

USAID/GHARP Report

Report for the period: April 1st 2009 to April 30th 2009

Subproject FCO Number 07-00100-10-02:

Training and Counseling on HIV/AIDS and Domestic Violence Project

Implementing Agency:

Help & Shelter

Report preparer:

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Date of report:

12th May 2009

This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of USAID requirements

NARRATIVE REPORT

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Title:

Training and Counseling on HIV/AIDS and Domestic Violence Project

I. CURRENT STATUS AND PROGRESS

During the month the organization received funds as was prepared on the cash flow register to implement the planned activities as stated on the work-plan tool. It would appear that the activity of the hotline training would not be completed before the end of the project cycle due to the continued difficulty of the numbers of persons interested in this area of counseling.

Planned Activities

Planned activities included:

- 1. Behavioural Change Communication through One-on-One Community Outreach**
 - (1) Face to face counseling
 - (2) Client questionnaire analysis (feedback from clients using the client's questionnaire forms)
 - (3) Referrals
 - (4) Hotline counseling
 - (5) Court support and counseling (in school youth)

- 2. A & B prevention program**
 - (1) ISY-Prevention A – the conduct of abstinence messages to youths in 3 secondary schools in Region 4
 - (2) OSY – Prevention A & B – the conduct of abstinence and be faithful messages to out of school youths from groups in 3 communities

- 3. Distribution of BCC materials and condoms to walk-ins**

- 4. Project management**

1. Prevention

1.1 Community Outreach

Face to face counseling

This activity was conducted by two full time counselors, two part time counselors and one volunteer counselor at our office situated on Homestretch Avenue, Durban Park, Georgetown.

The delivery of HIV prevention and appropriate BCC messages was done on a one-to-one basis with clients. The total numbers of persons newly reached with the following messages were:

- Messages that promote Abstinence only (A) – **1** male and **11** females
- Messages that promote faithfulness only (B) - **2** males and **19** females
- Messages that promote both Abstinence and Faithfulness (A&B) - **0** males and **0** females
- Messages that promote behavior change beyond Abstinence & faithfulness (partner reduction, condom use, HIV Testing) - **7** males and **22** females

The number of persons previously reached through one-off outreach intervention using appropriate prevention messages was as follows:

- Messages that promote Abstinence only (A) - **4** females
- Messages that promote Faithfulness only (B) - **2** males and **4** females
- Messages that promote both A & B - **0** males and **0** females
- Messages that promote behavior change beyond Abstinence and Faithfulness (partner reduction, condom use, HIV testing etc) - **4** males and **8** females

Multi Session Outreach Intervention – OSY- the target number of sessions have been reached.

- The total number of females attending the sessions was **18**

Our overall clientele data shows the numbers of clients who accessed the services of Help & Shelter during the month under the following categories as follows:

- New clients – **46**
- Repeat clients – **61**
- Hotline – **28**
- Court support - **44** attendances
- Client referrals – **19**
- Non-client referrals - **3**

Client questionnaire analysis

A total of **25** forms were returned

Assessment of counseling sessions by clients – Very Good – 17 (68%)

- Good – 4 (16%)
- Fair - 4 (16%)

of clients who would return for follow up session

Yes – 24 (96%)

No - 1 (4%)

How clients heard about H&S counseling services

Radio - 2 (8%)

TV - 11(44%)

Leaflet – 1 (4%)

Newspaper - 1 (4%)

Other - 6 (24%)

Multiple source – (Radio, TV, Newspaper, Leaflet) – 6 (24%)

of clients receiving HIV information – 24 (96%)

of clients not receiving HIV information – 1 (4%)

Referrals

4 clients were referred: all for HIV/C&T

1 to C/ville Health Centre for HIV/ C&T

1 to GPHC (Gum Clinic) for HIV/ C&T

2 to the Leonora Cottage Hospital for HIV/C&T

Hotline counseling

During the month the hotline service was activated during the evenings and weekends to the 2 hotline counselors.

Court Support and Counseling (in school youth)

There are two court support counselors who attend courts in Region 4 including Providence on the East Bank, Mahaica, Cove & John, Vigilance and Sparendam on the East Coast and all the courts in Georgetown. The counselors attended courts on 44 occasions with clients who are mostly children who have been sexually molested, rape or other-wise abused. Moral support is also given to women who have applied for protection orders under the Domestic Violence Act. Help & Shelter has a legal consultant who assists in the application of this process.

1.2 A & B Prevention Program In-School Youth – Prevention A Kingston Community High School

16 sessions were completed at the school.

8 males were reached and 11 females

This school showed a great deal of response to the program in terms of receiving full cooperation from the Head and other teachers. There was never a negative response from the staff, which seems to have embraced the concepts shared by Help and Shelter's prevention coordinator and officers.

The session with parents is still to be completed. The schools administration stated that parents do not attend meetings at the school. Many parents and guardians may have visited the school twice during the time of their children's attendance at the institution. At the moment strategies are being worked out to have the parents session completed.

To date two sessions were held with form 3 A students at this school in an effort to have the target numbers reached.

The number of Boys in attendance was thirteen (13)

The number of Girls in attendance was fourteen (14) and the total number of students in attendance was twenty seven (27)

Students from the said class have shown enthusiasm for the sessions.

During the period these sessions were done the form teacher was attending the University of Guyana. However she has subsequently returned therefore bringing to an end the free period.

St. Johns College

To date 14 sessions have been completed this school year.

21 boys and 27 girls participated – total 48

The school seems to have a large number of children who come from dysfunctional homes. Nevertheless the students have demonstrated the desire to do better and to achieve an education that would improve their lives.

Two female students from this school have attended counseling and testing and who were accompanied by a prevention Officer. One parent asked that the prevention personnel visit her home for the purpose of intervention on the matter and this resulted in a referral being made to Help & Shelter Crisis Centre for further counseling. To date both Parent and Child have been keeping their appointments.

Challenges

From observation the children seem to have several unsupervised class periods. On the other hand the school's administration is forced to deal with disciplinary issues on a daily basis. There are days when this can be best described as hourly intervention.

In the past the School took a while to open its doors to the prevention work, and this was as a direct result of the consent forms not being returned on time.

Parents and or guardians would visit the school whenever there are problems between the child/children and school system and in most cases when there is no other way in resolving the conflict at this level.

Cummings Lodge Secondary School

6 sessions have been completed to date.

11 boys and 24 girls participated – total 35

The prevention program resumed after the Easter holidays.

The topic 'Introduction to Sexuality' was done with the students who interacted in a participatory way that showed that they had learned new concepts on the subject.

Stewartville Secondary School

Even though a formal letter was sent to Ms. Bentick, who had advised that the information be sent to the Executive Director for approval, we started work at 2 schools in Region3, due to an urgent request made by the school's administration for prevention work to be done in their schools. Consideration was given to the fact that both prevention officers reside in the Region, thus reducing transportation costs.

The first session was held on April 23rd; the topic 'Introduction to Self Esteem'

11 boys and 29 girls participated – total 40

The sessions are being held during the lunch break.

Leonora Secondary School

After reviewing the timetable and taking into consideration the shortness of the school term it was agreed by the school's administration that the sessions are to be conducted after school is dismissed. As a result, letters of consent were distributed to Parents/Guardians for their cooperation and approval.

Challenges/Dilemma

As a result of other intervention work in the schools on the West Coast of Demerara it has been gleaned that form 1 girls have been engaging in sexual activity with fifteen year old boys. Some of them have confessed that they prefer to have sex with bigger boys since the smaller boys penis are too short and therefore it is necessary for urgent intervention to be done to curb the social ills and to generally help these students.

Out-of-School Youth – Prevention A & B

Grove Craft Centre

A total of 17 sessions have been completed at the centre.

In attendance were 18 female participants

The sessions were all interesting with input of participants and their lecturers. The information pertaining to sex always strikes a cord with the participants.

However many of them face many challenges from over-protective parents and the others from controlling parents. During one of the most recent sessions a participant left the session with tears in her eyes and went to the bathroom. After the session had ended the participant spoke with the prevention coordinator in the administrator's office, in confidence. It was revealed that on two occasions she thought of committing suicide. At the end of that intervention the participant was given options that included seeking help from Help & Shelter crisis centre, using the hotline or visiting the office.

Participants have displayed maturity over the time the prevention sessions have been held, a characteristic that may not be allowed in the home.

Despite the number of session held the participants continue to respond positively to what is shared at each session and have expressed a desire to continue the prevention sessions.

It has become evident that early school leaver have lots of difficulties with dealing with life's issues and more so parents. The 6 sessions slated for them has proven to be inadequate and with this in mind it became necessary to have followed up intervention.

Soesdyke Craft Centre

A total of 4 sessions have been completed at the centre.

The number of participants in attendance was eleven (11).

Topic: Abstinence: Thinking and Talking About It

Participants' attendance has become consistent as a result of the students having received a stipend which aids in offsetting transportation cost.

Kuru Kururu

The intention is to work in this area under the program, thus the visit made by the Prevention Officers to the community for the conduct of meetings with the various stake holders. These persons are responsible for assisting with the mobilization of participants and locating a venue. Prevention persons were given a guided tour of the primary school, Annex and the agricultural office board room. The space for the group session is a good one the environment is spacious and cool with seating conveniences. The contact person, a teacher, is in the process of completing the necessary arrangements for the Prevention work to begin.

Challenges

Sessions have been completed at 2 of the schools but there is still much work to be done with students, parents and teachers. Parents and guardians have not been showing much interest in the lives of their children. As a result much work is to be done with parents on behavior change, parenting, stress management, etc.

Some teachers have not been creating an enabling environment for the students. As a result, teachers themselves need work/intervention in their lives.

1.3 Distribution of BCC materials and Condoms to walk-ins

The distribution of materials through Prevention Outreach activities was as follows:

Number of male condoms - 0

Number of female condoms – 20

Number of BCC materials on HIV/AIDS

1.4 Project Management

The objective of this activity is to provide quality leadership and management systems and provide resources to effectively implement proposed activities within Help & Shelter.

Please be advised of all positive or negative variances by activity as stated on the Expenditure Variance Report [EVS] at the end of the month

ACTIVITY	VARIANCES +/-	JUSTIFICATIONS	COORDINATOR'S COMMENT
Hotline Counseling	\$(134,675)		Training to commence sometime in 2009 due to the inadequate number of participants and H & S fire. Money to be reimburse
Face – To – Face Counseling	\$ (1,954)	Transportation	Transportation for client. Spending within budget
In- School Counselling			

ISY - Cummings lodge	\$(20,550)	photo. Leaflets , Stationery & transportation	Additional sessions completed as a result of the needs of the school which require additional travel, stationery & photocopies.
ISY – ST. John’s College	(\$7,800)	Transportation	Due to the impact of the sessions on the students it became necessary for some students to be counsel & tested.
ISY – Kingston Community High	\$(6,800)	Transportation	Due to the impact of the sessions on the students it became necessary for some students to be counsel & tested
OSY- Grove Craft Centre	\$(8,345)	Photo. Leaflets , Stationery & transportation	Additional sessions of intervention and referrals were done with participants.
OSY- West Ruimveldt Change to Kuru- Kuru	(2,000)	Transportation	As a result of the logistics transportation cost increased in addition to mobilization for sessions.
OSY- Meadow Brook change to Soesdyke	\$(12,700)	Transportation	As a result of the logistics transportation cost increased in addition to counseling intervention.
Office Expense	\$26,334	Bulk amounts:	Spending favorably.

Planning meetings are normally held every fortnight on Tuesdays, director’s meetings held on the third Thursday of each month, Volunteers meeting on the second Saturday of each month and supervisory counselors meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month.

Contract fees were paid to staff with all other accounting activities conducted including acquittals that were done early May 2009.

II. CONSTRAINTS

CEMCO had done a bill of quantities for the repairs to the coordinator’s office, for contractors to be guided on preparing quotation for the repairs. Several contractors were contacted and were given the bill of quantities to work with but a reluctance of preparing quotations have been shown by all except for one contractor, Mr Siebs, who was recommended by CEMCO and who had submitted his estimate/quotation and who is now doing rehab works to the coordinators office which is expected to be completed by the 15th May 2009.

III. SUBSEQUENT PERIOD WORK PLAN

Activities for May 2009	Projected Date	Projected Time
1. Prevention - Other Counseling (face-to-face& hotline)	Every month	Working hours
2. Prevention – A&B Court support counseling	Every month	Working hours
3. Prevention – A- ISY program	Every month	Working hours
4. Prevention - Other OSY Program	Every month	Working hours
5. Project Management/Overhead	Every month	Working hours/some weekends

All activities will be executed as per the above schedule.

IV. MATERIALS/PRODUCTS

1. Help & Shelter materials

Help & Shelter continued to re-print 17 brochures on domestic violence, child abuse, TIP and gender-based violence for the purpose of dissemination to clients, workshop participants, NGOs, the government ministries based on request and other agencies, secondary and UG students and other individuals.

- Wife Abuse
- Child Abuse
- Child Neglect
- Gender-Based Violence
- Understanding Spousal Abuse (3-in-1)
- Rape
- Sexual Assault
- Harassment Poisons the Work Place (3-in-1)
- Anger Management
- Human Trafficking
- Stop Trafficking in Women
- For Parents
- The Shelter
- Domestic Violence Act
- Domestic Violence Resource Brochure
- Help & Shelter Fact Sheet
- Handout on Healthy & Unhealthy Relationship

2. Materials received from GHARP continued to be distributed including:

- Making a Difference with care
- Sex –are you ready
- Protect your pleasure
- PMTCT of HIV
- Super Gang and the player booklets;
- Tooth bags with Super Gang and the player booklets; Teen Riddim booklets and a CD on Welcome to the Kool Zone
- A bag with My Body My Rules badges.

3. Other materials continued to be distributed including:

- People who are HIV positive (NAPS)

- Get tested (NAPS)
- Everything you need to know about condoms (UNFPA)
- Female condoms (UNFPA)
- Male condoms (NAPS)

4. Posters

- Child Abuse -16
- GHARP - 16
- H & S - 32
- Fathers are parents too – 16
- Trafficking in Persons (TIP) - 10