elvis	Joseph	Community	51	M
10	Debra	Attu	Head Teacher	49	f
11	Jefrianna	McCalman	Student	18	F
12	Goldie	Barker	Student	16	F
13	Kiwana	Barker	Student	18	F
14	Mea	Munay	Community	30	F
15	Anastacia	Persaud	Community	28	F
16	Louis	Jordan	Contractor	53	M

- **Agenda**

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- Restorative circle exercise
- Mural branding – an experience in “togetherness”

- **Key issues, and decisions ;**

The topics introduced provided dialogue and interaction for participants in a reflective atmosphere which in

turn galvanized the review of how the community responded to its internal and external issues
Some of the key issues were:

- Systematic neglect
- Youth disempowerment
- Living with external stigma
- The benefits of working together for upward mobility at the community level
- Local representation at the political level
- Infrastructure and environmental upgrades
- Social issues and social justice
- How genetic culture and community culture interacts with each other

There was a wide consensus that the youth populace of the community needed resources and engagements which would strengthen the social and moral fabric of the community, which had suffered some decay after years of systematic neglect.

- **Participant feedback/evaluation**

Participants reflected deeply on the concepts of inclusion and community cohesion practices as being a process for evaluating the positive results of having as much persons to participate in the community building work.

Other sentiments expressed were:

- Politics drives division among people in communities
- When we are not connected to each other we cannot know what capacity we have internally
- The interaction gave a voice to our youths in the community
- One participant remarked that she never knew that there were forums for community dialogue, but she was glad she attended

(other aspect captured in the Evaluation sheets provided)

- **Pictures**



6. Attachments: Copy of Register

- Copies Attached

ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT

Activity: Community Sensitization Sessions – Social Cohesion Dialogue

Community: Uitvlugt

Date: 10th & 17th September 2016

Venue: Uitvlugt Secondary School –Public Road Uitvlugt Village W. C. D

Prepared by: Colin Marks _ Project Officer

- **Participation**

The participants for the sessions were invited from the general community populace and the persons engaged during the FGDs and the house to house survey. The community has two sections but the session recorded the higher number in attendance from the section closest to the venue. Some key stakeholders expected to attend did send excuses via representative who came in their stead. In attendance was a nursery school teacher, a neighborhood police, seamstress, female football club members, school staff, fire officer and members of the Community Development Council (CBO).

ID	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Age Group	Sex
1	Anthony	Smith	Community	20	M
2	Amanda	Raghubir	Community	18	F
3	Shonna	Greene	Youth Leader	21	F
4	Annette	Martin	Seamstress	47	F
5	Perlana	Halley	Police	53	F
6	Juilette	James	Community	49	F
7	Judith	LaRose	Self employed	52	F
8	Roxanne	Petty	Community	53	F
9	Jacqueline	Brandis	CBO	55	F
10	Shane	Rampersaud	Student	12	M
11	Sandra	Ramsammy	Community	40	F
12	Bernice	Warner	Community Org.	31	F
13	Shontel	Greene	Student/ Football Club	18	F
14	Siacy	Adams	Student/ Football club	30	F
15	Sharon	Barnwell	Community Org.	45	F
16	Debbie	Cummings	Community	54	F
17	Anatola	Waterman	Community	44	F

- **Agenda**

- Presenting Self
- Defining Social Cohesion – Group discussion and reporting back
- Creating a poster model of social cohesion – Group work
- Core & flex values – group discussion
- Social Exclusion – The in-group / out-group concept discussion
- ROLA – Reflection on local arts (Guyanese poem)
- Appreciative Inquiry
- Mediation / conflict resolving – Role play by groups
- Mural branding – an experience in “togetherness”

- **Key issues, and decisions**

The dialogue topics and exercises which were introduced to participants helped in many cases to re-focus the participants views on the things which they accomplished in earlier days when the village had a stronger sense of camaraderie. Other issues and reflections which evolved out of the sessions were:

- Cultural diversity
- The village economy tied to the existence of the sugar estate
- Mushrooming evidence of infrastructural decay in the village
- Social and cultural tolerance
- Most social services are available in the village
- The village still very proud of its level of community cohesion

The older participants posited that politics or the system of exclusion has eroded the genuine trust which the diverse ethnic groups had been accustomed to in the earlier days within the community. People began to focus on differences as a reason for separation.

- **Participant feedback/evaluation**

After being exposed to the concept of the in group/out group phenomenon and the impact of system blindness, there was much discourse on how inclusion and participation would better serve a community that wants to “build” anything whether it be relationships or structures.

Other sentiments expressed were:

- Transferring values to the young populace was very important
- There are still options for building on what exist
- Working as a team always has results that all can be proud of

(other aspect captured in the Evaluation sheets provided)

- **Pictures**



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- Copies Provided

ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT

Activity: Community Sensitization Sessions – Social Cohesion Dialogue

Community: Stewartville

Date: 10th & 17th September 2016

Venue: Uitvlugt Secondary School –Public Road Uitvlugt Village W. C. D

Prepared by: Colin Marks _ Project Officer

- **Participation**

Participation for this session brought together a cross section of community persons which included and NDC staff, a PTA president, students, leadership from the Church of Christ, teacher, a re-migrant resident and others. Approximately 30% of the participants had been engaged during the house to house survey and had expressed a desire to be involved in the project activities.

ID	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Age Group	Sex
1	Bibbi	Ambedkar	NDC	30	F
2	Andy	Raghubir	Community	19	M
3	Fiona	Harvey	Community	44	F
4	Tracy	Hall	PTA - President	40	F
5	Mohannie	Domingo	Community	34	F
6	Henriette	Nelson	Community	54	F
7	Laresha	Drakes	Teacher	36	F
8	Jaunice	Gittens	Community	55	F
9	Anthony	Hall	CBO	46	M
10	Kerry	Pohalad	Student	12	F
11	Anjali	Rhyna	student	16	F
12	Devi	David	Student	16	F
13	Randolph	Baird	Church of Christ	20	M

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- Mural branding – an experience in “togetherness”

- **Key issues, and decisions**

One of the key issues for this community was the mushrooming crime situation in the village which was being perpetrated by young people. In the dialogue sessions which ensued during the workshop community participation in the general village life had dwindled and it affected the state of the environment and influence some negative social practices and persons were becoming reluctant to come together to respond to issues even though they became prevalent. Discussions on the “in-

group/out-group” concept and core and flex values helped to deepen the participants awareness of how social exclusion acts as a barrier to solving issues at the community level and situations which sometime may look insurmountable can be addressed using the principles of social cohesion strategies and practices.

- **Participant feedback/evaluation**

Most of the participants identified the group work which was a hall mark of the dialogue session, as being a learning experience as it helped them recognize the benefits of team work and difference can be a powerful feature for expanding awareness of something unknown before. Other reflections by participants:

- Persons may be socialized in different ethnic and cultural practices but when they are examined there are many similarities to the “other” groups
- The Poster exercise shows how we can produce something we are proud of even when we all don’t have the same materials.

(other aspect captured in the Evaluation sheets provided)

- **Pictures**



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ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT

Activity: Community Sensitization Sessions – Social Cohesion Dialogue

Community: Good Hope

Date: 15th & 28th September 2016

Venue: Norma's residence – Good Hope Main Road. East Coast Demerara

Prepared by: Colin Marks _ Project Officer

- **Participation**

Though community invitations targeted a cross section of persons in the community of Good Hope the sessions had to be re-scheduled when the follow up visits were made for confirmation. The group of participants however consisted of persons from both phases of Good Hope and the neighboring village of Lusignan. The predominately female group had women from the Hindu temple, the Muslim mosque and also the Assembly of God Church. This community has no public building except for a nursery school and the Buildings of the faith based organization.

ID	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Age Group	Sex
1	Lorna	Chandroutie	Community	33	F
2	Bibi	Narsha	FBO -Muslim	54	F
3	Nesta	Joseph	Community	32	F
4	Eulina	John	Community	32	F
5	Mayline	John	Community	50	F
6	Bhalati	Ramroop	Community	32	F
7	Jasoda	Singh	FBO - Hindu	48	F
8	Leila	Singh	Community	65	F
9	Pratima	Persaud	Community	10	F
10	Debbie	Charman	FBO - Christian	54	F
11	Bibi	Halima	Community	54	F
12	Jean	Thomas	Community	59	F
13	Sherryann	Asram	Youth Group	18	F

- **Agenda**

- Presenting Self
- Defining Social Cohesion – Group discussion and reporting back
- Creating a poster model of social cohesion – Group work
- Core & flex values – group discussion
- Social Exclusion – The in-group / out-group concept discussion
- ROLA – Reflection on local arts (Guyanese poem)
- Appreciative Inquiry
- Mediation / conflict resolving – Role play by groups
- Mural branding – an experience in “togetherness”

- **Key issues, and decisions**

Some of the main issues evolving out of the dialogue session in this community were centered on youth

development/empowerment, access to services, social justice, environment, and inter-personal relationships:

- Participants bemoaned the absence of a post office, primary and Secondary school in the community
- The community was still divided along social status lines
- Mushrooming evidence of infrastructural decay in the village
- Though there is some level of togetherness many felt “left out” of mainstream community life which seems to be linked to political affiliation
- One participant had asked if the community was to form a group of stakeholders, would they still be able to be part of their political group which had been revitalized recently.
- The participants remarked that they were very proud of the community’s progress over the years, but with it came other social ills and they were willing to be part of the solution, with some guidance.
- **Participant feedback/evaluation**

Core and Flex value in the dialogue session prompted the most interaction and discussions. Reviewing the benefits of Appreciative Inquiry was also a very energizing topic in the dialogue session as it opened up the opportunity for participants to share their experiences in the community and personal life over time.

- Religious tolerance was a very significant topic introduced by a participant who opened up about her family’s journey of religious practice from her generation to her children who were “crossing over” to another religious group

(Other aspect captured in the Evaluation sheets provided)

- **Pictures**



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ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT

Activity: Skill exchange programme – Music Training

Community: Sophia

Date: Start 14th September – completion date 14th October 2016

Venue: Pattensen Community Centre – lot 100 Layne Drive, Pattensen - Sophia

Prepared by: Colin Marks - Project Officer

- **Participation**

Mobilization for the participants of the music skill class was done via invitation to FBOs and other formal and informal groups within the community. Most of the participants were young students. Other participants who began to attend were youths and others who were involved in some other forms of artistic activities.

ID	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Age Group	Sex
1	Kiwana	Barker		18	F
2	Jefrianna	McCalman		18	F
3	Goldie	Barker		16	F
4	Isiah	Cox		19	M
5	Anuradha	Mangoram		13	F
6	Stephen	Warner		18	M
7	Destiny	Persaud		13	
8	Ronaldo	Springer		17	M
9	Nikey	Tappin		23	F
10	Sheldonna	Dawson		21	F

- **Agenda**

- Introduction to using the vocabulary and symbolic language of music
- Listening skills – recognizing, understanding, and reproducing musical elements experienced as sound
- Skill in analyzing music from visual representation
- Skill in performing (singing and playing) both individually and as members of groups
- Skill in creating music (composing and improvisation)

- **Key issues, and decisions**

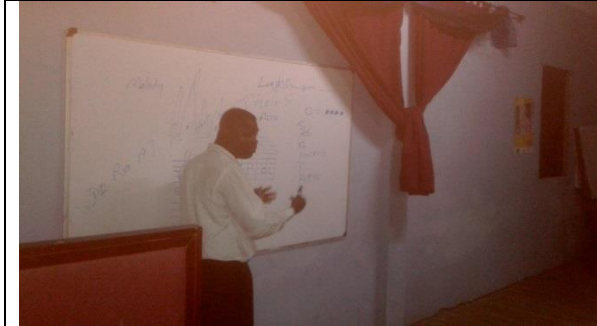
- a. The instructor was concerned with the duration of the course, however he was very impressed with the level of interest shown by the participants all of whom had never exposed to music theory.
- b. The participant asked that the option be explored for the extended time frame for the programme

- **Participant feedback/evaluation**

- Verbal feedback after sessions revealed a deep commitment by the participants to expand their involvement in the arts , not only as a skill but as a form of self-expression and creativity
- Some of the participants had already penned lyrics and combining it with the new information

of music theory, opens up more possibilities for them
(Evaluation will be done at course exit)

- **Pictures**



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ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT

Activity: Skill Exchange Programme – Cooking Training

Community: Good Hope

Date: Start 14th September – completion date 14th October 2016

Venue: 45 Phase 1 Good Hope Housing scheme

Prepared by: Colin Marks - Project Officer

- **Participation**

The youth who are participating in the programme are for the Good Hope community Phase 1&2. The majority of participants are female however there are 3 males included. All the participants were chosen based on their interest and desire to acquire a skill especially when the skill can be used to generate income.

ID	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Age Group	Sex
1	Varshanie	Etwroo		17	F
2	Lisa	Bhagwandin		17	F
3	Oiedon	Jeffry		14	M
4	Nina	Ramtahal		16	F
5	Denita	Layne		14	F
6	Stacy	Balgobin		13	F
7	Yulanda	Layne		21	F
8	Marsilla	Benjamin		13	F
9	Nalini	Balgobin		13	F
10	Sachin	Nandolla		14	M
11	Vasti	Baptiste		13	M
12	Omkar	Singh		14	F
13	Latchman			13	M
14	Kellian	Persaud		13	F

- **Agenda**

- Introduction to Food Preparation
- Hygiene and safety – tools and equipment
- Introduction to baking
- Finger food preparation
- Food measurements
- Baking – continues
- Pasties – preparation
- Cooking – Preparation / ingredients / bulk handling
- Recipes writing

- **Key issues, and decisions**

- c. Most of the participants were very interested in finger food preparations
- d. Participants have also started to identify areas where their skills and interest are most evident based on their performance

- **Participant feedback/evaluation**

- The instructor has already identified two participants, girl and a boy who have been showcasing a natural talent for cooking
- Participants are also being exposed to some basic information on how to invest in food preparation business

(Evaluation will be done at course exit)

- **Pictures**



6. Attachments: Copy of Register

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ACTIVITY SUMMARY REPORT

Activity: Media Training

Community: Belle West / Sophia / Good Hope / Uitvlugt / Stewartville

Date: Sunday 25th September 2016

Venue: Help & Shelter Boardroom. Homestretch Avenue. Georgetown

Prepared by: Colin Marks - Project Officer

- **Participation**

Participation for this training was from all 5 target communities of the project. The targeted number of persons were 25. (5 from every community). The attendance was 23. There was a combination of youths and adults in attendance at this training session.

ID	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Age Group	Sex
1	Shemar	Charles		17	m
2	Deonna	Williams		18	F
3	Candace	St. Hill		18	F
4	Bibi	Neisha		16	F
5	Kamla	Mohobir		15	F
6	Nollie	Readie		38	F
7	Denita	Layne		14	F
8	Youlanda	Layne		19	F
9	Nina	Ramtahol		16	16
10	Varshanie	Etwaroo		17	F
11	Horicin	Adams		15	F
12	Shontel	Greene		15	F
13	Kimberly	Damon		19	F
14	Perlana	Halley		53	F
15	Shane	Rampersaud		12	M
16	Bibi	Ambedkar		24	F
17	Lianna	Komal		16	F
18	Imran	Domingo		20	M
19	Ryon	Gangajelly		22	M
20	Susanne	Chung		58	F
21	Sandra	Ramsammy		40	F
22	Monique	Frank		11	F
23	Anastacia	Persaud		28	F

- **Agenda**

- What is social Media
- Assess what is available to you
- Get to know the audience
- Create interest around the issues
- Build content that connects with your audiences – Group activity

- Start out slow, evaluate feedback
- Always gauge the audience feedback and needs.
- Form networks on social media platforms

- **Key issues, and decisions**

- a. The youths were not sure how effective The Media is in their community life
- b. Some participants wanted to know if at the end of the course , others will get an opportunity to enter the programme
- c. All the communities core issues were of a social nature
- d. The groups began to assimilate their use and impact of their content package
- e. A whatsapp group was formed with all the groups who have smart phones so that can start networking around their focus issue in the individual communities.

- **Participant feedback/evaluation**

- There is positive feedback from the participants as they realized that a social media campaign didn't require much financial resource just a way to package ideas and being sensitive to the audience to be reached.
- There was a twelve year old participant who kept the groups energized with his ideas and presentations during the workshop

- **Pictures**



6. Attachments: Copy of Register