

**HELP & SHELTER**  
**UNIFEM GBV PROJECT M&E REPORT - JULY 2009**

**HEALTH CENTRES**

Health Centres	Region	Topic	Date	# of Persons		Age	Time	Pub Ed Officer
				F	M			
Windsor Forest	3	Economic Abuse Reducing DV	1 <sup>st</sup> July	9	1	18-35	1 hrs	J.O & G.P.
			20 <sup>th</sup> July	22	1	18-55	1 hr	“ “
			27 <sup>th</sup> July	14	3	18-55		Genevieve P.
La Grange	3	Reducing DV- Roles of Parents & Neighbours	7 <sup>th</sup> July	25		18-55	1 hr	Johnson O.
			13 <sup>th</sup> July	17	2	19-55	1hr	Genevieve P
			14 <sup>th</sup> July	10	1	19-55+	1 hr	Genevieve P
			21 <sup>st</sup> July	22		19-55		Genevieve P
Leonora	3	Parenting & DV  Crimes of Passion & DV	3 <sup>rd</sup> July	30	2	19-55	1 hr 10min	Genevieve P
			24 <sup>th</sup> July	18	4	18-55+	1 ¼ hr	Genevieve P
Mocha	4	DV & Services  Economic Abuse  Domestic Violence	8 <sup>th</sup> July	22		18-35	1 hr	Johnson O.
			13 <sup>th</sup> July	29		18-55	1 hr	Johnson O.
			15 <sup>th</sup> July	20		18-55	1 hr	“ “
David Rose	4	Economic Abuse	13 <sup>th</sup> July	29		18-55	1 hr	Johnson O
Grove	4	Domestic Violence	21 <sup>st</sup> July	24		18-55	1 hr	Johnson O.
	3	Domestic Violence	17 <sup>th</sup> July	23	3	18-55	1 hr 25 min	Genevieve P
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>314</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>13 hrs 50 min</b>	

**Health Centres**

Five (5) health centres were visited during the month in Regions 3 & 4 and one (1) cottage hospital. During these visits a total of 14 awareness session lasting between 1 ½ hrs – 1 hr were held on domestic violence, economic abuse, DV services, husband abuse, T.I.P., A total of 331 persons, 314 women and 17 men, between the ages of 18 and 55 benefited from these awareness sessions.

***EVALUATION OF HEALTH CENTRES***

Health Centres	Evaluation	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	No Response
Windsor Forest, La Grange, Mocha, Leonora , Grove, David Rose	How would you rate participation?	<b>X</b> <b>1 sessions</b> <b>(7%)</b>	<b>X</b> <b>6 session</b> <b>(43%)</b>	<b>X</b> <b>5 sessions</b> <b>(36%)</b>	<b>X</b> <b>1 sessions</b> <b>(7%)</b>	<b>X</b> <b>1 session</b> <b>(7%)</b>	

“	“	Participants understanding of topics		X 7 session (50%)	X 7 session (50%)		
“	“	“	Facilitation of sessions		X 8 session (57%)		X 6 sessions (43%)
“	“	“	Rating of overall sessions	X 10 session (71%)	X 4 sessions (29%)		

### Evaluation of Awareness Sessions at Health Centres

Evaluation of 14 of the sessions conducted at 5 health centres and 1 hospital indicated that participation was excellent at 1 of the sessions, very good at 6, good at 5, fair at 1 and poor at 1 session. Understanding of topics presented was rated as very good at 7 and good at 7. Facilitation was rated as good at 8 sessions and there was no response to this question at 6 of the sessions. The overall rating of the sessions was assessed as, very good at 10 sessions and good at 4 sessions.

### Feedback from Health Centres

- **Windsor Forest HC** – Three awareness sessions were held at this health centre for the month. During the first visit the nurse at the health centre narrated the abuse she suffered at the hands of her husband which started when she was 3 months pregnant with her first child. She stated her husband was a very nice person who loved her but he has refused her request to find ways to work out their problems as a couple. In addition she said that her mother-in-law takes sides with her husband when they have disputes and she interferes in their relationship. The nurse also confessed to attacking and assaulting her husband during one of their arguments. The nurse was encouraged to seek counselling and advice at Help & Shelter. She also observed that many women like herself were being abused but are not speaking out about the abuse and said that H&S intervention was timely.

Most of the mothers at the clinic were unemployed and depended on their husbands for financial support. Some mothers said they receive financial support from their husbands while others revealed that they receive no support at all. Mothers were encouraged to always report cases of abuse. The Facilitator read the poem “I got flowers today” at the session which was very inspiring to those present.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> visit the topic reducing domestic violence, responses from parents and neighbours were discussed. On the issue of what parents or grandparents can do to reduce DV participants were silent, however, in relation to neighbours participants were of the view that it was dangerous to intervene in incidents of DV among neighbours as they might be attacked themselves. Participants felt that it was preferable to mind their own business and not to get involved. They also said that calling the police was not a viable option as the response would be poor and confidentiality as to who reported the incident would not be maintained. One participant reported that when she made a report about DV the police at one station told her they could not come because they had no vehicle, other residents called another station and were told they would come if transportation was provided for them. Participants also strongly voiced their opinion that the poorest response to reports came from the MLHSSS. Participants also voiced their opinion that the promotion of condoms was contributing to domestic violence and “promoting unfaithfulness in the guise of protection”.

One participant shared her suspicions that a father in having sex with his 14 yr old daughter. The father was observed kissing his daughter at his workplace. Neighbours and relatives attempted to rescue the

child but were unsuccessful. Relatives were also informed by the police that they have to catch the father in the act before an arrest can be made. The child's mother is dead.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> visit a woman spoke of the repeated sexual abuse of her daughter from the age of 6 – 12 by her brother-in-law. All the signs were there she saw but she was so distraught by her husband's infidelity she never investigated her child's behaviour.

A young female participant whose husband witnessed the suicide of his father by hanging due to his mother's unfaithfulness is on the verge of killing herself and baby. She said she is paying for her mother-in-law's sins. The abuse is very intense. Her mother is dead and she has no relatives, her father adores her husband because he gives him lots of money. It is impossible for her to talk to her dad because he thinks her husband is the best husband in the world. The H&S facilitator has promised to revisit the HC to get more details.

- **La Grange HC** – Four awareness sessions were held at this health centre this month. During this first session participation was not very good. The discussion was focused on the roles of parents, grandparents and neighbors in reducing domestic violence in Guyana. Participants said that parents don't really have the time to constantly monitor their children. One of the participants shared her experience with her mom, she said she and her mom rarely talk and interact, she said it is when she wants to greet her mom that they talk at home. Apart from this, other family members in the home go about the home each one basically minding their own business.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> session the topic discussed was husband abuse. One male participant was of the opinion that finally someone is aware that men are also being abused by violent women. One young woman responded that in some of these cases women are defending themselves against abusive men. Another woman said women do not usually attack men without having a solid reason and anytime any form of abuse against a man is reported it should be investigated thoroughly.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> session on the same topic of husband abuse one male participant said he is being abused by his lover. He said she has two children from a previous relationship. One day his partner's daughter who is 5 years old telephoned one of her mom's male friends and told him she needs \$100. The guy drove two villages to bring the money. The male participant said after he learnt of the incident, he told his lover and the mother of the 5 yr old of the danger and the possibility of the man abusing her child. The woman in turn accused him of wanting to molest her child. He also stated the woman allows her children to do whatever they want and he is frustrated because it is difficult to communicate with the woman. The female participants encouraged him to leave her. They think he should find a woman who is a good role model for her children. They also believe the woman is being negligent and feels she will suffer the consequences.

During the 4<sup>th</sup> session a participant said there is a restaurant in their village where some Amerindian women work. She said, she was told that the proprietor allows patrons to have "short time" with these young ladies. The police are also frequent visitors to the establishment so she believes they are aware of the activity. The participant also said that reports are made to the Ministry about the abuse but nothing is done.

Another participant reported that her neighbour's 15 years old daughter is at a shop dressed in skimpy clothing and is flirting with men at nights, the girl is very promiscuous, the mother according to the woman is invisible and the child is lost.

- **Leonora Hospital** – Two awareness sessions were held at this hospital. The first awareness session was on the topic parenting and DV. One participant said she had never heard of H & S, she grew up in a dysfunctional family, eloped with her boyfriend at 14 and now she is so depressed because she has not been a good mother. She has been having suicidal thoughts and was advised to visit a psychiatrist who

she said gave her tablets which “cool her down”. The young woman is also pregnant. She was advised to visit H&S crisis centre.

She also spoke of her neighbor whose is being physically and verbally abused by her husband and also needs help. Her neighbor confides in her but she did not know what to do to help her. She was thankful for the information and promised that both she and her neighbor would visit H & S.

Another young woman disclosed that her abuse happens at nights. She said she’s been telling her husband that he is raping her but he feels her body is his anytime he needs it. She said she is ashamed to seek help.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> awareness session discussed the recent crimes of passion and DV. A male participant said that his culture is one that encourages abuse. When an Indian girl marries and her partner is abusive, she is expected to remain with her spouse and make the relationship work, if she does not the community sees her as a failure.

He said as a child his dad frequently assaulted his mom when he was in a drunken state. He said after one of these incidents, his mother waited until his father was sober the following day and beat him mercilessly with a broom. He said his father never hit his mother after that incident.

A young woman said in her village, a man has two sons whom he beats as if he is fighting with adults, their aunts and mother often look on helplessly. The man also beats them and had damaged and thrown out the stock in his father-in-law’s shop. The police were called in by neighbours about this abuse, but the relatives denied anything had occurred because they are afraid of the perpetrator who he is unemployed. He has also exposed himself while taunting neighbours on one occasion after the departure of the police. The youngest boy is said to have a heart condition and after one beating the child was left unconscious. Neighbours had to take the child and his mother to the hospital because the father was penniless (unemployed). \*

- **Mocha HC** – A total of 3 awareness sessions were held at this health centre for the month. The session discussed the roles of certain people and institutions in reducing violence in Guyana. Participant said that parents might not be able to play any role in their children’s life because they cannot be following them about. She said parents may not know the kinds of people their children are moving with and the influence this can have on their behavior. She was disputing the fact that parents sometimes should be blamed for DV faced by their children. Almost all the participants agreed that parents have a crucial role to play by seeking counseling, talking to their children and making a report. Participants also agreed that grandparents have a role to play in reducing violence and can do this by discussing issues and providing assistance to their children even after they get married.

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> awareness session held on DV at this health centre participation was very good. Almost all participants denied any violence between them and their spouses, one woman said she was in an abusive relationship once, she disclosed that her partner would physically abuse her and her children. The matter has been resolved due to her taking necessary steps to end the abuse as well as the relationship, she reported the matter to the police, had the matter brought before the court and the man was subsequently sentenced to prison, one other participant revealed an issue concerning her friend. Some participants complained that no help is available anywhere in Guyana, two persons said they made reports to H & S but were made to wait them asked to return, eventually nothing was done about the matter. Participants were encouraged not to give up, but to continue to report and seek help instead of attacking the perpetrators which many see as their only solution.

- **David Rose HC** – Issues discussed included domestic and financial responsibilities of a man in the home, women taking care of expenses, men not allowing their wives/partners to work, trafficking etc.

Participants were reluctant to answer questions posed, however, discussions revealed that 5% of participants were either married or in a common-law relationship with their partner, 21% of the women were working, many were carrying their first pregnancy while there were a few who had older children. Women were encouraged to empower themselves economically by finding jobs.

- **Grove HC** – Domestic violence was the topic discussed at this awareness session. The session was excellent, the Medex and the nurses took part and made meaningful contributions, the environment was quiet, conducive and the participants opened up and shared experiences. The session was very interactive. A request for assistance for a parent was made and they were advised to seek help at H&S Crisis Centre.

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#### NGO/AGENCIES/ COMMUNITY OUTREACH/REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

NGO, Agencies, Community Outreach/ Regional Workshops	Region	Topic	Date	# of Persons		Age	Time	Pub Ed Officer
				F	M			
Sophia Community	4	DV, Child Abuse, GBV	6 <sup>th</sup> July	34	65	19-55	4 hr	Kevin M.
Leguan Outreach	3	Distribution of H&S Posters & Brochures	7 <sup>th</sup> July 31 <sup>st</sup> July				4 hrs 3 hrs	KM, KG, MF, MK
Mayor & City Council	4	DV, Cycle of Violence, Entrapment	8 <sup>th</sup> July	28	6		4 ½ hrs	Kevin M. Karen G.
National Commission on Disability	4	GBV	9 <sup>th</sup> July	17	11		2 hrs	Kevin M.
Advocacy Campaign for: Sexual Offences Bill	4	Distribution of handouts, writing message for protection of children	10 <sup>th</sup> July	150 + persons			3 hrs	KM, JO, JH, MK
Moravian Church	4	GBV	11 <sup>th</sup> July	18	4		5 ½ hrs	Kevin M.
Children's Support Group	4	Substance Abuse & Family	14 <sup>th</sup> July			12-18	2 hrs	Karen G.
Peace Corps Volunteers	4	Domestic Violence	9 <sup>th</sup> July	25	3	19-55+	2 ½ hr	Karen G.
Miss Wakenaam Pageant	3	Self, Cycle of Violence, Entrapment	13 <sup>th</sup> July	18			1 day	Kevin M. Karen G.
NCERD Welfare Officers	4	Effects of Violence on Children	15 <sup>th</sup> July	19	3		2 hrs	Karen G. Kevin M.

Grove Seven Day Adventist Church	6	Substance Abuse & Family Violence: The Role of the Church	18 <sup>th</sup> July	80	70	12-55 +	6 hrs	Julian H.
New Apostolic Church (VBS)	4	Teenage Pregnancy	29 <sup>th</sup> July	32	20	12-18	1 hr	J.O & G.P.
	4	Rights & Responsibilities of Children	27 <sup>th</sup> July	26	28	12-18	1 hr	“ “
		Respect for Authority	30 <sup>th</sup> July	26	28	12-18	1 hr	“ “
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>323</b>	<b>238</b>		<b>1 day, 41 ½ hrs</b>	

### NGO/AGENCIES/REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

During the month Help & Shelter public education officers facilitated 12 awareness sessions of 1-6 hrs duration, focused on domestic violence, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, GBV, effects of violence on children, rights and responsibilities of children. One 1 day workshops was also held in Regions 3..A total of 561 persons (323 females and 238 males) benefited from the awareness sessions and workshops. In addition approximately 150 persons also received handout and messages in H&S and Red Thread’s advocacy campaign to get the new Sexual Offences Bill enacted. \*

### EVALUATION OF NGO/AGENCIES/REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

NGO/Agency	Evaluation	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	No Response
Sophia Community, Leguan, Mayor & City Council, National Commission on Disabilities, Moravian Church, New Apostolic Church, Seven Day Adventist Church, NCERD, Peace Corps, Children Support Group, Wakenaam Pageant	How would you rate participation?	<b>X</b> <b>3 sessions</b> <b>(50%)</b>		<b>X</b> <b>2 sessions</b> <b>(33%)</b>	<b>X</b> <b>1 sessions</b> <b>(17%)</b>	
“ “ “	Participants understanding of topics	<b>X</b> <b>1 sessions</b> <b>(17%)</b>	<b>X</b> <b>2 sessions</b> <b>(33%)</b>	<b>X</b> <b>2 sessions</b> <b>(33%)</b>	<b>X</b> <b>1 session</b> <b>(17%)</b>	
“ “ “	Facilitation of sessions	<b>X</b> <b>1 session</b> <b>(17%)</b>	<b>X</b> <b>2 sessions</b> <b>(33%)</b>	<b>X</b> <b>3 sessions</b> <b>(50%)</b>		
“ “ “	Rating of overall	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>			

	sessions	<b>3 sessions (50%)</b>	<b>3 sessions (50%)</b>			
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### Evaluation of Awareness Sessions with NGOs/Agencies

Evaluation of 6 awareness sessions conducted with Churches, Government Agencies and NGOs showed that participation was excellent at 3 sessions, good at 2 and fair at 1. Understanding of topics presented were rated as excellent at 1 of the sessions and very good at 2 sessions, good at a further 2 and fair at 1. Facilitation of the sessions was rated as excellent at 1 session, very good at 2, and good at 3. Rating of the 6 sessions overall was assessed as excellent at 3 and very good at 3.

### Feedback from Awareness Sessions with NGOs/Agencies

- **Sophia Community** - Persons accessed handouts, posters etc, participants included persons from the Sophia area, members of the policing group, churches etc.
- **Leguan Outreach** – Posters and brochures were distributed to the police station, NDC, Legal Aid Office, Health Centre; schools, shops, families and individuals located on the northern part of the Island. Persons were also informed of the H&S community counseling services available to them.
- **Mayor & City Council** - Participants were placed in groups to do an activity on drawing and listing characteristics of their ideal partner, this was done to facilitate discussion on the problems couples have and also to discuss the various areas of the cycle of violence. Participants responded well to the activity and there was a healthy dialogue on this issue, which allowed participants to better understand the cycle of abuse. Persons also gained valuable information on the web of abuse and the reasons for entrapment

During the discussions, the men were very vocal, many had biblical views they thought needed to be followed, these views were discussed in detail and misconceptions cleared up.

At the close of the session all participants expressed their satisfaction for the way the session was done and their gratitude for the information.

Participants were encouraged use the information to better their relationships and to seek counseling where necessary and encourage others to do likewise.

- **National Commission on Disabilities** - The session was done with the differently able and comprised of persons of all ages. Participants gained information on the nature of gender based violence, the vulnerability of disabled persons and how and where they can get help if they are victims of abuse. Participants shared experiences they had, some even expressed their views on how they should treat their partners, one participant said he felt it was OK to give his wife a few slaps if she gets out of hand, some told stories of being abused by their children who often don't understand their situation. Participants also confessed that they are also often abusive to their partners and family members at times.

Participants expressed gratitude on learning that help is available and that they are recognized as possible victims of abuse. To end the session, participants were informed of the Domestic Violence Act and its provisions for victims of abuse something they did not know existed

- **Advocacy Campaign for Enactment of Sexual Offences Bill** – This activity was carried out on the pavement outside the Republic Bank. Members of the public were informed about the need to have the new Sexual Offences Bill passed as quickly as possible for the protection of children. H&S handouts on child abuse, child neglect and on alternative forms of discipline when children misbehave were distributed to members of the public. Members of the public were also encouraged to write their own messages in support of children’s rights and against child sexual abuse on squares of cloth and these were tacked on to a large banner. Over 200 messages were written by the public at this event.
- **Moravian Church** - Participants were informed of the effects of abuse on children, the causes of gender based violence and how the proper socialization of children can reduce this problem. The influence of music on individuals, some aspects of parenting and the role the church can play were also discussed.

Participants were very responsive and many expressed the fact that the information have served as inspiration and has caused them to work at changing they way in which they treat their children and also how they deal with conflict within their relationships. Persons were encouraged to seek counseling if the need arises.

- **Children Support Group** - The youths welcomed the session on substance abuse & the family. They said that many times they are overlooked as being part of the family who are also affected by this problem. The group was very “open” and shared their feelings on addiction and its effects on their lives. One child pointed out, that he lost both parents to drugs, he revealed that most of the time his parents were too high to be able to parent properly. He disclosed that when his mother did not get her drugs she was often abusive to him and his siblings.
- **Peace Corps Volunteers** - The session on domestic violence was excellent in terms of participants self-disclosing on the sensitive nature of this issue, which reinforced a better understanding from a cultural perspective of how to advocate and empower.
- **NCERD, Welfare Officers** - Participants were given group activities to do which included being asked to use their experiences in the field to identify possible effects of violence on children, the feedback from the groups was very good. Participants were also given additional information and encouraged to network so as to adequately deal with the cases they encounter.
- **Grove Seven Day Adventist Church** - The session was well received by the participants and very well supported. Based on the discussions held participants at the end of the session has a better understanding of the issue substance abuse & the family-:the role of the Church.
- **New Apostolic Church (VBS)** – At one of the 3 sessions held children gave their views on teenage pregnancy, they were encouraged to practice abstinence as a means of avoiding teenage pregnancy and to postpone sexual activity until they were mature and ready for marriage. They were also told that faithfulness to one partner reduces the risk of contracting HIV.

During the session on the rights & responsibilities of children, the young participants complained that they are never consulted by their parents, school authorities, church leaders or the government whenever issues relating to children are discussed.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> session with this group on respect for authority, participants said they would show support for people in authority by helping them, praying for them, loving them and obeying them.

*(Please see separate workshop evaluation report for more details of the workshop)*