

REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES



**NATIONAL STRATEGY ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
2008-2012**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY DIVISION

Gender Secretariat

2008

FOREWORD

It is with my great pleasure that I present to you this first National Strategy on Domestic Violence. Seychelles is launching this document during the United Nation's Campaign to End Violence Against Women. The global campaign is being championed by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon himself and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) launched in 2008. This document is testimony to our national commitment towards this cause.

Seychelles has remained a beacon of light in the troubled and war torn region of Africa, we have managed to live peacefully, free of civil conflict and war, to build a nation with some of the best human development indices in Africa and of the developing world. However, peace is not only a matter of good governance but a state of mind; it is a way of life that must first start within ourselves and in our homes, so as to permeate to our communities and our nation. Let our exemplary record as a non-violent nation be reflected in our own homes, the breeding ground for tomorrow's democratic citizen.

It is a great achievement that our small nation has stood together in solidarity with our global community against this terrible scourge that has been weakening our families, our communities and our nation for generations. This National Strategy will enable the multiple service providers dealing with domestic violence to use a more integrated approach, that more efficiently and effectively meets the holistic needs of clients and address this multi-faceted problem.

The National Strategy on Domestic Violence is both forward- looking and action oriented. It responds to the immediate needs of victims, their families, and perpetrators, whilst also focusing on more long-term preventative approaches to effect real and sustainable change. It is my sincere wish that we may be able to alleviate the devastating problem of domestic violence now in our generation, so that violence against women is no longer a social norm for our children's children's generation.

I commend the good will that has contributed to the formulation of this document, and call on all stakeholders to continue to give your utmost support and commitment to this National Strategy. Effective implementation of the proposals outlined in this National Strategy will ensure real change for everyone living through this nightmare, which constitutes a serious abuse to the rights and freedoms outlined in our Constitution.

Marie-Pierre Lloyd
Minister for Health and Social Development

Preamble

Seychelles is party to the AU Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, as well as a number of other regional and international instruments that address the issue of gender based violence, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Declaration on Gender and Development and its Addendum on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Children and Women.

At the local level, statistics obtained from several sources indicate a significant rise in the number of cases of domestic violence.

In the whole of 2006 the Family Tribunal registered 172 cases of spousal violence, 95% of which were registered by women. In 2007 this grew to 226 cases, indicating a 31% increase in the number of cases being registered in one year.

The number of cases of domestic violence reported to the Police has more than doubled over the past 6 years.

Research findings from the Gender Secretariat, of the Ministry of Health and Social Development, suggest that at the superficial level domestic violence is a significant social ill that affects both men and women, although deeper analysis has confirmed established theory that the meaning and consequence of violence has a substantial qualitative difference to women than men.

In this context, we, in Seychelles, also take account of such international viewpoints, and the Ministry of Health and Social Development has spearheaded the development of a national strategy that is not only responsive to the current needs of those affected by domestic violence, but also one which aims to sensitise and raise awareness towards a transformative approach that goes beyond gender sensitivity and actually toward changing gender relations in our society.

The following strategy framework has been drafted by the Gender Secretariat and validated with a wide range of stakeholders before gaining Cabinet approval at the end of 2007.

NATIONAL STRATEGY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2008-2012

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: To strengthen and synthesise activities of multiple stakeholders for an integrated and efficient response to domestic violence.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	TARGETS	ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MOV	ASSUMPTIONS/NOTES	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>1. Understand the extent, causes and consequences of domestic violence in Seychelles</p>	<p>1.1. Complete in-depth analysis of national survey</p> <p>1.2 Undertake qualitative study of extreme cases of domestic violence</p>	<p>1.1.1 Work through analytical framework, develop benchmarks, split sample into different categories for comparative analysis</p> <p>1.1.2 Transform data</p> <p>1.1.3 Write appropriate programmes using R programming language</p> <p>1.1.4 Formulate model based on analytical framework</p> <p>1.1.5 Run model using regression analysis and diagnostic tests for validation</p> <p>1.1.6 Interpret output of regression</p> <p>1.1.7 Write report based on statistical analytical findings</p> <p>1.2.1 Complete study proposal and analytical framework (incl. access to services and sentencing trends)</p> <p>1.2.2 Conduct sensitive face-to-face interviews with victims and</p>	<p>Final report</p>	<p>Also using File Promaker, Excel and SPSS</p> <p>Approval and funding for second phase of study</p> <p>Co-operation of gatekeepers in order to</p>	<p>Gender Secretariat in collaboration with local consultant</p> <p>Gender Secretariat</p>

		aggressors, sourced from Family Tribunal, Probation and Police etc.		gain access to sensitive sample	
		1.2.3 Analyse information			
		1.2.4 Write report	Final report		
2. Strengthen legislation and legislative structures on domestic violence, to deal more effectively with perpetrators and provide more comprehensive protection to victims and their families	2.1. Explore feasibility of criminalising domestic violence	2.1.1 Set up Working Group	TOR of group	Stakeholder will and commitment	MHSD
	2.2. Explore feasibility of creating specialist court under Supreme Court	2.1.2 Develop proposals for legislative changes (e.g. Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act)	Proposed legislative changes	Consensus amongst stakeholders and leaders	Working Group
	2.3. Review existing laws covering domestic violence	2.1.3 Proposals (legislative and structural) validated by wider spectrum of stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society	Workshop report and finalised legislative amendments and or enactment	Co-operation and commitment from partners; AGs Office, Police and legal agencies	MHSD
	2.4. Sensitise judiciary, legal agencies and law enforcement about legislative changes	2.1.4 Legislative amendments and or/ enactments written by Draftsperson	Official Gazette		Draftsperson
		2.3.1 Provide sensitisation to judiciary and legal agencies regarding implementation of legislative changes	% of the judiciary and legal agencies sensitised		Working Group
3. Strengthen Police response to domestic violence cases	3.1. Extend existing Family Squad Unit dealing with child abuse to include mandate on Domestic Violence	3.1.1 Review the mandate of the Family Squad Unit to incorporate new mandate and new legislation on domestic violence	Re-launch of the new Family Squad Unit	Dependent on Stakeholder will and commitment of Police. Provision of appropriate budget from	Police Department

		<p>3.1.2 Review Operational Guidelines of Family Squad to integrate role in dealing with domestic violence, incorporating new legislation, Domestic Violence Risk Indicator Framework and Record Book</p> <p>3.1.3 Identify appropriate office space</p> <p>3.1.4 Procure sufficient physical resources (transport and office equipment)</p> <p>3.1.5 Recruit specialised staff to accommodate extended unit</p>		<p>Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Availability of interested personnel to staff new unit</p> <p>Section to be staffed predominantly by frontline FEMALE Officers to deal sensitively with special cases (due to sexual context and considering that 95% of victims are female)</p> <p>Availability of personnel to staff extended unit</p>	
	<p>3.2. Specialist Police Officers to staff extended unit</p>	<p>3.2.1 Development of specialised Domestic Violence training manual</p> <p>3.2.2 Development of specialised Domestic Violence training materials</p> <p>3.2.3 Provision of specialised Domestic Violence TOT</p> <p>3.2.4 Provision of specialised training to staff of the unit</p>	<p>Introduction of new module in specialised domestic violence training</p> <p>Number of Police trainers trained in specialist module</p> <p>Number of personnel staffing unit received specialist training</p>		<p>Police Training Academy and outside trainers (social sectors etc.)</p>

	3.3. Introduction of new Domestic Violence Record Book, for increased professionalism, standardisation and evidence for stronger prosecution	<p>3.3.1 Design new Domestic Violence Record Book to be used at scene of the crime (revised existing format)</p> <p>3.3.2 Incorporate use of new record book in training of regular and specialist Police force</p>	<p>Domestic Violence Record Book</p> <p>Integration of new record book in domestic violence training module</p> <p>Number of domestic violence cases which implemented new Domestic Violence Record Book</p>		Police and international partners
4. Enable an integrated and efficient response of existing institutions to domestic violence	<p>4.1. Situational analysis of current institutional response to domestic violence</p> <p>4.2. Develop integrated Operational Guidelines for domestic violence</p>	<p>4.1.1 Set up multi-sectoral working group to collect data and analyse situation</p> <p>4.1.2 Set up standard format to analyse mandate, Operational Guidelines (formal and informal) and statistics of all service providers (incl. decentralised services and structures) and legal agencies involved with domestic violence cases.</p> <p>4.1.3 Conduct situational analysis</p> <p>4.2.1 Findings from situational analysis to inform development of Domestic Violence Operational</p>	<p>TOR of working group and minutes of meetings</p> <p>Standard data collection and analysis format</p> <p>Assessment Report from different sectors</p> <p>Domestic Violence Operational Guidelines for different service</p>	<p>Commitment from all stakeholders. Provision of sufficient human and financial resources</p> <p>Problem of client confidentiality</p> <p>Build on existing data collection tools used by sectors (e.g. reviewed forms by Health etc.)</p> <p>Findings from Domestic Violence National study is available.</p>	<p>Multi-sectoral working group</p> <p>Gender Secretariat</p> <p>Multi-sectoral working group</p> <p>Gender Secretariat and all sectors</p>

		Guidelines for all service providers incl. Police. Integration of research findings, new legislation, Risk Indicator Framework and use of data collection tools. For sharing of best practice, improved professionalism and standardisation, ensuring maximum complementation and minimum duplication of efforts.	providers incl. Police	Risk Indicator Framework is completed (based on findings from above study). Legislative changes enacted Data collection tools to facilitate costing of services provided	
	4.3. Sustainable in-house domestic violence training capacity of all service providers incl. Police	4.3.1 Develop training materials for existing staff from all stakeholders on implementation of Domestic Violence Operational Guidelines	Training manual and materials	Lack of trainers Explore feasibility of developing cross-cutting technical alliance between different stakeholders (e.g. similar to Social Workers based at DAs office and Community Policing initiative)	NIHSS, NIE and Police Academy and other training institutions
4.3.2 Provision of Domestic Violence TOT for all sectors		Number of trainers trained in different sectors			All sectors
4.3.3 Introduce Domestic Violence training in existing curriculum for all trainees		Mandatory Domestic Violence modules inserted into curriculum of all sectors	Some training programmes have recently been updated and maybe resistant to further change (i.e. NIHSS)		
4.3.4 Provision of in-house Domestic Violence training to all new and existing staff (incl. incoming expatriates) from all		Number of existing and new staff trained in different sectors	Explore feasibility of strengthening partnership between state and non-state		

	4.4. Sensitised judiciary and legal agencies	4.4.1 Provision of sensitisation to judiciary and legal agencies regarding domestic violence, covering Risk Indicator Framework, new Operational Guidelines and legislative changes	service providers	Number of judiciary and legal counsellors (public and private) sensitised	service providers (e.g. private health clinics and schools referring cases to government stakeholders)	
5. Monitor and Evaluate implementation of National Strategy and expected outcomes	5.1. Develop sector-specific indicators in collaboration with stakeholders 5.2. Develop Monitoring and Control System 5.3. Implement Monitoring and Control System	5.1.1 Identify Focal Persons in each sector to take lead of collaborative work efforts 5.1.2 Identify different types of indicators for each programme cycle stage 5.2.1 Set tolerance for each performance indicator 5.2.2 Develop basic M&E mechanism 5.3.1 FPs equipped with sector specific tools (indicators and mechanism) 5.3.2 FPs lead implementation of tools within their sectors 5.3.3 Information fed back to Gender Secretariat for overall national analysis and technical assistance on analysis and planning programme adaptations.		List of FPs for each stakeholder List of indicators List of benchmarks M&E mechanism Number of FPs capacitated Sector specific quarterly reports National quarterly reports	Stakeholder will and commitment Implementation of data management system, to collect information internally and feed back to Gender Secretariat Ability of stakeholders to take lead of M&E of their portion of the strategy once capacitated Capacity of Gender Secretariat to lead national M&E, understaffed and under resourced	Gender Secretariat (first 5 years) in collaboration with all stakeholders
6 Advocate for	6.1 Advocate for	6.1.1 Advocate for			Stakeholder will and	All sectors and

<p>integrated data management between multiple sectors</p>	<p>improved network between multiple service providers dealing with domestic violence</p>	<p>introduction/improvement of network within individual organisations (e.g. network between decentralised offices, e.g. connect all district Police Stations, Hospitals and Clinics and Schools together and pool information back to central office)</p> <p>6.1.2 Provide training to all personnel on using data base</p> <p>6.1.3 Advocate improved network linking together all sectors, facilitating improved referral system, integrated risk management and application of holistic approach to clients needs (i.e. linking and sharing information between Police, Health, Social Services, Education etc.)</p> <p>6.1.4 Provide training to all personnel on using network</p>	<p>commitment.</p> <p>Appropriate budget allocation.</p> <p>Where feasible introduction of a computerised network(e.g. as recommended by stakeholders), using same programme to facilitate communication and referral (limited access to personal file by outside agencies).</p> <p>Issue of information sharing (aggregated non confidential) needs to be resolved for purposes of statistical analysis used in M&E and cost benefit analysis</p>	<p>ICT</p>
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: To reduce vulnerability of women and men to domestic violence.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	TARGETS	ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MOV	ASSUMPTIONS/NOTES	RESPONSIBILITY
1 Risk Management as short-term prevention strategy	1.1 Develop Risk Indicator Framework	1.1.1 Identify risks of victimisation and perpetration, as well as protective factors, based on population based study	Finalised Risk Indicator Framework	Completed in-depth analytical findings of national survey on domestic violence	Gender Secretariat
2. Rehabilitate known Perpetrators and Victims of Domestic Violence	2.1 Introduction of Rehabilitation Programme for Domestic Violence Perpetrators and Victims as short-term response	<p>2.1.1 Advocate for introduction of Rehabilitation Programme (dealing with conflict resolution skills for both perpetrator and victim(s), tackling co-dependency and offer psychological therapy in complementation to counselling)</p> <p>2.1.2 Identify suitable Lead Agency</p> <p>2.1.3 Develop Domestic Violence Rehabilitation Programme for Seychelles context based on findings from local research, as well as international literature on same sex violence</p> <p>2.1.4 Develop training manual and materials</p> <p>2.1.5 Identify interested counsellors to teach programme</p> <p>2.1.6 Provision of TOT for counsellors trainers</p>	<p>Number of decision makers reached</p> <p>Lead Agency identified</p> <p>Domestic Violence Rehabilitation Programme</p> <p>Training manual and materials</p> <p>Number of counsellors identified</p> <p>Number of</p>	<p>Stakeholder commitment</p> <p>Financial commitment</p> <p>Willingness of perpetrators to attend classes</p> <p>Long-term funding required</p> <p>Commitment of Stakeholders</p> <p>The whole project may be better suited initially to a pilot project to test potential effectiveness of this kind of programme</p>	

		<p>2.1.7 Provision of training to counsellors</p> <p>2.1.8 Implementation of Domestic Violence Rehabilitation Programme, targeting those known to service providers</p> <p>2.1.9 Develop follow-up programmes for long-term assistance of both perpetrators and victims</p> <p>2.2.1 Ensure legislation includes provisions for orders for perpetrators to attend Domestic Violence Rehabilitation Programme</p> <p>2.2.2 Multiple service providers trained to offer or refer clients to voluntary programme</p>	<p>counsellors received training</p> <p>Number of counsellors received training</p> <p>% of domestic violence cases that perpetrator has been ordered/recommended to attend</p> <p>Support of AGs and Judiciary</p>		
3 Temporary protection and shelter of high risk victims	3.1 Advocate for creation of Domestic Violence Victim's Shelter as short-term response to urgent cases (esp. while investigations are being conducted)	<p>3.1.1 Lobby for need for temporary shelter for extreme cases</p> <p>3.1.2 Source sustainable funding for project</p> <p>3.1.3 Identify potential NGO to manage Shelter</p>	<p>Stakeholder will and commitment</p> <p>Appropriate budget and building allocation</p> <p>Identified lead agency</p>	<p>Stakeholder will and commitment</p> <p>Source of reliable and long-term funding</p> <p>Correct use of shelter by clients, i.e. temporary use only</p>	

				Issue of security of victims needs to be assessed Explore need for separate block for men and women	
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: To reduce impact of domestic violence on children.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	TARGETS	ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MOV	ASSUMPTIONS/NOTES	RESPONSIBILITY
<p>1. Overlap of Risk Management between intimate partner violence and child abuse</p>	<p>1.1 Ensure that Risk Indicator Framework for Children is integrated into Domestic Violence Risk Indicator Framework, and vice versa</p>	<p>1.1.1 Ensure that both Risk Indicator Frameworks are used in tandem (e.g. if mother is receiving medical treatment for suspected domestic violence, child identified as potential risk of abuse by health and referred to Social Worker to assess/manage risk.</p>	<p>Number of domestic violence cases screened for potential child abuse.</p> <p>Number of child abuse cases screened for potential domestic violence</p>	<p>Assuming both Risk Indicator Frameworks are completed</p> <p>Stakeholder commitment in implementing both frameworks and efficient referral system</p>	<p>PPS, MOH, Social Workers, Family Tribunal, Probation, Police and Civil Society Organisations</p>

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: To nurture an environment conducive to improved gender equality and equity.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	TARGETS	ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	MOV	ASSUMPTIONS/NOTES	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Public Education Campaigns as Long-term prevention strategy	1.1 Public education campaigns targeting male aggressors	1.1.1 Develop public education materials, using different format appealing to men, placed in strategic places/times (i.e. bus stops, men’s public toilets, peak time or before football match)		Use of popular peer leaders, e.g. political leaders, religious leaders, musicians, sportspeople etc.	All Stakeholders and media
	1.2 Public education campaigns targeting male victims of violence	1.2.1 Develop public education materials appealing to men that is sensitive to masculine identities but positively challenge rigid stereotyping			
	1.3 Public education campaigns targeting female victims	1.3.1 Develop public education materials using format appealing to women, placed in strategic places/times (i.e. bus stops, women’s public toilets, peak time or before popular films)			
	1.4 Public Education campaigns targeting female aggressors	1.4.1 Develop public education materials using format appealing to women that is sensitive to feminine identities but positively challenges rigid stereotypes			
	1.5 Education campaigns targeting children and youth	1.5.1 Strengthen teaching on gender-based violence in PSE 1.5.2 Advocate for PSE to be included in curriculum of post-secondary courses		Teachers received sensitisation and willing to cover material in class Parents support of new module	MOE

	<p>1.6 Public Education Programmes targeting community</p>	<p>1.6.1 Develop public education materials targeting friends, family and neighbours to stop indirect support of abuse by ignoring, hiding, excusing or encouraging violence.</p> <p>1.6.2 Develop information packs available on the internet or in leaflets from service providers that offer tips on confronting domestic violence</p> <p>1.6.3 Develop public education materials for parents and family warning of dangers of violent video games, films and books etc.</p>		<p>Pupil and Parents support</p> <p>Information from research and M&E of national strategy can be used in advocacy</p>	
<p>2. Advocate revision of SBC’s policy on violence</p>	<p>2.1 Revise programmes aired before watershed for violent and sexual content</p> <p>2.2 Public Education Programmes on watershed</p>	<p>2.1.1 Sensitise senior level to consequences of children viewing inappropriate programmes</p> <p>2.2.1 Develop public education materials targeting parents to adhere to the recommended watershed</p>			<p>Gender Secretariat</p>



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