

UNICEF OFFICE FOR THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN AREA

DONOR REPORT

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1.1 The Context

Physical, sexual and/or emotional violence against children continues to be a major problem, especially in homes and schools. Approximately two in five females report experiencing sexual violence as a child. An alarming 60 to 70% of children report having experienced some form of physical violence or psychological abuse in the last month in some countries. Physical punishment as a way of disciplining children is a widespread practice which is legally and socially sanctioned in the majority of countries in the region. Therefore, about 50% of parents or caretakers and most schools report having used the practice. Younger and male children are more likely to experience physical punishment, backed by religious beliefs. While demand for physical punishment of children in schools and institutional settings is slowly declining, demand for its retention in the home setting remains high. In addition, a continuing cause for great concern is the increasing incidence of youth crime and the paucity of effective proactive and responsive programming and policy frameworks across the region.

Evidence is important for advocacy, legislative and institutional reforms as well as for influencing programmatic interventions. In this regard UNICEF has sought to collect and analyse data from reports made of child sexual abuse (CSA) from the countries covered by its MCP. However, there have been challenges in analysing and comparing this data often due to variations in reporting formats and the type of information collected.

UNICEF has also supported countries to launch the Break the Silence-End Child Abuse campaign which focuses on encouraging children, parents, caregivers as well as the general public to report child abuse. UNICEF has also provided technical and financial assistance for countries to implement interventions following their launches. However, one challenge has been that persons responsible for implementing these interventions do not have the capacity to measure their effectiveness, therefore the evidence to support whether the interventions are working has not been documented.

Furthermore, UNICEF supports countries to undertake periodic legislative and institutional reviews to determine capacity gaps and the solutions to improve the service delivery, service assurance and developmental outcomes for children most affected by violence and those who come into contact with the law.

1.2 UNICEF Response

With thematic funds received, UNICEF engaged a consultant to conduct a gap analysis of the tools being used by various agencies who receive reports on child abuse. These included an analysis of the forms being used by the Health, Education, Child Protection/Social Development and law enforcement sectors. A gap analysis was also conducted of the tools being used to measure the effectiveness of the Social Development BTS related interventions. Funds were also used to build the capacity of key stakeholders from Health, law enforcement, and Social development and education sectors to measure more effectively any BTS- related interventions such as media awareness campaign, social mobilization activities, capacity and sensitization workshops.

UNICEF also provided technical assistance to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis to review its new child justice laws effected in 2013. This UNICEF-supported technical assistance evaluated and recommended reforms for the improved operationalization of the 2013 Juvenile Justice Act and the New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre (NHRC). The NHRC, a 'place of last resort', was designed to provide a safe and developmental environment for its under-18 child population. It therefore manages the most difficult and challenging children in the Federation, with the highest levels of need. It takes children who are in need of 'care and protection' as well as those sentenced by the court following a conviction for a criminal matter.

1.3 Planned and Actual Results

The following section outlines the planned and actual results achieved:

- 1. Planned Results:** Standardized tool developed to capture comparable child protection data from reports of child abuse across countries

Actual Results: Under the guidance of UNICEF and with inputs from representatives from 11 countries covered by the MCP, a standardized tool was developed that would assist in capturing data from reports made of child abuse that would allow some comparison across countries (see Annex A)

2. Planned Results: Capacity building of professionals from Education, Health, Social Development and Law Enforcement sectors enhanced to measure the effectiveness of BTS related interventions.

Actual Results: Under the guidance of UNICEF, the knowledge and skills of 40 persons representing the Departments of Education, Law enforcement, Health and Social development from 11 countries were enhanced to develop to implement tools that would measure the effectiveness of their BTS related interventions. These included learning how to measure media awareness campaign, social mobilization activities, capacity building and sensitization workshops for duty bearer and for right holders. The tools included pre-test and post-test evaluations, media tracking tools, survey questions and a monitoring checklist. To date these tools have been disseminated to the relevant focal points in the countries for use.



Participants at the Training Session for Professionals in Education, Health, Social Development and Law Enforcement Sectors

3. Planned Results: An evaluation and recommended reforms for the improved operationalization of the 2013 Juvenile Justice Act and the New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre (NHRC) in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Actual Results: Since it opened in 2014, the NHRC has admitted 29 children consisting of 16 boys and 13 girls. The average age was 15 years across both sexes, with the youngest being 12 years and the oldest 17 years old. Of the 29 children, 45% (13) came in need of 'care and protection' and the remaining 55% (16) as the result of a criminal conviction. However there was a difference between the sexes. Of the girls, 70% (9) came in need of 'care and protection', whilst amongst the boys, this was 25% (4). The technical review found that the NHRC delivers a high standard of care, protection and support to its residents, and that there was evidence of support from other organizations to provide a wide range of services required to meet the some of the needs of the children. However, it confirmed that there are a large number of provisions within the Child (Care and Adoption) Act 2013 and the Child Justice Act 2013 that have not been fully implemented. This was impacting on the ability of NHRC to work in the best interests of the children and deliver on the expectation of fully rehabilitating its residents.



New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre, St. Kitts and Nevis

To this end, a number of recommendations were made which included:-

- i. Joint working with Probation and Child Protection Services (PCPS), the Police, Education, Health, Youth, Sports and the civic sector;
- ii. Review of parts of the relevant legislation that would benefit from development and/or clarification;
- iii. Physical infrastructural upgrades to meet the aspirations of NHRC; and
- iv. The appointment of a cross-ministerial working group to guide the implementation of the detailed action plan for delivery, given the multi-sectoral needs of this highly vulnerable group of children.

The plan of action is being actively worked upon by the government of St. Kitts and Nevis, to the benefit of the affected population of children.

1.4 Expression of Gratitude

The thematic funds accessed were instrumental in strengthening the child protection programmatic agenda in the Eastern Caribbean. It has assisted in addressing a data gap that has in the past prevented UNICEF from using comparable reports about child abuse to more strategically influence its advocacy and programmatic efforts. It has also assisted in enhancing the capacity of professional to make adequately measure the effectiveness of child abuse awareness communication interventions for social and behavior change. Finally it has allowed for improved operationalization of the 2013 Juvenile Justice Act and the New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre (NHRC) in St. Kitts and Nevis, which can serve as a model for other Eastern Caribbean countries.

The Office for UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area would like to convey heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the opportunity afforded by the access to this funding, which has been instrumental in advancing programmes for the care and protection for the most vulnerable girls and boys in the Eastern Caribbean.

Annex A

DATA TO BE COLLECTED BY ALL COUNTRIES

The listed variables/data points are essential and recommended for data collection by all agencies and departments to improve standardised information and comparative analysis within countries and across the Eastern Caribbean Area. They need to be included on all forms being used to capture reports of child abuse

A standardised list of child sexual abuse data and variables to be collected by all countries

VICTIM INFORMATION

1. **AGE GROUP OF THE CHILD: 0-3YO 4-5YO 6-10YO 11-14YO 15-17YO**
2. **SEX OF THE CHILD:**
3. **DISABILITY: Y/N**
4. **COUNTRY/ISLAND**
5. **PARISH/DISTRICT/COMMUNITY OF THE CHILD:**

PERPETRATOR INFORMATION

5. **AGE OF THE PERPETRATOR:**
6. **SEX OF THE PERPETRATOR:**
7. **RELATIONSHIP TO THE VICTIM: (E.G. TEACHER, PARENT, SIBLING**

INCIDENT DETAILS

8. **TYPE OF ABUSE**
9. **LOCATION OF ABUSE (E.G. SCHOOL, HOME, PLAYGROUND, WORKPLACE, CHURCH)**
10. **REPORTER OF INCIDENT (E.G. FAMILY MEMBER, TEACHER, HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, OTHER _____**

Monitoring BTS-related Interventions

Measurement Tools TO BE USED

Outcomes ¹	Indicators of Progress Toward Desired Outcomes	Measurement tools (What you can use)
To increase community engagement and support for ending child abuse	-# and type of organisations participating in community events .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting attendance records that capture list of organisation; • observation; • surveys.
To increase awareness of CSA among children, caregivers and other adults on the signs of CSA, how to prevent and how to report suspected CSA	-# of people participating in CSA- awareness trainings and events -# of people having seen or heard the CSA messaging from the campaign Awareness and knowledge scores on pre/post surveys following training and events or campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre/post Tests of attendees; • interview or survey on message recall of the campaign; • focus groups. • Media tracking tool
To increase reporting and disclosure of CSA	Rates of suspected CSA reported/disclosed by parents, other family members, children, and other adults in regular contact with children (such as teachers, police, health care providers, religious leaders, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collected in official CSA reporting systems such as intake forms
Increased coordination of CSA services and response across sectors	-# and type of partners participating in formal planning processes for coordinated programming and response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting attendance records that capture list of organisation.
Increased service provider knowledge of and capacity for appropriate reporting and response (<i>institutional and system change</i>)	-#, type and population “coverage” of providers who have received training on reporting mechanisms and response. -# and types of providers that include reporting requirements in policies, procedures and trainings. -Level of awareness of appropriate reporting mechanisms and response among staff of target service providers and institutions. -Staff attitudes toward the value and importance of reporting and response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre/post Tests of attendees who have been trained • Training records; • staff surveys; • review of provider policies/manuals

¹ The listed outcomes are based on the main findings from the UNICEF stakeholder survey. March 2016.