

**USAID/GHARP Report**

**Report for the period: March 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 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:**

***6<sup>th</sup> April 2009***

***This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of USAID requirements***

## NARRATIVE REPORT

*Report for the period: March 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009*

*Subproject FCO Number FCO Number 07-00100-10-02:*

*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. The situation with the training of 10 hotline counselors remains the same as mentioned in the previous reports.

#### **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 the Guyana Citizen Initiative Building on 77 Light Street Albert town Georgetown, a temporary location after the fire, during the hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

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) – **4** males and **11** females; total **15**
- Messages that promote faithfulness only (B) - **0** males and **19** females; total **19**
- Messages that promote both Abstinence and Faithfulness (A&B) - **0** males and **8** females; total **8**

- Messages that promote behavior change beyond Abstinence & faithfulness (partner reduction, condom use, HIV Testing) - **10** males and **23** females; total **33**

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

- Messages that promote Abstinence only (A) - **0** males and **2** females; total **2**
- Messages that promote Faithfulness only (B) –
- Messages that promote both A & B -
- Messages that promote behavior change beyond Abstinence and Faithfulness (partner reduction, condom use, HIV testing etc) - **2** males and **12** females; total **14**

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 – **38**
- Repeat clients – **35**
- Hotline – **42**
- Court support - **62** attendances
- Client referrals – **36**
- Non-client referrals - **5**

### **Client questionnaire analysis**

A total of **22** forms were returned

Assessment of counseling sessions by clients	– Very Good	– 17 (78%)
	- Good	– 3 (17%)
	- Unclear	- 1 (5%)

# of clients who would return for follow up session

Yes	–	22 (100%)
No	-	0 (0%)

How clients heard about H&S counseling services

TV	- 4 (22%)
Leaflet	– 1 (6%)
Other	- 11 (61%)
Radio & TV	– 2 (11%)

# of clients receiving HIV information	– 15 (83%)
# of clients not receiving HIV information	– 3 (17%)

### **Referrals**

2 clients were referred for HIV/C&T

- 1 to Soesdyke Health Centre for HIV/ C&T
- 1 to GPHC (Gum Clinic) 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 62 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

18 sessions were completed at the school.

19 students were reached: 8 males 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 total number of students in attendance was 27: 13 boys and 14 girls

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

14 sessions have so far been completed this school year.

A total of 48 students participated: 21 boys and 27 girls

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

5 sessions have been completed to date.

A total of 37 students participated: 9 boys and 28 girls

The school has been involved in various extra curricula activities including Mashramani and class room competitions. Then there were end of term examinations as a result of which the sessions were put on temporary hold.

We look forward to continuing to work with the school after the Easter term holidays. Both students and the school administration have demonstrated support and interest in the prevention program.

### **Out-of-School Youth – Prevention A & B**

#### Grove Craft Centre

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

18 female participants attended.

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 leavers 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

3 sessions have been to date been completed.

11 participants attended.

The number of participants registered in the program is higher but they are experiencing financial difficulties. This is being addressed and with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports participants should be able to receive a stipend to assist with transportation costs.

#### Challenges

The sessions have been completed at two of the schools however there is 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.

#### Conclusion

The prevention work with the schools is worthwhile. Other schools have requested the same program. These are Lenora and Stewartville Secondary in Region 3. Prevention officers reside in the same area

thereby affording easy access to the schools. This matter was discussed by the Project Coordinator of Help & Shelter and the CSDS prevention Officer.

### 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 – 0
- Number of BCC materials on HIV/AIDS - 0

### 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
<b>Hotline Counseling</b>	\$(134,675)		Training to commence sometime in 2009 due to the inadequate number of participants and H & S fire. Money to be reimburse
<b>Face – To – Face Counseling</b>	\$ (1,954)	Transportation	Transportation for client. Spending within budget
<b>In- School Counselling</b>			
<b>ISY - Cummings lodge</b>	\$(20,550)	photo. Leaflets , Stationery & transportation	Additional sessions completed as a result of the needs of the school which require additional travel, stationery & photocopies.
<b>ISY – ST. John's College</b>	(\$7,800)	Transportation	Due to the impact of the sessions on the students it became necessary for some students to be counsel & tested.
<b>ISY – Kingston Community High</b>	\$(6,800)	Transportation	Due to the impact of the sessions on the students it became necessary for some students to be counsel & tested
<b>OSY- Grove Craft Centre</b>	\$(8,345)	Photo. Leaflets , Stationery & transportation	Additional sessions of intervention and referrals were done with participants.
<b>OSY- West Ruimveldt Change to Kuru- Kuru</b>	(2,000)	Transportation	As a result of the logistics transportation cost increased in addition to mobilization for sessions.
<b>OSY- Meadow Brook change to Soesdyke</b>	\$(12,700)	Transportation	As a result of the logistics transportation cost increased in addition to counseling intervention.
<b>Office Expense</b>	\$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 April 2009.

## II. CONSTRAINTS

Due to the recent fire our office was re-located temporary on 77 Light Street to accommodate only the counseling activity. The other activities – OSY & ISY program were conducted by the prevention coordinator and officers. Administration work was conducted between the temporary office and the office on Homestretch Avenue. The re-wiring of the electrical wires to the building is completed and this was done by Maurice Lopes Contracting Firm. This was made possible by a grant from the government that will include repairs to the coordinator’s office. We have asked CEMCO to do 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 who was recommended by CEMCO and who had submitted his estimate/quotation. Further discussion is to be conducted with the contractor.

As mentioned before the hotline training is rescheduled for sometime in the future due to a few participants who had shown an interest in this area. The hotline service continues to be managed by the 2 volunteers we have on board and with the limited human resources the organization continue to maintain its 24 hours hotline service to the general public.

## III. SUBSEQUENT PERIOD WORK PLAN

<b>Activities for April 2009</b>	<b>Projected Date</b>	<b>Projected Time</b>
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