Guidelines for the Management of Safe Shelters for Survivors of Gender Based Violence in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean

Presented by:
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Introduction

• Home is not safe (IPV)
• Inability to afford housing
• Humanitarian Emergencies (loss of home/income, family separation, population movements)
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- Cycle of abuse
- Homelessness and basic survival rights
- Negative coping mechanisms
- Lack of access to services
- Threat to life
Purpose
• Immediate Protection
• Provision + linkage with essential services
• Support empowerment + livelihoods
• Contribute to ending cycle of abuse
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• Provision + linkage with essential services
• Support empowerment + livelihoods
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• Practical Guidance to set up and manage Safe Shelters → survivor-centered
• Good practices & challenges
• Specific Recommendations
Methodology
Extensive Desk Review: Available literature specific countries
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Online Survey: Jamaica, Belize, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Barbados, Guyana, Suriname
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Semi-structure Interviews: Guyana, Suriname, Belize, Jamaica, Barbados, St. Vincent & the Grenadines
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Second Stage:
Next week: Validation Field Assessment in Belize
Main Findings
38% at full capacity

87% location is confidential,
6% security systems

18% charge a fee to survivors

2 adapted to LGBTQI

0 adapted to disabilities and neurodiverse
Referral system in 81% of shelters

87% case management but 75% case workers

50% legal info, but 12% lawyers

87% no staff care plans
25% no code of conduct for staff

19% no anonymous feedback mechanisms

25% emergency preparedness and response plans + 75% say they can continue operating in emergencies

56% government funding, 25% other funding (short-term), 19% have no funding
What do you find in the Guidelines?
Main findings based on consultations
Main findings based on consultations
Best Practices and Challenges
✓ Main findings based on consultations
✓ Best Practices and Challenges
✓ Recommendations: intersectionality, accessibility, adaptability
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Best Practices and Challenges
Recommendations: intersectionality, accessibility, adaptability
Checklist for design, setup and management of safe shelters
Main findings based on consultations
Best Practices and Challenges
Recommendations: intersectionality, accessibility, adaptability
Checklist for design, setup and management of safe shelters
Samples of Code of Conduct, Terms of Reference for Staff, Information and Communication Material
Discussion and way forward
• Caribbean Countries and Small Island Developing States → between development settings and humanitarian disasters (mainly climate change)

• The majority of services are crowded in the capital, and seldom in hinterland areas.
• Safe Shelters are a unique opportunity for multisectoral service provision, empowerment and building resilience to climate change.

• Second stage: service audits Belize Pilot.
Thank you!

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