

UNIFEM

HELP & SHELTER

GUYANA

**STRENGTHENING POLICY FRAMEWORKS & SOCIAL
SERVICES, PUBLIC EDUCATION & ADVOCACY TO REDUCE
GENDER – BASED VIOLENCE**

NARRATIVE REPORT # 4 - JULY TO DECEMBER 2009

**4TH NARRATIVE REPORT - JULY TO DECEMBER 2009 (PLUS CAPACITY-
BUILDING WORKSHOP HELD ON JANUARY 29TH TO 31ST, FEBRUARY 12TH, 13TH
AND 19TH AND APRIL 23RD PURSUANT TO NO-COST EXTENSION)**

A. 4th Narrative Report

- 1. The long term objective** of the project was to make a significant contribution to the reduction of gender-based violence in Guyana. An assessment of project outcomes indicates that more than 60% of the broad objective has been achieved.

The public education and awareness sessions; the production of a brochure on gender-based violence; the re-printing of Help & Shelter's portfolio of brochures and their dissemination to target groups; the broadcast of Help & Shelter PSAs on TV and radio stations; the development of DV protocols and the legal advice and assistance with protection order applications, have resulted in the strengthening of social services for victims/survivors of gender-based violence and changes in the attitudes of the beneficiaries towards gender-based violence.

The short term objectives achieved were: increased awareness of frontline and community workers with regard to gender-based violence; increased awareness and knowledge about the Domestic Violence Act and the proposed new sexual offences legislation among the Guyanese population, especially those most at risk of gender-based violence, and the enhancing of legal services at Help & Shelter for survivors/victims of gender-based violence.

The relevant project activities have provided opportunities for beneficiaries to be further be involved in discussions in their homes and workplaces and in the public arena, thus creating a wide cross-section of people who may engender enhanced support for combating gender-based violence and for survivors/victims of abuse to be empowered to move on with their lives.

The project was able to expand the awareness sessions in Leguan at the community level and at the secondary school, where 57 Form 3 students discussed a range of topics, including teenage pregnancy, alcohol and the family and child sexual abuse, all of which are of growing concern in the home.

It was hoped that the Sexual Offences Bill would have been passed by the end of the project but in December 2009 it was still before a parliamentary select committee.

In relation to the DV protocols, four - for police officers; prosecutors, magistrates court staff and social workers/counselors - were developed and handed over to the Minister of Human Services & Social Security on Friday 16th October 2009.

Copies of the protocols were also sent to relevant stakeholders and may be accessed from Help & Shelter's website <http://www.hands.org.gy>

The fifth protocol - for health workers - was still in draft at the end of the project period as numerous and repeated efforts by both the legal consultant and the project coordinator to meet a representative from the Ministry of Health had proved unsuccessful. Efforts are nevertheless still being made to have the protocol completed.

On 11 December 2009, training in the use and application of the protocols was provided to 21 persons/representatives from the Guyana Police Force; the University of Guyana; the Ministries of Human Services & Social Security and Education; Women Across Differences and Red Thread; staff members from the magistrates courts; leaders of faith-based organizations and Help & Shelter personnel.

Training with the police could not be done due to the non-cooperation of the Commissioner of Police.

2. Description of project activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Activities during the period were as follows:

1) July 2009

One hour awareness sessions continued at 6 health centres in Regions 3 and 4, reaching 11 males and 235 females. One 4 hour session on Child Abuse was conducted at a primary school with 65 male and 34 female pupils.

Public Education activities (3 to 4 hours each) were conducted in Leguan, targeting members of the community on a one-on-one basis and fliers and posters were distributed. Other target group sessions were conducted with support service institutions and faith-based organizations, reaching 337 people (52 male; 135 females; 150 gender not stated).

One day workshops were conducted with 2 faith-based organizations, reaching 74 males and 98 females, and at the Wakenaam beauty pageant, where 18 female contestants were reached.

Topics discussed at these sessions were: Domestic and Gender-Based Violence; Parenting; Child Abuse; Cycle of Violence; Reasons for Entrapment; Child Sexual Abuse; Substance Abuse and the Family; the Effects of Violence on Children; Teenage Pregnancy.

160 posters and 6,416 brochures were distributed.

2) August 2009

One hour awareness sessions were conducted at 7 health centres in Regions 3 and 4, reaching 27 males and 218 females. One 1 hour TV program on Addiction was done on channel 102. As a result of this programme, one male and one female went into rehabilitation and their family members went into counseling. One 2 hour session was conducted at 1 school in Region 4, reaching 16 males and 49 females.

Public Education activities (3 to 4 hours each) were conducted with members of support service institutions, faith-based organizations, at youth camps and with youth groups, reaching 97 males and 307 females.

Three 3-day and two 2- day workshops were also conducted with members of youth groups and NGOs, 71 male and 143 females.

Topics discussed at these sessions were: Domestic and Gender-Based Violence; Self; Parenting; Child Abuse; Cycle of Violence; Reasons for Entrapment; Child Sexual Abuse; Substance Abuse and the Family; the Effects of Violence on Children; Teenage Pregnancy and the Be Safe Program using the training kit.

25 posters and 6,505 brochures were distributed.

87 packs of female and 8 boxes (144 pks per box) of male condoms were also distributed.

3) **September 2009**

One hour awareness sessions were conducted at 3 health centres in Region 3, reaching 8 males and 93 females. One 2 hour session was conducted at each of 8 schools in Regions 4 and 6, reaching 282 males and 506 females.

Public Education activities (3 to 4 hours each) were conducted with members of support service institutions, faith-based organizations, at youth camps and with youth groups, reaching 23 males and 138 females.

Two 2-day workshops were conducted with members of women's groups and community leaders in Regions 2 and 3, reaching 9 males and 50 females.

Topics discussed at these sessions were: Domestic and Gender-Based Violence; the DVA; Self; Parenting; Child Abuse; Cycle of Violence; Reasons for Entrapment; Child Sexual Abuse; Substance Abuse and the Family; the Effects of Violence on Children; Anger Management; Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships; TIP; Be Safe; Conflict Resolution and Self.

286 posters and 4,690 brochures were distributed.

208 packs of female and 23 boxes of male condoms were also distributed.

4) **October 2009**

One hour awareness sessions were conducted at 5 schools in Regions 3 and 4, reaching 263 males and 521 females, and 1 with one faith-based organization, reaching 10 males and 15 females.

Public Education activities (3 to 4 hours each) were conducted with members of support service institutions and youth groups, reaching 6 males and 56 females.

Two 1-day workshops were conducted with members of NGOs and community members in Regions 3 and 6, reaching 6 males and 28 females.

Topics discussed at these sessions were: Domestic and Gender-Based Violence; the DVA; Self; Parenting; Child Abuse; Cycle of Violence; Reasons for Entrapment; Child Sexual Abuse; Substance Abuse and the Family; the Effects of Violence on Children; Anger Management; Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships and Teenage Pregnancy.

192 posters and 1901 brochures were distributed.

100 packs of female and 13 boxes of male condoms were also distributed.

5) **November 2009**

One hour awareness sessions were conducted at 5 schools in Regions 3 and 4, reaching 319 males and 483 females and one 1 hour session was conducted with an NGO in Region 4, reaching 14 males and 4 females.

Public Education activities (3 to 4 hours each) were conducted at a school in Region 4, reaching 8 males and 78 females.

Three 1-day workshops were conducted with members of a women's group, an NGO and community leaders in Regions 3, reaching 13 males and 84 females.

Topics discussed at these sessions were: Domestic and Gender-Based Violence; the DVA; Teenage Pregnancy; Child Abuse; Alcohol and the Family; Drug/Substance Abuse; Anger Management Suicide and TIP.

70 posters and 6,225 brochures were distributed.

30 packs of female and 2 boxes of male condoms were distributed.

No activities were conducted during the month of December 2009 due to the closure of schools and the festive season.

The members of the project team were engaged in the collection and analysis of project feedback forms and statistical data during the month.

3. Problems/Constraints/Difficulties Experienced (e.g. objectives, target, funds, management, budget status or timing). Explain how these were resolved.

- 1) Plans were made to train welfare officers, counselors and other relevant members of staff from the Ministry of Human Services & Social Security on the protocol for welfare officers/counselors during the 2 last months of the project, but this activity could not be done as all the staff were engaged in country-wide distribution of old age pension books throughout November and December 2009. The legal consultant was to have facilitated this activity but as the project has come to an end, she is no longer available
- 2) The training of police officers proved impossible to organise due to the commissioner's failure to respond to our repeated requests and representations and our attempts to conduct this activity through the Women's Affairs Bureau also proved futile.
- 3) It was similarly not possible to conduct protocol consultations at police stations.
- 4) The delay in the enactment of new sexual offences legislation was due to circumstances beyond our control. Help & Shelter will continue to lobby and advocate for the passing of the bill.

4. Project Impact: Success Stories and Achievements.

(a) How did the project improve participants' ability to take advantage of new opportunities?

The public education activities and the PSAs broadcast on 11 TV and 2 radio stations continued to result in high demand for our services and the shelter, where 63 women and children were accommodated during the reporting period.

As a result of the work of the legal consultant and referrals to the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic, survivors/victims of GBV were able to obtain protection orders and other relief.

The formation of a youth group was achieved through collaboration with Transitional House, an NGO that operates a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts in New Amsterdam, Berbice. As a result of the guidance and technical assistance provided by Help & Shelter, the group meets on a regular basis. A series of workshops was conducted with the group and as a result of the impact of the programme a request was received for more information on different topic areas.

Three sessions on Gender-Based Violence were conducted with members of the New Amsterdam Neighborhood Constables at the Central Police Station in Region 6, which resulted in a request for sessions to be done with other constables in the Region.

(b) Did it bring about systemic change that will increase participants' choices or promote their empowerment?

Help & Shelter's statistics indicate that during the reporting period an average of 50 new clients accessed the organisation's services per month, very largely as a result of the public education activities and daily broadcasts of the PSAs. As a result of services received, clients had increased options for making choices that would promote their empowerment. As previously indicated, 63 women and children were accommodated at the shelter during the reporting period.

(c) How did the Trust Fund grant help in building the executing agency's capacity to monitor the project and empower the project participants?

The grant contributed significantly to capacity-building by enabling us to contract the services of an M & E officer who developed the relevant tools to capture information and feedback from the beneficiaries of and participants at different activities. During the reporting period several agencies and NGOs approached Help & Shelter with requests for the conduct of public education activities with their members, having heard of sessions conducted with other target groups. The demand for public education activities continues to increase.

Evaluating activities, results/outcomes and indicators in the project proposal that made reference to anticipated results helped to focus attention on the need for improved planning and definition of realistic and manageable outcomes, and the identification of appropriate indicators to monitor such outcomes.

Exploring different M&E methodologies led to the development of more varied and relevant M&E tools, thereby allowing for greater involvement of project participants in the direction and focus of project or programme activities and outcomes.

A point to note:

The capacity-building workshop on M&E and Documentation and Dissemination, which was held on 29th to 31th January 2010 and February 12, 13 and 19th 2010 and April 23, 2010, greatly assisted Help & Shelter's personnel in understanding the fundamental role of M&E in project development and project execution. The workshop was an eye-opener for most participants, who now have a greater understanding of the importance of everyone contributing to reliable and efficient monitoring and evaluation, which in turn will lead to better management and execution of projects.

It is in retrospect a pity that the workshop was not held earlier in the project's time line as even greater benefits would then have been gained by project personnel and beneficiaries during the project's life span and applied to the project.

(d) Did the project offer opportunities to link with work in other communities/countries and promote internal, cross-regional information sharing and collaboration?

During the reporting period the project continued to enable Help & Shelter to link with community-based work done by Help & Shelter under USAID- UNFPA- and Women's World Day of Prayer German Committee-funded projects, and to network and collaborate with other NGOs and governmental agencies dealing with gender-based violence and associated issues.

(e) What were the outputs produced (positive/negative/neutral)?

- **The Sexual Offences Bill:** during the reporting period the coalition of Red Thread and Help & Shelter continued to call for the passage of the bill through advocacy and picketing in front of the Office of the President and Parliament Buildings
- **Protocols** –Four of the five protocols were finalised and formally handed over to the Minister of Human Services & Social Security on 16th October 2009. A -day training workshop was conducted with 21 persons from government ministries, NGOs, faith-based organizations and Help & Shelter.
- **Police Training** – Training with police officers could not be conducted due to lack of cooperation by the Commissioner, but 3 sessions were conducted with 26 (6 male and 20 female) Rural Neighbourhood Constables in Region 6.
- **Public Education** -3-4 hour sessions were conducted with members of support service institutions, faith-based organizations, at youth camps and with youth groups, women’s organizations, NGOs and at schools in several regions of Guyana. Protocol consultations were not done with these target groups due to shortage of time after the handing over of the protocols to the minister.
- **Awareness Sessions** – 1 to 2 hour sessions on the dynamics of gender-based violence, the DVA and associated topics targeting teachers, students and parents, pre- and post-natal mothers and other groups were conducted. We surpassed the target number of persons reached with an average of 85 % of the persons reached has acquired knowledge and skills when dealing with conflicts and knowing how to resolve the conflicts, gender-based violence and knowing where to report cases and what services are available.
- **Materials** – over 23,000 pamphlets, brochures and fliers were re-produced and distributed during project activities. Hundreds of posters were also distributed to NGOs, government ministries, at health centres and to other target groups. PSAs on domestic and child abuse were broadcast more than 60 times each month on 11 TV and 2 radio stations.
- **Legal Consultant** – the legal consultant was able to finish 4 protocols (for social workers/counselors, magistrates’ staff, prosecutors and police officers) and a draft protocol for health workers. Efforts to meet with a representative from the Ministry of Health were unsuccessful. Copies of the protocols were sent to the relevant agencies and it is expected that the Ministry of Human Services & Social Security will arrange training be conducted with the relevant persons at these agencies. The legal consultant prepared legal documents –protection orders and other supporting documents, legal documents for divorce, division of property etc for 9 clients during the reporting period. She also attended court on few occasions to support the client’s cases.

(f) What are the proposed follow-up activities and recommendations for the remaining project implementation period?

At the end of December 2009 all project activities had been implemented except the capacity building workshop and the project evaluation, and a no-cost extension was requested and granted for these purposes. Consultants for both exercises were identified and terms of reference drafted.

B. A signed copy of the Financial Report has already been submitted.

Appendix 1
TABLES & DATA

WORKSHOPS July – December 2009

Reg. #	Target Group/Service Providers	Males	Females
2, 3, & 6	FBOs, NGOs, women's groups, youth groups and beauty pageant contestants	173	421

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS (PSAs) - see sample schedule attached

PSAs advertising the services of Help & Shelter were shown on a monthly basis on 11 TV and 2 radio stations countrywide.

Our counselling data indicates that to a large extent as a result of the PSA broadcasts, over 50 new clients accessed the services of Help & Shelter each month during the reporting period.

PUBLIC EDUCATION SESSIONS (3 HOURS OR MORE)

Reg. #	Target Group/Service Providers	Male	Female
	1 school, NGOs, FBOs, women's groups, youth groups	192	770
	NB: 150 persons were recorded under the group –gender not stated		

AWARENESS SESSIONS

Target group	Male	Female
Primary School	65	34
Secondary/High Schools	980	1,559
Health Centres in Regions 3 and 4	46	546
Religious Organisation	10	15
NGO's	4	4
Totals	1,105	2,158

COUNSELING DATA (JULY TO DECEMBER 2009)

Month 2009	New clients (face-to face)	Hotline calls	Repeat Clients (face-to-face)	Court support attendances	Client referrals	Non client referral
July	54	50	88	48	38	13
August	55	33	60	46	29	2
September	63	36	60	23	45	13
October	54	34	72	35	44	12
November	51	19	63	45	26	8
December	29	22	47	35	11	0
Total	306	194	390	232	193	48

The table below lists the respective numbers of new client adults and children

Month 2009	Adult women	Adult men	Children
July	45	5	4
August	38	5	12
September	48	12	3
October	38	6	10
November	41	2	8
December	20	2	7
Total	330	32	44

The table below lists the respective numbers of male and female new clients and the age ranges

Month 2009	Female (Age Range)	Male (Age Range)
July	48 (6 to 55)	6 (6 to 55)
August	46 (7 to 74)	9 (15 to 74)
September	51 (14 to 54)	12 (23 to 57)
October	43 - (14 to 56)	11 - (13 to 44)
November	45 - (11 to 59)	6 - (13 to 52)
December	26 - (14 to 58)	3 - (4 to 74)
Total	259	47

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACTIVITIES

Help & Shelter implemented a range of activities under its various projects. Under this project, the following was done:

- ✓ Media statement issued (attached)
- ✓ Presentations on DV and GBV with:
 - ✓ Canadian High Commission Staff and other relevant persons
 - ✓ a wide cross section of the public at the National Sports Hall in Georgetown
 - ✓ staff members from Comforting Hearts, an NGO in New Amsterdam, Berbice
 - ✓ persons from various faith-based organizations in Essequibo, Region 2

MATERIALS REPRODUCED AND DISSEMINATED JULY - DECEMBER 2009

23,737 Help & Shelter brochures* and 733 posters were reproduced and disseminated.

* Our brochure portfolio is as follows:

1. Gender-Based Violence
2. Wife Abuse
3. Child Neglect
4. Child Abuse
5. Sexual Assault
6. Rape
7. The Shelter
8. Help & Shelter Fact Sheet
9. For Parents
10. Anger Management
11. Domestic Violence Act
12. Domestic Violence Brochure
13. Harassment Poisons the Workplace
14. Human Trafficking
15. Stop Trafficking in Women