

ACTION PLAN
ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
MAURITIUS
2007

The Action Plan contains five strategic objectives.

These are:

- I improving legislation on Domestic Violence and strengthening of the justice system and other agencies response
- II appropriate, accessible, timely and coordinated multi-agency responses and support to all victims and children who need it.
- III sensitise and change attitudes to prevent Domestic Violence from happening in the first place.
- IV promote responsible reporting, sensitisation and provision of a forum by media specialists to encourage community leaders to discuss domestic violence.
- V undertake research and development of tools to train monitor and evaluate actions to promote best practices.

Strategic Objective I

Specific Objective 1 *Sexual Offences Bill*

To lobby for and enact and legislation for addressing sexual offences more effectively

Specific Objective 2 *Domestic Violence Act*

To strengthen the provisions in, and implementation of the Domestic Violence Act.

Specific Objective 3 *Sexual harassment:*

To supplement the provisions made in the Labour Act and the Sex Discrimination Act through proactive workplace education and practices for enhancing respect for women.

Specific Objective 4 *Legal Aid:*

To ensure that legal aid is available to those who most need it.

Specific Objective 5 *Family courts:*

To ensure that family courts are established.

Specific Objective 6: *Training of law enforcement officers*

police officers, court officers, probation officers prosecutors, NGOs, FSB officers, Health officers, GFP members, HR departments in private sector on handling domestic violence cases.

Strategic Objective II

Specific Objective 7 *One-stop services:*

To strengthen the existing framework and promote a multidisciplinary inter-sectoral approach for the elimination of violence against women.

Specific Objective 8 *Treatment and care:*

To ensure that a comprehensive package of treatment and care is provided to survivors of gender violence.

Specific Objective 9 *Places of safety:*

To ensure that all survivors of gender violence who require places of refuge have access to such services.

Specific Objective 10 *The Victim and abuser empowerment policy (VEAP):*

To ensure that victims of violence as well as abusers are empowered to control abuse.

Specific Objective 11 *Skills development:*

To assist victims to reclaim their lives and be able to work/live independently.

Strategic Objective III

Specific Objective 12 *Information on services:*

To ensure that the public, and especially survivors, are aware of existing support, laws and facilities

Specific Objective 13 *Employees sensitised at workplace:*

On preventing, detecting and reporting of domestic violence cases.

Specific Objective 14 *Raise awareness*

In primary, secondary and tertiary institutions on domestic violence

Specific Objective 15 *Challenging of traditional norms, religious beliefs etc*

That may be interpreted to condone or encourage gender violence.

Strategic Objective IV

Specific Objective 16 *To engage with the media specialists*

On its attitude towards and coverage of gender violence.

Specific Objective 17 *To provide a forum*

Through media to those involved in handling domestic violence cases

Strategic Objective V

Specific Objective 18 *Research*

On the nature and extent of domestic violence and the problems encountered in implementing legislations on Domestic Violence in the Mauritian society

Specific Objective 19 *To develop material and train*

Those involved in workplace initiatives on Domestic Violence

Specific Objective 20 *A monitoring and evaluation mechanism*

Set up to ensure an effective tracking of initiatives taken.

Strategic Objective I					
Improving legislation on Domestic Violence and strengthening of the justice system and other agencies response					
Specific Objective 1 <i>Sexual Offences Bill</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To lobby for and enact and legislation for addressing sexual offences more effectively 					
Output:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressive, gender neutral legislation for addressing gender 					
Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wider definition of rape including marital rape. Video recoding of complaints to reduce distress of victims Provisions for comprehensive treatment and empowerment of victims. Provisions for rehabilitation of perpetrators. Abortion Harsher penalties Protection against trafficking 	Draft Bill prepared, circulated, amended as required and voted at parliament	Short term March 2007	MJHR and AG	MWRFWCDP	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)		Assumptions and Risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 					

Strategic Objective I

Improving legislation on Domestic Violence and strengthening of the justice system and other agencies response

Specific Objective 2 *Domestic Violence Act*

To strengthen the provisions in, and implementation of the Domestic Violence Act.

Output

- Better protection against domestic violence; discouraging and preventing recurrence

Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cases to be treated as criminal rather than civil to avoid postponements by perpetrators. ▪ Speedier and simpler procedures for proceedings under DVA. ▪ Service of Notice need not be personal eg registered mail ▪ Proper training of court staff and Magistrates to deal with DVA ▪ Sanction for breach of undertaking to undergo Counselling ▪ Welfare division to provide pre and post marriage counselling - Arms licenses of perpetrators carrying firearms to be revoked. 	<p>Amendments where appropriate to regulations; and to streamline procedures</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<p>MJHR and AG</p>	<p>MWRFWCDP</p>	
<p>Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Assumptions and Risks</p>				

Strategic Objective I

Improving legislation on Domestic Violence and strengthening of the justice system and other agencies response

Specific Objective 3 Sexual harassment:

To supplement the provisions made in the Labour Act and the Sex Discrimination Act through proactive work place education and practices for enhancing respect for women.

Output

- More awareness of and reduced sexual harassment

Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speedier resolution of complaints; reduce victimisation and effective action taken e.g. referral to DPP 	Workplace education to enhance respect for women	Long term	MJHR and AG	Ministry of Labour MWRCDWCP MEF GFPs Trade unions	

Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)

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Assumptions and Risks

Strategic Objective Improving legislation on Domestic Violence and strengthening of the justice system and other agencies response					
Specific Objective 4 Legal Aid: To ensure that legal aid is available to those who most need it					
Output <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal aid accessible to those who most need it 					
Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised criteria 	Review criteria for eligibility	Long term	MSS	MWRCDFWCP	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		Assumptions and Risks			

Strategic Objective I

Improving legislation on Domestic Violence and strengthening of the justice system and other agencies response

Specific Objective 5: Family courts:

To ensure that family courts are established.

Output

- Victim friendly courts set up

Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of courts established 	Conceptual clarity and division of existing courts or separate courts; to be established	Long term	MJHR and AG	MWRCDFWCP	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Assumptions and Risks				

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Strategic Objective I					
Improving legislation on Domestic Violence and strengthening of the justice system and other agencies response					
Specific Objective 6:					
Training of law enforcement officers police officers, court officers, probation officers prosecutors NGOs, FSB officers, Health officers, GFP members, HR departments in private sector on handling Domestic Violence cases.					
Output					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality support services provided to victims of Domestic Violence 					
Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or improve existing protocol policies for all types of officers working with victims of Domestic Violence Officers trained and implement protocols 	Provide clear guidance on responding to domestic violence and training organised	Short and medium term Oct. 2007	MJHR and AG UOM	Ministry of Labour Ministry of Health MWRCDFWCP MEF GFPs Trade unions NGOs	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)		Assumptions and Risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 					

Strategic Objective II: Appropriate, accessible, timely and coordinated multi-agency responses and support to all victims, abuser and children who need it					
Specific Objective 7 One stop services: To strengthen the existing framework and promote a multidisciplinary inter-sectoral approach for the elimination of violence against women.					
Output <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A more harmonized and further decentralized services available to victims 					
Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit report Model one stop services developed and disseminated 	Conduct an audit of existing facilities (eg at hospitals, the Family Support Bureau and the police Family Protection Units) to develop models standards for one stop services; replicate these; disseminate information	Short term Oct 2007	Committee chaired by of MWRCDFWCP, AG & Minister of Justice	Ministry of Labour Ministry of Health MWRCDFWCP MEF GFPs Trade unions NGOs	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		Assumptions and Risks			

Strategic Objective II Appropriate, accessible, timely and coordinated multi-agency responses and support to all victims, abuser and children who need it					
Specific Objective 8 Treatment and care: To ensure that a comprehensive package of treatment and care is provided to survivors of gender violence.					
Outputs					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State provides a comprehensive package of treatment and care to survivors of sexual assault. • Socio psychological needs of survivors of gender violence and sensitive treatment and follow-up provided • Services for women and men 					
Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment clause in the SOB • No of additional councillors deployed • Creation of a detox centre for women 	Treatment (including PEP, morning after pill, possible STD infection, counselling) specified in SOB Deploy additional socio-psycho support in the ministry and FSB Provide detoxification centre for women (currently only for men)	Long term	MWRCDFWCP	Ministry of Labour Ministry of Health MWRCDFWCP MEF GFPs Trade unions NGOs	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)		Assumptions and Risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 					

Strategic Objective II

Appropriate, accessible, timely and coordinated multi-agency responses and support to all victims, abuser and children who need it

Specific Objective 9 Places of safety:

To ensure that all survivors of gender violence who require places of refuge have access to such services.

Outputs

- A better supportive environment for the social reinsertion of survivors set up.

Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional shelters strategically distributed across the island 	Create additional infrastructure with rehabilitative support services (currently three shelters - one government; two NGO)	Long term	Ministry of Finance, Land & Housing & Private sector, Int'l donor orgs.	MSS MWRCDFWCP MEF	

Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)

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Assumptions and Risks

Strategic Objective II

Appropriate, accessible, timely and coordinated multi-agency responses and support to all victims, abuser and children who need it

Specific Objective 10

The Victim and Abuser Empowerment Policy (VEAP): To ensure that victims of violence as well as abusers are empowered to control abuse.

Outputs

Formulation and implementation of a Victim and Abuser Empowerment Policy at the workplace.

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Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowerment and advocacy policy for both abuser and victim • Training and advocacy material available • Workplace initiatives in Ministries and in HR departments in private sector implemented 	Advocacy for the formulation of a victim and abuser Empowerment policy Training and advocacy material prepared for work place initiatives Training of GFP staff and HR personnel in private sector	Medium and long term	MWRCDFWCP Ministry of Labour MEF	Ministry of civil Service Affairs Ministry of Labour Ministry of Health MWRCDFWCP MEF GFPs Trade unions NGOs	

Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)

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Assumptions and Risks

Strategic Objective II

Appropriate, accessible, timely and coordinated multi-agency responses and support to all victims, abusers and children who need it

Specific Objective 11 skills development:

To assist victims to reclaim their lives and be able to work/live independently.

Outputs:

- victims are in a position to find a job and secure an independent living

Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training provided to victims • Victims assisted in their job search 	Victims channelled to providers of training to increase their employability on the labour market Victims assisted in job search	Medium term	Ministry of Labour MWRCDFWCP	Training institutions MEF NGOs	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Assumptions and Risks				

Strategic Objective III Sensitise and change attitudes to prevent Domestic Violence from happening in the first place.					
Specific Objective 12 Information on services: To ensure that the public, and especially survivors, are aware of existing support, laws and facilities					
Output • Audit exercise, exchange of data and sharing of information among stakeholders for dissemination to the general public					
Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit and exchange with other stakeholders for dissemination • Information counters on Domestic Violence • Network system set up • Local websites on Domestic Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit of existing information available • Creation of information counters in the main institution concerned, and (NGOS and Government) • Creation of a networking system to exchange and disseminate information to the general public in different languages • Creation of websites 	Short term Sep 2007	MWRCDFWCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ministries • UOM • Training institutions • MEF • NGOs 	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007) •		Assumptions and Risks			

Strategic Objective III

Sensitise and change attitudes to prevent Domestic Violence from happening in the first place.

Specific Objective 13

Employees sensitised at workplace on preventing, detecting and reporting of domestic violence cases.

Output

- employees sensitised on domestic violence issues through work place initiatives

Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting and sensitising mechanisms set up in workplace function 	Sensitisation sessions at the workplace by trained officers (police officers, court officers, probation officers prosecutors FSB officers, Health officers, GFP members, HR departments in private sector)	Long term	Concerned employers	Ministry of Health MWRCDFWCP MEF GFPs Trade unions NGOs	

Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)

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Assumptions and Risks

Strategic Objective III Sensitise and change attitudes to prevent Domestic Violence from happening in the first place.					
Specific Objective 14 Raise awareness in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions on domestic violence					
Output <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students at all levels can identify symptoms of domestic violence and know measures which can be taken 					
Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitisation sessions and materials Reported cases of domestic violence 	<p>Increase awareness on law, services available for both abusers and victims and communicate expectations of appropriate conduct in intimate relationship</p> <p>Encourage reporting of violence in these institutions</p>	Short and medium term August 2007	Ministry of Education	MIE UOM Private universities Ministry of Health MWRCDFWCP AG & Minister of Justice	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007) •		Assumptions and Risks			

Strategic Objective III Sensitise and change attitudes to prevent Domestic Violence from happening in the first place.					
Specific Objective 15 Challenging of traditional norms, religious beliefs etc that may be interpreted to condone or encourage gender violence					
Output <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The religious community participates actively in sensitisation campaigns against Domestic Violence 					
Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of religious leaders in sensitisation campaigns Support materials prepared to challenge Domestic Violence 	<p>Involvement of religious leaders as resource persons to speak out, partner with other stakeholders and address religious issues in sensitisation campaigns.</p> <p>Marriage preparation sessions held and advocacy material prepared by religious leaders to sensitise on religious values condemning domestic violence</p>	Medium term	Council of Religion	MWRCDFWCP AG & Minister of Justice	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007) •		Assumptions and Risks			

Strategic Objective IV
 Promote responsible reporting, sensitisation and provision of a forum by media specialists to encourage community leaders to discuss domestic violence.

Specific Objective 16
 To engage with the media specialists on its attitude towards and coverage of gender violence

Output
 • Responsible coverage of Domestic Violence cases by media specialist

Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of practice includes guidelines on coverage of Domestic Violence Protection and respect of victims and family members. 	Code of practice reviewed to include Guidelines on coverage of GBV Media personnel sensitised and trained	Short term Oct 2007	Association of journalists	Editors-in-Chief, Media Watch	

<p>Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<p>Assumptions and Risks</p>
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Strategic Objective IV

Promote responsible reporting, sensitisation and provision of a forum by media specialists to encourage community leaders to discuss domestic violence.

Specific Objective 17

To provide a forum through media to those involved in handling domestic violence cases

Output

- Community leaders, law enforcement officers, health specialists and other stakeholders go on air to debate issues of domestic violence

Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular forums in the media • Information on Domestic Violence publicised (shelters, programs, talks etc.) • Media coverage of public events on sensitisation on DV 	<p>Media professionals organise regular forums</p> <p>Media includes Domestic Violence Hotline number and other information related to services offered to abusers and victims</p>	Medium term	Association of journalists	<p>Media community</p> <p>Stakeholders involved</p> <p>NGOs</p>	
<p>Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Assumptions and Risks</p>				

Strategic Objective V Undertake research and development of tools to train, monitor and evaluate actions to promote best practices.					
Specific Objective 18 Research on the nature and extent of domestic violence and the problems encountered in implementing legislations on Domestic Violence in the Mauritian society					
Output <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An understanding of the issue and problems encountered in enforcing the law 					
Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline data proposed measures for effective law enforcement 	Research on Domestic Violence in the country	Short term August 2007	MWRCDFWCP	Media community Stakeholders involved NGOs	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		Assumptions and Risks			

Strategic Objective V

Undertake research and development of tools to train, monitor and evaluate actions to promote best practices.

Specific Objective 19

To develop material and train those involved in workplace initiatives on Domestic Violence

Output

- Officers at the workplace have the knowledge and skills to implement the workplace initiatives

Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training modules • Officers trained 	<p>To adapt exiting material on policy, procedures and skills required to implement workplace initiatives on Domestic Violence</p>	<p>Long term</p>	<p>UOM Training Institutions</p>	<p>Ministry of civil Service Affairs Ministry of Labour Ministry of Health MWRCDFWCP MEF GFPs Trade unions NGOs</p>	
<p>Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Assumptions and Risks</p>				

Strategic Objective V					
Undertake research and development of tools to train, monitor and evaluate actions to promote best practices.					
Specific Objective 20 A monitoring and evaluation mechanism set up to ensure an effective tracking of initiatives taken					
Output					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collected on the issue and lessons drawn on initiatives taken 					
Output Indicators	Action Required	Time frame	Lead Agency	Partners	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicators and data base available Stakeholders receive regular updates Round tables to discuss updates circulated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data base set up and indicators identified to monitor initiatives Data collected regularly disseminated and assessed by stakeholders 	Short term Sep. 2007	MWRCDFWCP	All stakeholders involved in implementation of action plan	
Baseline-Present Status (October 2007)		Assumptions and Risks			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 					