

Programme/Project Number:
00096449

Programme/Project Title:

Elimination of Violence against
Women and Gender-based Violence
in St Helena

Implementing Partner:

Children and Adult Social Care
Directorate of St Helena

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
2020



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January- December 2020

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Acknowledgements

The Government of St Helena and Children and Adult Social care Directorate wish to sincerely thank the United Nations Development Programme for the extensive financial, administrative and strategic support for the past 6 years. The support and guidance that has been graciously provided to St Helena has resulted in the establishment of a Safe Haven Shelter for women escaping abusive relationships. Women on the island can now access intervention support programmes as admission or outreach clients. This year the UNDP funding was focused on producing DV legislation and developing child friendly spaces and areas at the Shelter for families with children. We wish to sincerely thank and acknowledge the work of Petra Valastinova (Ms.) UNDP Programme and Operations Associate and UNDP Project Board members who have continually provided guidance and support during the role out and establishment of the project for the past 6 years. The St Helena Government has committed to the project by taking ownership of funding new policies, expenses linked to transitioning from care to independent living facilities, staff salaries and the day to day running of the Safe Haven. SHG remains committed to funding the project annually to ensure the continual and efficient running of the service, this commitment is based upon continued funding support from DfID which is reviewed on a yearly basis.



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Safe Haven Domestic Violence service is located under the management of Children and Adult Social Care service where the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) is based. In 2020, we have continued to see further improvement in working together between Children and Adult Social Care Service, Police, Probationary services and the Human Rights commission. Adult and Children's services have received 23 referrals in 2020 relating to DV incidences in homes with children. The Safe Haven Services have transitioned 2 families back into independent living. It currently has 3 outreach community support cases that have been referred to the Safe Haven through Adult services and the MARAC process. Service users on file are engaging with intervention support programs for women and couples.

In terms of the Save Haven facility and efforts aimed at creating child-friendly spaces, the ground surface has been secured and the works to lay the artificial grass have been completed. This will ensure improved safety of children when using the resources. All age-appropriate resources for the child friendly spaces have been procured and are currently being set up in Safe Haven for families who access support services.

In terms of the training component, the Project secured online training from the accredited service provider Me Learning UK, the administration of the training is run by the Saint Helena Community College (SHCC). According to registration statistics, total of 314 staff across the island have registered for Me Learning courses which include domestic violence courses. Initially, the training component envisaged in-person training for the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) in Great Britain, however, due to COVID-19, the training component had to be adjusted and the in-person courses were replaced by online courses that benefitted a much larger audience across all directorates. The Me Learning courses did not cover specific IDVA training which was required to qualify the newly appointed person as the IDVA on St Helena. The project then secured the online training with the IDAS Domestic Abuse services registered in the UK for accredited IDVA courses that would academically qualify the new IDVA. Having completed the accredited the courses, the new IDVA has the option to join IDAS induction training for new colleagues in the UK in 2021.

In terms of outreach and communication efforts, the project carried out three awareness-raising events, including an International White Ribbon Campaign, all focused on increased awareness related to elimination of violence against women of all ages. Overall, the service distributed around 500 awareness-raising flyers and bookmarks to community members, agencies and organizations on the island at various supporting events between 2020, targeting girls and women across the island.

In terms of legislative and procedural impact, this year, the "Working Together Protocol", listing the roles and responsibilities of individual directorates and institutions on the island, was drafted, submitted and subsequently accepted by the SHG Government Social Care Development Committee (SCDC). This protocol provides Multi- agency professionals with a clear guidance and procedural steps to follow when assigned to domestic violence casework. The efficient pathway procedures and clarity of the protocol has improved response times and ensures a secure support offer of service provision to victims of abuse.

In 2017, the Domestic Violence Protection Orders that allows perpetrators to be held legally liable was legislated. The Protection Orders' legislation does not adequately protect the survivors of domestic abuse. There is a lack of protection from sexual harassment, coercive and controlling behavior, grooming and bullying in the public and private sector. In 2020 the project proposed the development and the introduction of a Domestic Abuse Bill for 2020. The Domestic Violence Policy and Legislation Framework was submitted to the Social Care and Development Committee and subsequently approved by the SCDC to be submitted to the Judiciary for enactment of the legislation. However due to COVID 19 Legislative priorities and severe staff shortage within the judiciary, the progress has been delayed. The project is hopeful that the work started in 2020 will be completed in 2021.

2. RESULTS AND PROGRESS OVERVIEW - Major Achievements

In line with the project document, the project is linked to Strategic Plan Outcome 2 Citizenship expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance and to Indicator 2.3 (SGBV) Number of countries with multi-sectorial services in place (including justice and security services) to prevent and address SGBV (SP Output 4.2.2).

The project objective is on one hand to continuously strengthen legislative framework related to violence against women and at the same time constantly improving provision of services provided by the Save Haven, which provides a shelter for victims of domestic violence. The review of progress achieved in 2020 can be found below.

OUTPUT 1: A SPECIALIST SAFE HAVEN FACILITY CREATED FOR ST HELENA

The purpose of the first output of project is the provision of safe and secure accommodation and support for women, with or without children, who need to leave their home as a result of domestic abuse. The expected outcome of this output is that women and children's safety and privacy will be increased, as will their access to specialist support services.

Activity 1: Creating child-friendly spaces in the Safe Haven.

The purpose of developing the child friendly spaces and safe outdoor play areas for the children was to enable the service to provide support in a safe environment that contributes to restore dignity, to develop their confidences and skills.

Targets:

- Refurbish ground surface to create concrete flooring for child friendly space
- Procure Resources for play safe areas for children

The initial agreement plan to refurbish the ground surface for the child friendly spaces was to install concrete flooring. However, the quotes for the concrete flooring that were received exceeded the available budget. Therefore, we met to discuss the best options for flooring and the types of resources to be procure it and was decided it would be better for engagement with children ranging from babies to toddlers and ages 5- 8years to change the surface and remain within the approved budget. The committee consisting of the Director Of Children and Adult Social care Tracy Poole- Nandy , Social Care Quality Assurance and Senior Manager Gavin Thomas , Children Services manager Adele Mc Mahon , Trainee Independent Domestic Violence Advocate Deborah Knipe and Domestic violence project lead Nicolene Adams considered the concrete flooring and deemed it unfit for the child friendly spaces , it was considered inappropriate as the space would accommodate children resources that would require softer floorings for safety reasons. Based on this consideration, and the decisions made, the service sought quotes for artificial grass, locked padded flooring and treated wooden chips. It was agreed to procure artificial grass as it was deemed to be the most suitable ground cover to cater for resources and to ensure the safety of children when using the resources. The Safe Haven subsequently procured the artificial grass and secured the services of a local gardening contactor to prepare the ground and to plant the grass achieving the target to refurbish the ground surface of the child friendly space. Grass seats, a country playhouse, a seesaw, and many other child friendly resources for the proposed child friendly area have been procured. Evidence of the resources are reflected in Annex 1. All the children's toys to be unpacked in January 2021.

Activity 2: Training of domestic violence professional staff (IDVA)

The purpose is to improve local responses by developing confidences by community in the service based on the security of having skilled and accredited professionals in post to offer support and intervention.

Targets:

- Access Independent Domesic Violence Advisor accredited Overseas training

- Attend Exposure Visit to Shelter services abroad

In Q1, the service approached SafeLives who is currently the only UK accredited provider of IDVA training to explore options for the newly appointed IDVA to access accredited training. SafeLives and Children and Adult services secured access for the IDVA to attend accredited overseas training and exposure visit abroad. The IDVA training and exposure visit was due to start in the month of April 2020, unfortunately the planned training was cancelled due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic that resulted in international borders to and from St Helena island being closed. The secured contract covered the accredited Independent Domestic Violence training, the exposure visit to the UK for the IDVA. The project consulted with Safelives in September 2020 to provide online IDVA training. In email correspondence Safelives confirmed that service provider did not have any online courses available but were hoping to revise the access to IDVA courses in the near future. Safelives reconnected with the service in November 2020, offering newly developed online training programs, however due to tight timeframes to achieve the output for the year, the project secured the contract to provide online IDVA training with the Domestic Abuse service IDAS, an accredited UK based service provider. The copy of the agreement with IDAS is inserted below reflecting as Annex 1.

To achieve the output, the Safe Haven Domestic Violence project secured "IDAS" UK to deliver and provide online certified training for the appointed IDVA to access. The assigned training has been completed by the IDVA. There is currently no possibility of an exposure visit for the IDVA to attend Domestic Violence services abroad.

Formal training modules undertaken by the IDVA include:

1. Understanding the dynamics of domestic abuse, managing risk and referral pathways.
2. Understanding the impacts of abuse on young people and children.
3. Working with male victims.
4. Family courts and protective orders.
5. The role of the IDVA in the criminal courts.
6. Mental health and domestic abuse.
7. Substance misuse.
8. Risk assessments and MARAC

Training ended in December 2020



IDAS training
agreement 21.9.2020

Reference Annex 1

Activity 3: Ensure staff development and training of volunteers in the area of domestic violence across all directorates and agencies

The purpose of training on domestic violence and sexual assault is to increase knowledge and enhance skills to support comprehensive service delivery.

Targets:

- Secure Bespoke training delivery from Save Lives / Women's Aid to St Helena
- Deliver training to Private Sector and SHG agencies

As reported above the Domestic Violence project secured the contractual services from Safelives UK for both Activity 2 and 3. The contract agreed between Safelives and St Helena government covered the accredited IDVA training and Bespoke Domestic Abuse train the trainer for resident professionals across directorates on St Helena. Training was secured for the month of April to July 2020, however due to the COVID-19 travel bans and restrictions in place all training from Safelives was cancelled.

To mitigate the risk of the training activities not being implemented, the Safe Haven Domestic Violence project secured the "Me Learning" UK Digital Learning Company, as an alternative for all directorates and agencies. Me Learning has been at the cutting edge of digital learning solutions and provides a more effective approach to the training of large groups of social workers and support staff with a diverse range of skills and experience.

The Saint Helena Community College in partnership with Children & Adult Social care Directorate & Me Learning is currently offering a diverse range of courses via the Me Learning platform to learners in St Helena. Staff across government, NGO's and charities were informed that the opportunity for all staff to be trained was kindly funded by the UNDP. A copy of the course material on offer will be attached to the report and be reflected as ANNEX 2.



'Me Learning'
Course List.pdf

Reference Annex 2

There was a delay in launching the training due to several technical issues at the Saint Helena Community College (SHCC). The SHG Information Technology department (IT) took into consideration the content of the Me Learning courses and confirmed that the bandwidth capacity had to be increased to sustain the amount of learners that would be accessing online ME Learning training and Cambridge exams. On 21 November 2020 the courses were advertised, however testing is still on going and will be completed in 1Q 2021 .

Output 2: Expand Service Provision

Activity 4: Organise Domestic Violence Awareness Raising campaigns

The purpose of the Domestic Violence service is to improve local responses and expand service provision for domestic violence against women by raising awareness through campaigns on the Island of St Helena. "Internationally recognised days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern and to mobilise political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity and more importantly the service users and services of our Island.

Target:

1. Organise and 3 public events attended for awareness raising, one event in line UN International DV day 2020.
2. Create 3 awareness raising leaflets according to international themes for 2020 Domestic Violence.

The awareness raising campaigns and events run by the Safe Haven service were planned the second, third and fourth quarter of the year. In Q1, the Equality and Human Rights Commission hosted International women's month, to support the Human Rights commissions the Safe Haven Domestic Violence project Directorate attended the exhibitions and submitted a flyer to emphasise the rights of women to be safe from all forms of abuse irrespective of age. The exhibition ran for 2 weeks and many women across the island accessed the exhibition and the information resource material made available during the exhibition.

Below the paragraph inserted into this report is evidence of flyer that were submitted during International Women's day campaign.



WWDmar2020.pdf

Reference Annex 3

WEAD – World Elder Abuse

The Safe Haven Domestic Violence project hosted a very successful weeklong campaign within the guidelines of COVID 19 Social distancing laws. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was on the 15 June 2020, this was the day that the project hosted the closing ceremony, donating a bench in honour and safety of all women irrespective of age. This theme of our campaign served as a platform for unifying Elder Justice and Violence against women by sharing the lived experiences of older people.

The purpose of WEAD was to provide an opportunity for communities on St Helena to better understand abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect. As before, we have had the privilege of collaborating and working together with all directorates, non-governmental agencies and charities to plan and organise a campaign that successfully raised awareness of all forms of abuse.



World Elder Abuse
Awareness Day Post

Reference Annex 4

<https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/2020/news/world-elder-abuse-awareness-day-15-june-2020-governors-speech/>



St Helena World
Elder Abuse Awaren

Reference Annex 5

Anti- bullying Week

The Service and committee members of the awareness raising campaigns decided that it was necessary to raise awareness of all forms of abuse among youth. Awareness events aim to address pertinent issues that affect the community of St Helena. CSE is on the Island and all the cases involve older males with younger female girls being abused and groomed. On the Island, statistics from Children services show that there is an increase in young girls, age 15 and younger, being bullied, groomed and sexually abused by males age 17 and older. St Helena Island has a small population, it is vitally important, relevant and beneficial to engage in campaigns that target on specific age groups and genders. Last year we raised awareness of abuse during International Youth day for the same reasons as listed above. Assemblies were held at 3 primary schools and 1 high school on St Helena. The aim of the assemblies was to raise the awareness of respecting each person's rights and taking responsibility to for the well-being and safety of themselves and others. The directorate highlights Child Sexual Exploitation and the concerns on St Helena to safeguard children between the age of 15 and 17 years. During the week, assemblies were held and leaflets and bookmarks were distributed.



Anti Bullying
Primary schools.pdf

Reference Annex 6



Anti Bullying
PrAS.pdf

Reference Annex 7

WR - White Ribbon Campaign

The White Ribbon Campaign 2020 commenced on 20 November 2020 and included awareness raising through radio interviews, the private sector, staff of SHG and Non-Government Organisation. Throughout the campaign, supporters wore White Ribbon Campaign t-shirts and white ribbons. The St Helena White Ribbon Campaign Committee chose to change the focus from targeting males and decided that the aim and vision was to use the voices of both males and females of St Helena to encourage all on the Island to 'Stand up and Speak out' against all kinds of abuse, irrespective of gender and age. Persons signing pledges to 'Stand up and Speak out' against Domestic Abuse pinned them to wooden people-like images. The campaign ended with a High Tea at Rosie's Bar & Restaurant where over 70 people attended.

For more information see the following website:
<https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/?s=white+ribbon>

Activity 5: Update and Develop Working Together Procedures and Protocols

The purpose of the activity is to review policies and procedures to ensure efficient multi-agency collaboration guided by the "working together procedure" resulting in agencies providing a coordinated response to domestic abuse in a timely manner.

Target:

- Develop and Update Working together document
- Provide training for all SHG agencies

The approved Working together protocol is inserted into the report and referenced as Annex 9. The draft was sent to the Social Care Development committee for their approval and subsequently approved in the middle of November. The approved protocol has been distributed to all Children and Adult Social Care managers and has been sent to Government of St Helena press office to upload it to the government intranet website for public sector management and staff. Managers across all SHG agencies have committed to train staff, however due to initial delays and time constraints the program training will commence in January 2021.



working together
2020 (002) FINAL DR.

Reference Annex 8

Activity 6: Produce Domestic Violence policy in collaboration with partner agencies and stakeholders

The draft Domestic Violence policy to support the enactment of the DV legislation was submitted to the Social Care Development Committee and was approved and accepted on the 10 December 2020. There has been a delay in the production of the draft due to the shortage of staff for Crown Council and the Attorney General Chambers. The restrictions on traveling from around the world to St Helena has resulted in the shortage of staff and securing consultations with the judiciary proved difficult impacting the timeframe for completion of the activity.



Activity 7: Engage in Public Consultations, Submit Draft to Judiciary and Government for legislation proposal.

The approved Draft DV policy has been submitted to the Judiciary and Government for DV Legislation proposal. With the shortage of staff and a number of outstanding legislation proposals currently with Attorney General chambers, it is unlikely that the DV Legislation will be enacted by the Judiciary this year. The DV Legislation will still also be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by elected Councillors, EXCO and LEGCO members who will convene in January 2021.

Activity 8: Deliver Training on Domestic Violence Policy to Private, Government and Public Sector, 'provide feedback evidence.

As reported above, this activity is dependent on the completion of Activity 6 and 7. We are hopeful to carry out this activity in 2021.

3. CHALLENGES AND RISKS

Project Title: Elimination of Violence Against Women and Gender-based Violence in St Helena	Award ID: 00096449	Date: December 2020
Updated risks		

Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1. Shortage of onshore materials for construction. Delay in receiving materials due to shipping timeframes and natural pandemics.	July 2020	Operational	P – 3 I -3	Working with SHG Procurement services to secure efficient ordering and purchasing of materials within the required timeframes Requesting the amendment to the AWP in advance when delays are eminent.	SHG	Nicolene Adams	December 2020	All materials procured in advance to avoid delays in project implementation. Working with SHG Procurement services proved efficient in addressing shortage of materials on the island. Agreed AWP changes in line with permissions from the UNDP

2. Delay in timely submission of reports	August 2020	Operational and Strategic	P- 3 I - 3	Closer working with new Finance Team and New Safe Manager to manage project and account for events	SHG	Nicolene Adams	December 2020	Secured, in cooperation with the SHG finance team
3. Limited intervention support due to insufficient intervention perpetrator programmes.	December 2020	Operational	P-2 I -2	Domestic Violence Manager overseeing strategic plans for the service. IDVA provision of basic intervention support to services	SHG	Nicolene Adams UN Project Manager	December 2020	Probation services in place to provide delivery of perpetrator programmes
4. COVID-19 outbreak- Delay and cancellation of activities due to the impact of pandemic.	March 2020	Operational and Strategic	P – 3 I – 3	-Adopt the training activities by revising the scope and scaling up the trainings by using professional skills on the island to provide in service training -Develop additional DV policies for specific types of abuse to be effective in addition to the existing legislation.	SHG	Nicolene Adams UN Project Manager	December 2020	Safeguarding Level 2 and 3 training provided by Director of Children and Adult Social care. Domestic Violence policies being written by Policy and Training Manager.

5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The M&E arrangements have been fully in line with requirements stated in the project document. On quarterly basis, progress reports have been prepared and submitted to UNDP IRH Programme and Support Unit (both narrative and financial). Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020, the project experienced delays in Q1 and Q2 2020, with many activities being put on hold due to the COVID-19 restrictions. As a result, the project only submitted Q3 and Q4 progress reports in 2020 as during the period of January-June 2020, very limited progress has been achieved and no expenditures have been spent. During this period, due to the lack of quarterly reporting, regular project management meetings have been organized between IRH focal point and Save Haven Manager (SHG focal point) to discuss the prevailing issues and agree on next steps, as needed. As a result of the regular meetings, timing of individual activities has been revised due to COVID and aligned with the existing capacities on the island. Also, revisions to the training activities have been proposed to prioritize (and design) online training courses and delay the in-person courses.

As part of the quarterly reporting, risks have been reviewed, updated and mitigation measures proposed. Lessons learned have also been an integral part of the reporting – please refer to chapter 7 on lessons learned.

In 2020, the Quality Assessment for Implementation has not been carried out due to its bi-annual nature and will be performed in 2021, together with planned HACT audit.

6. SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALING UP

St Helena Government is committed to co-financing the Domestic Violence Project on an annual basis. Provision has been granted and made in the SHG Children and Adult Social Care Directorate (C&ASC) 2021 budget to fund the running costs of the Safe Haven, maintenance of residence, staff in-house training and staff salaries such as the salary for the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA). St Helena Government Finance Unit will be responsible for handling the transition of funding. As part of the service users care package, they will be charged a rental that will make them aware of charges made in everyday life in the community hence providing valuable awareness for moving on into more permanent accommodation. Regardless of how small, this revenue is, it will be used towards the running costs of the Safe Haven. The Children and Adult Social care Directorate IDVA co-ordinates the discharge plan for service users. The discharge package and reallocation to a safe new home for the client and the family is financially covered by SHG to ensure the Health and Safety of families.

The SHG Children and Adult Social care Directorate has used the skills of the qualified Social Workers and Directors to provide Exploitation, Person – centred approach to care, values based approached to care and support and Safeguarding Level 1, 2 and 3 training on the island to staff from all directorates, this medium of providing and accessing training will continue given the cohort of professionals on the island.

Further awareness through media and news reports will ensure the sustaining of the project, improve multi-agency working together and will increase the communities' knowledge and impact the sensitisation of domestic violence issues on the island.

The supporting structure for staff and the effective operation of the service will be in line with the bespoke Code of Practice protocol. The Safe Haven project is an important facility and was designed to create a safe home and provide support services to women who are forced to leave their homes due to domestic abuse or for women who require outreach support, but it alone cannot resolve the problems experienced by victims of domestic abuse. For the long term, victims need to be able to return to their homes or to establish new homes for themselves and their children where they can live free from any further abuse. The Domestic Abuse Bill legislation (2019) provides protection for the victims of domestic abuse and their children. The provisions of the bill define the types of behaviour that constitute domestic abuse and enables a person who is the victim of such behaviour to make an application to the court for a protection order.

In 2021, the Domestic Violence project with the Human Rights Commission have submitted to the SHG Social Care and Development Committee the proposed draft policy for Domestic Violence Legislation to be drafted and enacted by the St Helena Government Judiciary. There have been severe delays in the progressing of the legislation due to COVID 19 Legislative priorities and severe staff shortage within the judiciary. The draft Domestic Violence legislation will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny by elected Councillors, EXCO and LEGCO members. Through the measures set out in the draft Domestic Abuse legislation

we seek to transform the government's response to domestic abuse. The implementation of this legislation would demonstrate that Saint Helena has developed and implemented relevant policy, procedural and legislative changes to support victims of domestic abuse and to reduce the number of incidents.

7. LESSONS LEARNED IN 2020

Output 1:

During this year the majority of all the activities progressed very slowly while others had to be cancelled due to the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. St Helena remains free from the pandemic, however, the impact of the virus resulted in severe delays on securing services and materials from abroad within the allocated timeframes. The service understands that as far as possible all materials must be procured as soon as the funding proposal is agreed with the UNDP irrespective of the quarter identified to achieve the outcome. The service is committed to inform and update the UNDP when eminent changes to the AWP are likely to avoid delays in project implementation. It is unlikely that St Helenian staff who need to access training will be able to travel outside of St Helena for the near future. Securing the online training from accredited Service providers has proved beneficial to the service and it will continue to benefit service for staff to gain academic accredited qualifications via the accredited agencies that offer online courses.

Output 2:

Awareness raising events are created to educate the community members about the prevalence of domestic violence and to help those affected and experiencing violence to learn about their options and resources available for support. St Helena is a small population of 4,200 with close knit communities, abuse affects all and often the incidence, victim and perpetrator are all known by the community, it based on this that Safe Haven with agencies committee members always vote to cover raising awareness of all types' of abuse , irrespective of age or gender. We as a service have learned to that we must raise the awareness of other abuse that impact women even if they are not prevalent on St Helena. Much of the progress made to address the needs of DV survivors over the past 5 years has focused on building an efficient service and a network amongst agencies that improved cooperation of multiple agencies. To improve access to local programs and services intended to prevent, mitigate, and respond to incidents of DV. This informal infrastructure is made up of elements such as crisis hotlines, Safe Haven shelter, Outreach support, DV programs, and police, local and civil law enforcement and processes such as MARAC, MAPPA and MACE.

The Adult legislation and the proposal for the Domestic Violence legislation have been lodged with the Judiciary and AG Chambers. There have been severe staffing shortages due to the impact of the pandemic and travel restrictions. The project realised, that as a service, it is needed to start processes from the time that the proposal for funding and AWP is approved. We are hopeful that the work started will be completed in 2021.

8. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A total funding for 2020 equated to US\$50 000.

Output	Description	Account	Approved Annual Budget (2020) in USD	Total Expenditure January– August 2020 in GBP	Total Expenditure January– August 2020 in USD exchange rate 0.777	Balance end of August 2020 in USD	Total Expenditure September – December 2020 in GBP	Total Expenditure September – December 2020 in USD exchange rate 0.74	Total Expenditure January December 2020 in USD	Balance at end of December 2020 in USD
Output 1	Contracts for Services (Child Friendly Spaces and Training)	(72100)	19,000.00	2,477.94	3,189.11	15,810.89	13,636.62	18,427.86	21,616.97	- 2,616.97
	Equipment	(72200)	4,000.00	1,108.15	1,426.19	2573.81	1285.95	1,737.77	3,163.96	836.04
	Training costs	(75700)	11,000.00	-	-	11,000.00	-	-	-	11,000.00
Output 2	Contracts for Services	(72100)	16,000.00	2,404.00	3,093.95	12,906.05	2618.85	3,538.99	6,632.93	9,367.07
Total			\$50,000.00	£5,990.09	\$7,709.25	\$42,290.75	£17,541.42	\$ 23,704.62	\$31,413.86	\$18,586.13

During the months of January to August 2020 the project's expenses amounted to **\$7,709.25**, (£5,990.09) for the period September to December 2020 the project's expenditure amounted to \$23,704.62 (£17,541.42) . The total expenditure for 2020 is **\$31,413.87 plus ISS charges of \$43.93** equating to 63% of the **\$50,000.00**.

9. Saint Helena Government Children and Adult Social care Directorate PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING 2021

Proposed Work plan for 2021 builds on the 2020 Work plan and includes activities that were planned but not completed in 2020. In addition, the 2021 proposes additional activities aiming at improvement of services provided by the Safe Haven and increasing awareness of general public on domestic violence.

Background

Although as a community, St Helena is small, isolated and remote, the similarities of global issues remain the same. For example, domestic abuse and gender-based Violence is a significant issue in the same way as it is in most other countries. Anecdotal evidence points to increased prosecutions and an increased level of support from St Helena Government Directorates in partnership with civil society. One of our current Legislations is the Domestic abuse bill (Protection Orders) in effect holding perpetrators civilly liable. 2 DAPO were issued during 2019/20 out of the 12 which resulted in a charge.

We have seen an improvement in working together between Children and Adult Social Care Service, Police, Probationary services and the Human Rights commission. Adult and Children Services Domestic Violence service have received 23 referrals this year relating to DV incidences in homes with children. The Safe Haven Services have transitioned 2 families back into independent living. While the Safe Haven is well resourced the family usually come into care with the basics of clothing needed. The SHG Children and Adult social care Directorate has this year continued to provide financial assistance to families to meet their needs on admission and prior to discharge when a home is needed to be prepared.

Based on the feedback from the from service users, we accept that the Safe Haven presents them with both opportunities and risks. Challenges are discussed related to service provision include the lack of staffing resources that the gaps in their knowledge base to deliver the Freedom Programme, DV & DA perpetrators' programmes as well as restorative perpetrators' programmes.

The SHG Police probationary service currently work with the perpetrators delivering set perpetrator programmes. Probation falls under the ST Helena Government Police Directorate however, the St Helena Government is rolling out a new government restructure for 2021, and the proposed changes the Probation services will now be placed under the Health and Social Care Directorate. Securing updated DV & DA p perpetrators' programme materials as well as securing restorative perpetrators' programmes will ensure service relevancy. In addition to having the skill set of the probation officers the service will become most efficient and effective when working with victims, perpetrators and families impacted by abuse.

Service users have also highlighted the lack of availability of children's literature and age appropriate books when the family is in care or provided with outreach support services. To continue to improve on service delivery it is necessary to invest in age- appropriate books, equipment for babies and children. To empower staff and increase resources material the service must invest in procuring toolkits for direct work with children impacted by violence. Acquisitioning these resources would demonstrate that the Saint Helena Domestic Violence service is invested in providing quality support materials for the families of St Helena

The safe haven service has grown and developed over the past 5 years, having a trained IDVA in post and having updates policies and procedures contributes to an efficiently run service. The next aim for the service is to relaunch the Safe Haven Domestic Violence service in 2021. Through this year with the 3 DV awareness raising campaigns the service addressed all forms of abuse. The focus of the relaunch will be to update literature and to secure easier accessibility of literature around the island. The service wants to ensure the all public and private agencies and the broader community St Helena know and understand the role of the IDVA and how to access the service. The goal of rebranding the service is that it becomes more visible and established within society.

With thanks to the United Nations Development Programme funding, as a Directorate we have hosted 3 successful DV awareness raising against women and girls, children, the elderly vulnerable people abuse. Without funding there will be shortage of awareness raising campaigns resulting in minimal awareness raising campaigns as SHG needs to fund all campaigns linked to all directorate raising public awareness involves creating a specific messaging campaign about a particular issue. Awareness is an important part of developing the St Helenian community support for changes in the informal justice sector, it has been shown to change knowledge and attitudes about violence against women and girls, children of all ages and irrespective of genders.

The UNDP has funded the Domestic Violence project from the year 2015. Since the inception of the project there had been no audit carried out as the total amount of expenditures did not yet reach the threshold. However, in 2021, the work plan will also include a financial audit covering the whole implementation period

of the project. The purpose of audit is to review accuracy of the expenditure and reporting to also review the project's assets and equipment.

Next Steps - Based on the Risk Log 2020, Reviewed Sustainability plan 2021 and lessons learnt, funding for the following activities are being recommended for the period of 2020 – 2021.

10. Annual Work Plan – AWP 2021

OUTPUT 1 – CREATE A SPECIALIST SAFE HAVEN FACILITY FOR ST HELENA

The first output of the project will support provision of safe, secure refuge accommodation which will be accessible to women both able-bodied and disabled, with or without children, who need to flee their home as a result of domestic abuse. The building and equipment are currently owned by the St Helena Government's Children and Adult Social care Directorate. The Manager and Safe Haven lead / IDVA are employed by the Children and Adult Social Care Directorate and contracted to the Safe Haven. This year the service with the funding from the UNDP has created and resourced the child friendly spaces at the Safe Haven. Building on from this to continue to improve service delivery it is necessary to improve and update literature and secure easier accessibility of literature around the island. Investment in age – appropriate books, equipment for babies and children and toolkits for interactive and direct work with children will demonstrate the Safe Haven Domestic Violence service is invested in providing trained staff with that can deliver updated and effective intervention support for families impacted by abuse on St Helena.

Activity 1 - Creating child-friendly spaces in the Safe Haven.

Trauma is an experience which is sudden, uncontrollable, and negative. It is a situation that overwhelms the coping skills of the child or adult experiencing the trauma and makes them fear for their safety and/or the safety of others. The trauma of domestic violence can have lasting negative impacts on the mental health and wellbeing of the infants, children, adolescents and adults exposed to or targeted by the violence. Feedback received from clients and professionals highlight although the Safe Haven is resourced well, we need to provide safe outdoor play areas for the children that can provide opportunities for building dignity, developing confidences and skills.

- *Resource Equipment for babies and children in the Safe Haven*
- *Procure Toolkits for interactive and direct work with children*
- *Procure age – appropriate books and materials to support intervention*

Activity 2 - Ensure staff development and training on working with perpetrators of the domestic violence across all directorates and agencies

In order to provide a sustainable and supportive service, there is a need to provide updated training for staff to deal with victims and perpetrators of abuse. We commit to seek an appropriate experienced trainer via recognised industry experts such as Save Lives or Women's Aid deliver online interactive training covering the content of the Freedom Programme and the modules of a restorative perpetrator programs. This training will benefit and improve the skills of the staff of probationary services and Social services staff who work with the victims, families and the perpetrators of abuse.

- *Introduction of the Freedom Programme*
- *Trained staff - Restorative perpetrator programs*

OUTPUT 2 – EXPAND SERVICE PROVISION

Raising public awareness involves creating a specific messaging campaign about a particular issue. Awareness raising can be an important part of developing community support for changes in the informal justice sector, it has been shown to change knowledge and attitudes about violence against women.

Building on previous campaigns. The service would benefit from 3 public events being organised for the community of St Helena to attend geared at DV awareness raising. This project will also create lasting

effective partnerships of agencies that will work together to achieve the aim of reducing domestic abuse incidents and therefore create a safer, more equal, society.

Activity 3- Host and organise 3 Campaigns on Domestic Violence against women and Creation of Awareness Raising Leaflets

To organise 3 Awareness Raising campaigns in line with the United Nations International days.

Activity 4 – Relaunch and Rebrand Safe Haven Service and distribute updated resources, policies, and procedure and staff roles

To organise the relaunch and rebranding of the Safe Haven services to secure easier accessibility of literature and service support around the island

OUTPUT 3 - PRODUCE ST Helena Island Domestic Abuse Policy

Currently, there is no comprehensive domestic abuse policy legislation in place on St. Helena. The Output 3 will focus on the development and implementation of Domestic abuse Policy. The expected outcome of this output is that services will be aligned and consistent in their responses to incidents of domestic abuse and gender-based violence against women and girls. Furthermore, it is expected that policy and legislative changes will effect permanent change for St Helena and its citizens in regard to domestic abuse and gender-based violence. We will ensure that the legislation meets the standards of the Istanbul Convention. We have a reasonably clear idea about what is needed and would welcome any guidance information on how some of the measures are implemented in smaller populations like ours where both funds and people with niche expertise are in short supply and training is difficult to access.

Activity 5 – Enact Domestic Abuse Policy

Enactment of the DA policy that was developed in collaboration with The Judiciary, the Police Directorate, the Human Rights Commission, the Children and Adult Social Care Directorate, Health Directorate, Education Directorate and UNDP Project Board Members. The legislation shall meet the standards of the Istanbul Convention. In particular, St. Helena Government will ensure that the legislation includes comprehensive definition and addresses different forms of gender-based violence.

Activity 6 – Engage in Public Consultations (Submission of draft policy to Judiciary and Government Committees)

The consultation is wide-ranging and we will be seeking views on both legislative proposals for a landmark draft Domestic Abuse Bill and a package of practical action.

Activity 7 – Deliver staff Training Domestic Abuse Policy all SHG Agencies

Training will be provided to all agencies on the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Policy and its accompanying policy and procedures. Whilst there are currently no laws in existence in St Helena relating to the criminalisation of domestic abuse, through training, education and awareness raising, this output will go some way to addressing those gaps in the rule of law in that perpetrators of such offences will be held to account accordingly. This will be achieved by ensuring that violent incidents are recognised and acknowledged as domestic abuse where applicable, as opposed to the current situation where our current legislation does not adequately protect the survivors of domestic abuse.

Output 4 – Quality Assurance

The scope of audit services shall cover the overall management of the project's implementation, monitoring and supervision. The audit work should include the review of work plans, progress reports, project resources, project budgets, project expenses, project delivery, recruitment, operational and financial closing of projects (if applicable) and disposal or transfer of assets.

Activity 8 – Audit of St Helena Domestic Violence service

Annex 10:

Reference: Resources for child Friendly spaces

Examples of Resources for outside play area procured (Child swing, Ball pond etc.)

<u>Output and Activity</u>	<u>Resource procured</u>
<u>Resources for child Friendly spaces</u> <u>Activity 1</u>	See-saw
	Kids scooter
	Go cart
	Kids wooden kitchen (for Country house)
	Peppa's family home
	2-1 one outdoor sports equipment
	Garden skittles
	Bubble tub
	Swing ball
	Fisher Price 3 in 1
	Kids washer for (Country house)
	Beach wheel barrow
	Intex animal chair
	Ball pit and ball
	Sand and water table
	Jump dancer
	Storage containers
	2 x swing and glide
	Plastic see saw
	3 in 1 baby walker
books	

Examples of Photograph Evidence of Resources procured.



Full evidence of resources to be submitted as a separate folder and kept on file for access upon request.



Artificial Grass laid for the child Friendly area

St Helena Police Statistics 2015 – 2020

Based on reports from the police DVPO's have started to be used more over the last year (four in total) which is progress & have supported the prevention of further offending. Where the victim does not support the DVPO and / or prosecution securing the evidence to support a DVPO application is difficult. The stats show that more Protection orders have resulted in charges and convictions in 2019/ 2020 than in any other year. It is also clear in the information that many of the reported DV incidences dealt with results in no charges, this however is encouraging to know that the community of St Helena are more confident to raise domestic abuse concerns with the police. All incidences are referred to Children Services to be followed up by the IDVA and Social Workers. Graphic representation of the police statistics is inserted into the report and referenced as Annex 11.

Reference Annex 11 St Helena police Stats 2015 – 2020



Police DA stats
2015-2020.xlsx

