

HELP & SHELTER

USAID/GHARP II SUBPROJECT FCO NUMBER: 07-00100-10-03: TITLE – GENDER ISSUES

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT 1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2010 (AGREEMENT EXTENSION PERIOD)

I. Executive Summary

The objective of the project was to build capacity in the areas of Gender-Based Violence and Substance Abuse with other NGOs.

In order to carry out the above objectives a number of activities were planned and implemented over the 3 months extension period of the project. These activities were as follows:

- To build capacity with members of staff of identified NGOs, GUYSUCO estates, the women's group of the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) and the Guyana Rice Development Board, in the areas of gender-based violence, sexual violence and substance abuse for the provision of better service delivery, to influence positive behavioral change and stimulate awareness concerning availability of relevant services.
- To conduct sessions with members of the 2 identified male friendly groups (Help & Shelter and Seventh Day Adventist Church) to give them knowledge on Gender-Based Violence, Sexual Violence, Child Abuse, Substance Abuse etc. in Region 4.
- Make referrals for hotline callers and face-to-face counseling clients for legal services and to job employment agencies.

Results

Prevention Other - Gender Issues

A general background information, with the aim, goal, methodology and topic areas on the program (as below) were sent to all the relevant persons and agencies identified in the work planning tool for the conduct of the capacity building workshops and these were; Lifeline Counseling Services, Artiste in Direct Support, Agape Network, GAWU Women Group, GUYSUCO Estates (Uitvlugt and Wales) and the Guyana Rice Developing Board.

“In the realm of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, gender – defined as the array of societal beliefs, norms, customs and practices that define ‘masculine’ and ‘feminine’ attributes and behaviors – plays an integral role in determining an individual’s vulnerability to infection, his or her ability to access care, support or treatment, and the ability to cope when infected or affected. Gender norms, for example, often dictate that women and girls should be ignorant and passive about sex, which greatly constrains their ability to negotiate safer sex or to access appropriate services. Similarly, gender norms cast women as being primarily responsible for reproductive and productive activities within the home, in sharp contrast to men who are cast as primary economic actors and producers outside the home. Such gender stereotypes account for women having much less access than men to key productive resources such as education, land, income, credit, and employment, which significantly reduces the leverage they have in negotiating protection with their partners and greatly affects their ability to cope with the impact of infection. For men and boys, gender norms create social pressure to take risks, be self reliant, and prove their manhood by having sex with multiple partners. Such norms expose men and boys to the risk of infection and create barriers to their use of HIV/AIDS prevention, care, or support services. Youth, especially girls, are particularly vulnerable in the epidemic.

Efforts to eradicate this violence need to be enforced by wider action to eliminate inequality between men and women in order to ensure equal participation in the developmental process within the family and society at large.

A high percentage of abuse cases in the home are related to alcohol abuse. Alcohol and drug abuse and related violence increase at weekends and month ends, when working men receive their wages and salaries. A possible explanation for the relationship between alcohol/drug abuse and gender-based violence is that drunkenness and getting high has become an acceptable condition for showing frustration and anger, which is otherwise suppressed when one is sober. Furthermore, traditional practices of resolving conflicts through the extended family structures do not work when one is drunk or high.

Alcohol/drug abuse as such might not be the root cause of GBV; it might just be one contributing factor, acting in concert with other significant factors such as the stress resulting from social and economic hardships. The outcome of the use of alcohol/drug may be to release suppressed feelings. The women are more often than not on the receiving end of the violence that seems to be as a result of unequal gender relations”.

The General Aim of the program were:

To give participants some basic information about Gender-based violence and Substance Abuse in Guyana

The Goals of the program were;

- 1) To discuss the nature and situations leading to gender-based/domestic violence
- 2) To equip participants with frontline intervention tool in working with victims and perpetrators of gender-based/domestic violence
- 3) To equip participants with information and knowledge about working with associated issues such as substance abuse
- 4) To equip participants with frontline intervention tool in working with victims and addicts of substance abuse

Specific objectives – by the end of the session, participants should be able to:

- 1) Gain new information, clearing-up myths on Substance Abuse and bringing about behavioral modification.
- 2) Demonstrate an awareness of their personal attitudes and values
- 3) Identify the difference between Gender and Sex and the gendered nature of the abuse
- 4) Relate the incidence of gender-based/domestic violence against women in Guyana

Methodology - Instruction, interactive sessions, use of different aids; handouts on the topics will be available to participants.

The topics - Understanding Gender (gender and sex); What is Gender-based Violence; Situations leading to violence; Understanding Gender Mainstreaming; Defining what is Substance Abuse; the Effects of Substance Abuse; Substance Abuse on the Family.

According to the work plan the conduct of 2 – 2 days workshop were to be done with 10 staff members of the identified target groups, but due to the Christmas season and the closing off of work by some agencies during this period only 1 -2 days workshops were conducted.

The following is the outcome of each activity:

- The first 2 days w/shop was conducted with the Agape Network Inc. on the 18 and 19 November 2010 with 6 female and 1 male on the first day and 5 female and 1 male on the second day.
- The second 2 days w/shop was conducted with Artiste in Direct Support on 19 and 20 November 2010 with 6 female and 3 male on the first day and 5 female and 1 male on the second day.
- The third 2 days w/shop was conducted with Lifeline counseling Service on 23 and 24 November 2010 with 8 female and 1 male on the first day and 7 female and 1 male on the second day.

For the identified GUYSUCO estates, we were only able to conduct one 2-day workshop with Wales Estate workers with only 12 males in attendance as compared to the target of 40 employees. The low attendances was disappointing as we had been given all assurances that at least 35 employees would attend.

Efforts were made to organize and plan with the Guyana Rice Development Board and the GAWU Women's group for the conduct of the 4-day workshop with 40 persons from each agency, but this effort was unsuccessful. We were told by the GRDB that the time was too short for the planning to take place since the festive season was a given priority. The contact person at the GAWU office explained that the president of the group was to decide on giving approval for the conduct of this activity. We were asked if the project would be financing the travel cost for the participants and the cost for the venue. We explained that there was no budgetary allocation for neither of those, after such no further effort to mobilize the participants was made.

Men Friendly Groups

It was decided that it would be better to bring the two groups together at a 2-day workshop instead of doing the weekly activities with individual groups. In attendance were 14 men on 10 December and 13 men on 29 December 2010. The topic areas covered were Conflict Resolution; Point Men; First Class Male; Modes of Disciplined; Quality of Good Parenting and Parenting Young Ladies. The facilitators were Pastor Stanton Adams, Pastor Fitzroy Sealey and Pastor Sherwin White.

Table of the 2-day workshop activities with NGOs, Wales Estate and the Men's group:

Organization	Date of session	# of female	# of male
Agape Network Inc.	18 November 2010	6	1
	19 November 2010	5	1
Artiste in Direct Support	19 November 2010	6	3
	20 November 2010	5	1
Lifeline Counseling Services	23 November 2010	8	1
	24 November 2010	7	1
Help & Shelter Men Friendly group	10 December 2010		14
	29 December 2010		13
Wales Estate (GUYSUCO)	15 December 2010	None	12
	16 December 2010	None	12

Attached: Overall participants evaluation for extension period activities- 2 days workshop with NGO's, Wales Estate and Men Friendly Group

Hotline Counselling Service

During the extension period, Help & Shelter's 24 hour Hotline Counselling Service received a total of one hundred and three (103) calls from members of the public who were given appropriate messages and information on gender based violence, domestic violence, child abuse, and other related areas of domestic abuse.

Referrals & Distribution of Condoms & other Materials

During the same extension period we referred 91 clients and 43 non-clients to various ministries, agencies and the police for assistance to satisfy their needs. We also distributed 5 boxes of male condoms 246 packs of female condoms and thirty-one posters. Thousands of Help & Shelter's brochures were reprinted and distributed by counselors to clients and to the public in general through sessions at the health centres and other public education activities.

See table below under Results and Findings of activities in the various categories.

Data Collection & Quality Assurance

During the extension period Help & Shelter had submitted monthly monitoring & evaluation and narrative reports to CSDS. The statistical and M & E officers collected the relevant data from the client's intake forms, the court data and the participant's evaluation sheets after each activities, respectively. These were analyzed and recorded in the appropriate manner for storage and dissemination when necessary. These data when collected are up-dated on a monthly basis and could be found on our website: www.hands.org.gy

Constraints

The main constraint was the late start of activities due to several changes made to the work plan during the first month of the extension period. This included the conduct of 4-day capacity building workshop with GUYSUCO, GRDB and GAWU. The intention at the GHARP II/CSDS planning meeting was that we were to work with 3 NGOs who had agreed to work with us for the conduct of two 2-day workshops on gender-based violence and substance/alcohol abuse. Help & Shelter was thereafter tasked to work with three more organizations. Another constraint was the late disbursement of project funds – not received until November 2010 – which caused a set-back to the start of project activities.

II. Description of the Subproject

A. Background

Gender-Based Violence is violence involving men and women, in which the female is usually the victim and which arises from unequal power relationships between men and women. Violence against women and girls is often referred to as Gender-Based violence because it evolves in part from women's subordinate gender status in society. In most cultures, tradition beliefs, norms and social institutions legitimize and therefore perpetuate violence against women. Gender-Based violence may result in physical, psychological and /or social harm. Survivors of gender-based violence may experience deep psychological trauma, depression, terror, guilt, shame and loss of esteem. Such

violence not only occurs in the family and in the general community, but is sometimes also condoned or perpetuated by the state through policies or the actions of agents of the state such as the police, military or immigration authorities, the majority of whom are men. Gender-based violence is a human rights violation and Guyana is a signatory to Human Rights Instruments.

B. Scope of Work

The actual scopes of work as reflected in the approved work plan were the following;

Activity 1- To facilitate group training with 10 members of staff of Lifeline Counselling Service on Gender-Based Violence, Sexual Abuse and Substance Abuse

Activity 2- To facilitate group training with 10 members of staff AIDS NGO on Gender-Based Violence, Sexual Abuse and Substance Abuse -to build capacity of NGO

Activity 3 – To facilitate group training with 10 members of staff of AGAPE Network on Gender-Based Violence, Sexual Abuse and Substance Abuse -to build capacity of the NGO

Activity 4- To facilitate group training on Gender-Based Violence, Sexual Abuse and Substance Abuse -to build capacity with 40 women of the Women’s Arm of GAWU

Activity 5 - To facilitate group sessions with established male friendly groups on Gender-based violence, Sexual Abuse and Substance abuse

Activity 6 - Referrals to face-to-face counselling at Help & Shelter, Help & Shelter Hotline Counselling and Legal Services. Clients referrals from Help & Shelter to other agencies for their needs to be met.

Activity 7 – To facilitate group training with 40 members of staff of Guysuco Wales Estate on Gender - Base Violence, Sexual Abuse and Substance Abuse.

Activity 8 – To facilitate group training with 40 members of staff of Guysuco Uitvlugt Estate on Gender - Base Violence, Sexual Abuse and Substance Abuse.

Activity 9 - To facilitate group training with 40 members of staff of the Guyana Rice Development Board on Gender - Base Violence, Sexual Abuse and Substance Abuse.

C. Project Management

The objective of this technical area was to develop and maintain quality leadership and management systems and to provide resources to effectively implement proposed activities within Help & Shelter. In order to achieve this objective the following activities were identified:

- Pay recurrent costs for the office on a monthly basis, October 2010-December 2010
- Pay salaries and benefits to staff on a monthly basis, October 2010-December 2010

These activities were done by the project coordinator and the accounting officer whose input had reflected good leadership qualities and skills that met the objectives of the program.

The budget for the 3 months extension period was a total of three Million, One Hundred and Eighty Thousand and five (\$3,180,005). Help & Shelter had received a total of Two million, three Hundred and Ninety-four Thousand One Hundred and Thirty -eight dollars (\$2,394,138) and had expended a total of One Million, Five Hundred and Fifty-two Thousand, nine Hundred and Ninety-seven dollars (\$1,552,997). A refund of Eight Hundred and Twenty-nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirteen dollars (\$829,513) were made to CSDS at the end of the project period.

III. Subproject Implementation

A. Results & B. Findings

The 2 days workshop on capacity building with NGO's and Wales Estate staff would have shown in the analysis of the participants evaluation forms that the aim of the workshop was met. Here are a few comments from the evaluation forms filled out by participants themselves.

- Was the aim of the workshop achieved? A 99% of the general response from all the activities conducted was Yes definitely and 1% responded to Somewhat on the forms.
- Did you understand the information? 97% responded to Yes definitely and 3 responded to Somewhat.

Here are a few comments on the topic areas such as What is gender-based violence? and (gender & sex?) These were recorded as follows:

- "I'm always thirsty for knowledge on topics like these, and we learnt a lot today. I will be putting it into practice and teaching others on what I've learnt".
- "The session was very interesting and I now have new life skills".
- "I have learnt a lot from the session and it was well put over".
- "The session was interesting to me and also it helps me to be more aware of how violence can affect family members and friends in the community".
- "The session was very educational and informative. The ideas are new to me and the skills used by the facilitator were excellent".
- "I was not aware of gender issues and its effects it has in homes and community as a whole".
- "I am now able to teach others about learnt behaviours and how they can be unlearned".

Comments from the evaluation forms filled by participants on the topic Substance abuse are as follows;

- "The session was very interactive and the messages were clear. The facilitator was very interactive and encouraged the participants"
- "I grasped and learnt many things on drug and alcohol abuse"
- "Alcohol and drug addicts are very dangerous in the community".
- "The workshop enhances some knowledge on a very private matter that has affected me personally"
- "Very good presentation on alcohol and drugs and its effects on the individual and family members in danger".

Below, is a general analysis from the evaluation forms filled out by participants at the 2-day workshop with the Men Friendly Groups.

- Was the aim of the session achieved? 91% have responded to Yes Definitely and 9% have responded to Somewhat
- Did you understand the information? 91% responded to Yes, Definitely and 9% responded to Somewhat
- Did you learn new ideas or skills? 83% responded to Yes, Definitely and 13% responded to Somewhat and 4% did not respond
- Did you gain new knowledge about the topics? (Topics mentioned on forms) 96% have responded to Yes, Definitely and 4% responded to Somewhat
- Did the session increase your understanding about the topics (mentioned) 87% responded to Yes, Definitely, 9% responded to Somewhat and 4% did not respond

Here are a few comments from the evaluation forms filled by participants from the men's groups on the topics Conflict Resolution and Anger Management are as follows;

- "It has been the kind of session that has thought me to slow down a little bit more to be more appreciated of conflict resolution and anger management".
- "I think that more of these sessions should be done countrywide to inform, educate and empower other men on conflict resolution and anger management".
- "Need to get younger men involve in such workshops".
- "This session equipped me with more knowledge to impart with the youths in my community".

Comments from the evaluation forms filled out by participants from the men's group on the topics Point Men; Modes of Discipline and Quality of Good Parenting are as follows;

- "In my view this session was very important to us men since they are a lack of good point men in the society"

- “The session was informative, it provided clarity on gender issues that plays in our homes and societies and also the roles of men and their responsibilities”
- “More of this session is needed not only in Georgetown but in other parts of the country, to allow men to have knowledge and become better point men”
- “This workshop should be taught in schools so that students could be more informed”
- “Training programs like this one should be ongoing and have a mixed audience of men and women”.

During the period October to December 2010, Help & Shelter’s 24 hour Hotline Counselling Service received a total of one hundred and three (103) calls from members of the public who were given appropriate messages and information on gender based/domestic violence, child abuse and other related topic areas during this period.

Our new client base at Help & Shelter for the same extension period shows as a total of one hundred and thirteen clients who had accessed our services and received appropriate messages and information on gender based/domestic violence, child abuse, safe sexual practices and other related topic areas from our two (2) full time counselors and two (2) part time counselors for the period October 2010 to December 2010. Below is a chart which indicates the statistical data on new clients, repeat clients (is referred to client who would have kept their appointments during the month) and the number of court attendances by the month.

Counseling services data

Category Counseling	October 2010	November 2010	December 2010	Total
New Clients (No. seen)	38	40	35	113
Repeat Clients (No. seen)	31	24	35	90
Court support Attendances	22	27	50	99
Hotline (No. of calls)	44	31	28	103
Client referrals (No. seen)	33	32	26	91
Non-client referrals (No. seen)	21	15	7	43

Clients and non-clients were referred to agencies such as the Ministry of Labour, Human Services & Social Security (various departments); Child Care & Protection Agency; Recruitment Agency; police stations (several police stations in Regions 3 and 4); the Guyana Legal Aid Clinic; the Court Registry; Lifeline Counselling Services; Magistrates courts; GPHC; the Night Shelter; Food for the Poor; Phoenix Rehab centre and the Salvation Army.

Materials distributed

Category	October 2010	November 2010	December 2010
Brochures reprinted were; Anger Management; Rape; Children & Drugs; Alcohol; Sexual Assault; Domestic Violence Act; The Shelter; H & S Fact Sheet; Wife Abuse; Harmful Drugs; Child Neglect; DV Resource Brochure; For Parents; Marijuana; Gender-Based Violence; Child Abuse; Human Trafficking; and About Peer Education.	9,825 were distributed	14,258 were distributed	1,650 were distributed
Posters H & S and Child Abuse	31	nil	nil
Condoms [male and female]	5 boxes Male 246 packs female	nil	nil

Project Coordination

The activities were coordinated by the project coordinator who through direct supervision, reporting and with feedback mechanism was able to ensure that the activities conducted were appropriately carried out in accordance with the required cost schedule.

C. Constraints

The main constraint encountered during the extension period was the late start of the project due to several changes made to the planning tool during which time the activities should have been implemented. Funds were not disbursed until November 2010, leaving little time to organise and conduct the seven sets of 4-day workshops. With so little time left until December - the Christmas season – it proved impossible to run all the workshops.

D. Management

Project personnel remained the same throughout the reporting period:

Margaret Kertzious	–	Project Coordinator
Karen Gomes	-	Part-time counselor (court support)
Julian Haynes	-	Part-time counselor
Niveta Shivjatan	-	Finance Officer
Natalya Bobb	-	Office Assistant
Renita Noel	-	M&E Officer
Monica Fordyce	-	Counselor (Hotline)

Execution of project activities was done through willingness and collective team spirit in an environment that was conducive for all project personnel. Support was also given by Help & Shelter personnel and volunteers.

Most of the work done at Help & Shelter depends on volunteerism and so we commend the directors who are all volunteers and who have managed in their capacity of serving on the several committees and attending planning meetings every fortnight to guide the process of all project activities. The coordinator also met with staff, volunteers and directors every month where discussions were conducted in an atmosphere that lead to the smooth implementation of the project activities.

IV. Lessons Learned/Recommendations

We have learnt over the years that beyond the 1st of December in any given year, is a very bad time to do workshop or any form of training. If we were given the opportunity to work with the 3 identified NGO's as was indicated in the first planning tool that was submitted, we would have been in a better position to conduct the 2x2 days capacity building workshop with the NGO's.

Due to the set-back and late start of the project activities we would therefore recommend that in future the USAID/GHARP/CSDS planning meetings would serve the purpose of what it is intended for and not to allow situations that may cause an hindrance to prevent the smooth implementation of project activities.

V. Materials/Products

Eighteen sets of Help & Shelter's brochures were re-printed for dissemination to the general populace, clients, students, ministries and other NGOs and agencies. Thousands of these brochures were distributed for the purpose of public education activities, workshops/sessions and discussions. Posters and condoms were also distributed to various target groups during the period. See table above under Results and Findings.