



Programme/Project Number: 00096449

Programme/Project Title:

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

Implementing Partner: Safeguarding
Directorate of St Helena

PROJECT BOARD MEETING REPORT



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Acknowledgement

The Government of St Helena and Safeguarding Directorate wish to sincerely thank the United Nations Development Programme for the extensive financial, administrative and strategic support for the past 4 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 securing the environment and developing a safe areas for the disabled clients on St Helena. 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. The St Helena Government has committed to the project by taking ownership of the Staff salaries and day to day running of the Safe Haven. SHG is committed to funding the project annually to ensure the continual and efficient running of the service, this is commitment is based upon continued funding support from DfID which is reviewed on a yearly basis.

Victoria Kellet

Acting Project and Safeguarding Director

14 December 2018

Signature

Report Prepared by

Nicolene Adams

PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2018 – Major Achievements

There is an ongoing support or relationship between a keyworker and the women using the service. The service is holistic and the aim of the service is to empower women to live a life free from abuse, independently of the service. Support workers support outreach / community and SH based clients as well as clients accessing the helpline for counselling and support.

Statistics

During 2018, 8 cases were referred, 6 cases were offered outreach/community support and 1 referral was not accepted for support offered. From the 46 clients that were on the books accessing the service since 2017, number of cases have been closed. This service is currently proactively working to continually improve community confidence in the service.

- 8 cases referred
- 6 cases offered outreach/community support
- 1 referral not accepted
- 1 case admitted to the Safe Haven

Training

➤ Overseas training

In line with the workplan, a training agreement has been signed between SHG Safeguarding Directorate and Barnardo Training and Consultancy Services Limited. Various modules linked to DV training will be delivered to both the staff at the Safe Haven and professionals working in wider services such as Police, Health, Education and social service colleagues. However, due to various reasons (elaborated in details in the next section on Targets Achieved), the training contract has only been signed in August 2018 and while all the design and preparatory works for the trainings have been completed in 2018, it was not possible to bring the trainers to St. Helena in 2018 so the actual training has been scheduled for early 2019.

In addition, number of trainings were provided to staff members on domestic abuse by the SG Domestic Violence Specialist, financed by SHG.

➤ On island training

Continuous training and capacity building of staff in the areas of women empowerment and elimination of violence against women is considered extremely important by St. Helena Government and therefore, in addition to the overseas training planned under the UNDP funded project, number of on island trainings have been carried out for the staff of Safe Haven, Children Services, Adult Services, Police and Health, depending on applicability. All trainings have been funded by the St. Helena Government.

- SoS practice leader sessions/Mapping exercises in relation to DV cases
- Freedom Programme training with Safe Haven / Children's Services staff
- Conflict & Resistance Workshop – Children's Services (includes working with emotional distress in relation to DV victims)
- Hidden men Workshop – included assessing victims of DV and including the views of perpetrators to produce holistic assessment (Social services and police)
- Empowerment Star training with a small number of staff. This is suitable for use in women's refuge or outreach services, where Domestic abuse is the main factor in women using the service.

Further Refurbishment of Safe Haven

In line with the AWP, a secure wooden fence to segregate the administration block from the Safe Haven Residence has been built. The fencing secures the privacy of clients accessing the service and improves the overall quality of service provided to the clients.

A visual security system will be installed in the 4th quarter of the year to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of families accessing the service.

PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2018- TARGETS ACHIEVED

Output 1: A SPECIALIST SAFEHAVEN FACILITY FOR ST HELENA CREATED

2018 Targets:

- *Renovation and Adaptation of the haven for disabled*
- *Secure Access Ensured*
- *3 Safe Haven staff trained and further Health and education directorates and social services staff improve their knowledge on domestic violence*

Activity 1: Refurbishment and adaptations of the available bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom for disabled

- To reach agreement with property division and St Helena Govt.- **achieved**
- To accept quotations and begin refurbishment works on bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom facilities- **partially achieved**

Activity 2: Furnishing and setting up areas for functional living

Justifications for delays under Activities 1 and 2:

The following factors have impacted the timeframes for the completion of activities as per the Annual Work Plan.

Constant Leadership changes

Matt Ansell, Project Director and Safeguarding Director resigned and left the post in May 2018, Stephanie Jones the new Director was appointed in May 2018 and subsequently has resigned from the post in November 2018. Financial manager Amanda Fowler resigned in February 2018 and the new Management Accountant Jeremiah Tsunga was appointed in August 2018 for the Safeguarding, Health and Police Directorates. The constant change in leadership affected the decision making and keeping the progress of the project fluid.

Lack of Funding and Budget approval uncertainty

The uncertainty of the budget on the SHG side played a major role in delaying the project. There are only a few contractors on island who can do this work and most of the contractors were busy and could not quote or secure materials to commit to the jobs earlier in the year. In our request for funding we have miscalculated the projected expenditure for the refurbishment. This was exacerbated by the lack of confirmation of funding which saw no capital program approved for contractors from UK DFID. No capital program for any big construction jobs to be signed off in SHG. Contractors can only be paid after the work has been and passed. Based on the lack of funding contractors did not have the capital to purchase materials for big building projects. All building materials required are not manufactured on the island and are always off shore orders that take +/- 3 months to reach the Island. Once the architectural plans were received, the process was delayed further by the change in leadership for the second time in 2018. The contractors thus missed the 07 December deadline for submission of the plans to the SHG Land, Planning and Development committee, as all planning had to be submitted 3 weeks prior to the board meeting. The next board meeting will only be held in the first week of January 2019. Refurbishment quotes, specifications and plans linked to restructuring has all been completed. The plans are now with the Land, Planning and Development committee which will convene in January. As a result, we were not able to fully utilize the 2018 funding and will be proposing to move some activities to 2019 and utilize the 2019 funding for this purpose.

Activity 3: Ensuring Secure Access to Save Haven

- Fix and secure fencing around the perimeter of the property- **achieved**
- Purchasing and installation of a visual security system- **to be achieved in 4Q**
- Building of suitable secure fence to segregate the two uses of Brick House- **achieved**

The perimeter fencing has been voluntarily secured by residential community members. A secure wooden fence to segregate the administration block from the Safe Haven Residence has been built. The fencing secures the privacy of clients accessing the service. The balance of activities such as the purchasing and installing of the visual security system will be completed by the end of December 2018.

Activity 4: Ensuring Staff Development and Training

- Overseas training on Prevention and Early Intervention

A training agreement has been signed between SHG Safeguarding Directorate and Barnardo Training and Consultancy Services Limited. Various modules linked to DV training will be delivered to both the staff at the Safe Haven and professionals working in wider services such as Police, Health, Education and social service colleagues. SHG has shown a commitment to ensuring the sustainability of the project by partially funding this beneficial training for the Island.

A copy of the final proposal for the training is attached and will also be sent as an Annex to the report. SHG is partially subsidising and providing co-financing for the training, so that more staff across directorates are able to undertake accredited training to ensure the consistency of practice standards across the island to agency dealing with victims of Domestic Violence. It is important to note that part of the costs were incurred to cover the design time to ensure the training product is bespoke to fit with exiting developments for the island. Senior Social Workers worked with Julie Dugdale from Barnardo's agency on developing the appropriate programme.

- Online courses on DV programmes

Local and online training was provided to staff members on domestic abuse to ensure staff gained an in-depth understanding of the client's circumstances in order to supply efficient and quality specialist support. Examples of those courses were "The Me Learning" on line Courses – Safeguarding Children Level 1 and Level 2, Domestic Abuse and basic IT training. Other workshops and courses completed by staff included, Child protection, Counselling, Working with Conflict and Resistance, Confidentiality & Communication, Managing Personal and Professional Boundaries. Applying Research to Practice, Assessments & Recording and Basic Court Process & Skills. These were all beneficial however to provide a sustainable and supportive service there is a need to deliver some bespoke training to both the staff at the Safe Haven and professionals working in wider services such as Police, Health, Education and social service colleagues.

REVEIWED SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

This sustainability plan is a working document that will be updated as needed, it is responsive to the Sustainability Plan 2018, specifically focussed on the achievements of the outcomes and targets set out in the UN Project Document for the 4year period. St Helena Government has shown its commitment to co-financing the Domestic Violence Project for the period of 3yrs since 2018. Provision has been granted and made in the SHG Safeguarding Directorate 2019 budget to fund the running costs of the Safe Haven, maintenance of residence, staff salaries, staff training and the expansion of the service. As part of their care plan service users 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 supporting structure for staff and the effective operation of the service will be the bespoke Code of Practice. The St Helena Government has willingly shown their committed to co – financing activities such as trainings that requires funding exceeding the budget allocations under the UNDP Project. 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 newly passed Domestic Abuse Legislation is to provide 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. The application can also be made by another person (such as a police officer or social worker) or on behalf of a child who is affected by the abuse. The implementation of this bill verifies that Saint Helena has developed and implemented the relevant policies to support victims of domestic abuse and to reduce the number of incidents.

Saint Helena Government Safeguarding Directorate PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING 2019

Proposed Work plan for 2019 builds on the 2018 workplan and includes activities that were planned but not completed in 2018. In addition, the 2019 proposes additional activities aiming at improvement of services provided by the Safe Haven and increasing awareness of general public on domestic violence.

Proposal is based on the risk log attached to this report.

Output 1: A SPECIALIST SAFEHAVEN FACILITY FOR ST HELENA CREATED

NEED/RISK 1

Current Safe Haven has unsuitable living areas for disabled client's additional funds for refurbishment required.

Output 1: CREATE A SUITABLE DISABLED FACILITIES AND LIVING AREA

The room with available free standing kitchen and ablution facilities on the premises identified.

Activity 1: Refurbishment and adaptations of the available bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom for disabled

Refurbish and completed adaptations to available dining room and bathroom inside the Safe Haven residence disabled entrance to enable independent living. Wheelchair ramps to be built at the entrance and all other necessary adaptations for the bedroom, bathroom and kitchen

Activity 2: Procurement for suitable living

Furnish and set up areas for functional living to increase independence.

COUNTERMEASURES

Disabled entry access

Breakdown of Expenditure for Refurbishment

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	INCLUDES
Contract for Services	\$2,700	Transport, Insurance & Profit
Refurbishment Costs	\$13,000	All Labour
Materials	\$15,000	All Materials
Furniture & Equipment	\$7,000	Truck, Mixer, Mini Digger, Dumper, Compressor, Machining & Scaffolding, Disability aids for home use.
Total	\$37,700	

OUTPUT 1: Activity 3: Maintenance of Grounds and Environment

NEED/RISK 5

The Safe Haven residence is safe and well-resourced however, the outside environment which houses large garden areas is neglected due to lack of funding to regularly maintain the grounds and effectively start planting herbs and vegetables gardens.

Keeping the environment clean and maintenance contributes to the objective of providing safety and secure services for clients. The service would like monthly grounds and environment maintenance services to create a healthy and safe environment for families outside of the home within the boundaries of the property.

COUNTERMEASURES

Quarterly Garden Service Secured by SHG.

Breakdown of Expenditure for Maintenance of Environment

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	INCLUDES
Contract for Services	\$1,900	Contractual services monthly = £ 100 per month for the year
Materials	\$900	Procuring gardening tools for clients, Purchasing plant and vegetable seeds
Total	\$2,800	

OUTPUT 2 – EXPAND SERVICE PROVISION

NEED/RISK 6 and 7

Shortage of awareness raising campaigns due to lack of funding resulting in under reporting from community due to insufficient knowledge.

Output 2: improve local responses to domestic abuse

Activity 1- Domestic Violence Awareness raising campaigns

Raising public awareness involves creating a specific messaging campaign about a particular issue. Awareness-raising will be an important part of continually developing community support for changes knowledge and attitudes about violence against women. The service would benefit from 3 public events being organised for the community of St Helena to attend geared at DV awareness raising.

COUNTERMEASURES

Information booklets circulated to all Directorates

Projected Breakdown of Expenditure for Three Awareness Raising Campaigns

CATEGORY	AMOUNT	INCLUDES
Transport	\$1,500	Hire of pool Vehicles Government Garage for transport for 3 events £300 per event
Equipment	\$4,000	Procuring, Printing Banners, leaflets, information booklets. Hire of Equipment, Catering Equipment = £ 1000 per event
Contracts for Services	\$4,000	Printing, Venue bookings, Catering Media Costs for advertising = £1000 per event
Projected Total	\$9,500	

Risk Log

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Mngt response	Owner	Submitted, updated by	Last Update	Status
1.	Unsuitable living areas for disabled clients additional funds for refurbishment required	December 2018	Operational	P = 1 I = 1	Disabled access secured Room identified with available free standing kitchen and ablution facilities on the premises	SHG	Nicolene Adams	07/07/2017	Not Secured
2.	Frequent changes in Directorship/ unavailability of managers to make decisions.	November 2018	Strategic	P = 1 I = 1	Acting Directors appointed to make decisions. Program Manager available to liaise with UN.	SHG	Nicolene Adams	01 /11/ 2018	Not Secured
3.	No Capital funding to ensure smooth operations of SHG, Contract services dependant on funding to offer services.	November 2018	Operational and strategic	P = 1 I = 1	Smaller jobs that took less finances were taken on by contractors.	SHG	Nicolene Adams	01 /11/ 2018	Not Secured

4.	Shortage of onshore materials for construction. Shortage of Contractors on island	November 2018	Operational	P = 1 I = 1	Materials sourced from off shore. Contractors sourced from South Africa	SHG	Nicolene Adams	01 /11/ 2018	Secured
	Lack of maintenance of environment	December 2018	Operational	P = 1 I = 1	Quarterly Gardening services	SHG	Nicolene Adams	01 /11/ 2018	Unsecured
6.	Significant under reporting of cases by the community	December 2018	Strategic	P = 1 I = 1	Information resources to be distributed to agencies for clients to encourage accessibility to the service- Installing of DV counselling helpline	SHG	Nicolene Adams	07/07/2017	Secured
7.	Shortage of Awareness raising campaigns	December 2018	Strategic	P = 1 I = 1	Low key events with minimal funding availability	SHG	Nicolene Adams		Not Secured

