Haiti 2021

Support for Analysis of Essential Services

Through the United Nations's Spotlight Initiative in Haiti GRW worked with a Task Force made up of representatives from Haitian NGOs, UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, and UNFPA to assess the status and capacity of services for survivors of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in specific regions in Haiti.

GLOBAL RIGHTS for WOMEN *Justice for Victims of Violence*

Survivor interviews, training and data collection on gender-based violence in Haiti in the context of COVID-19 to assess delivery of services to survivors.

Essential Services to Women Subject to Violence

Services were analyzed within the framework of the United Nations' Essential Services Package for women and girls subject to violence. The study included multiple sectors including justice and policing, health care, psychological support, and social services (including legal assistance, shelter, crisis counseling and economic support).

GRW Support for Local Team Addressing Challenging Conditions

The project, and the analysis of the delivery of essential services, faced the growing global challenges: restrictions on travel during COVID, rolling power outages, an earthquake, daily gang violence, and political instability due to the assasination of Haiti's president.

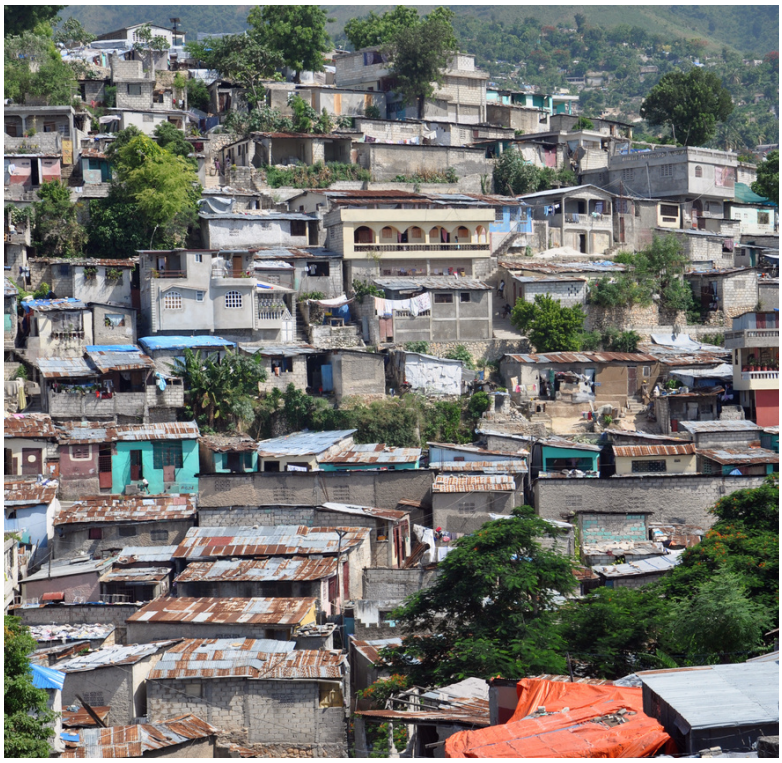
GRW worked in four major areas:

1.Compiling existing services information in multiple directories into a single database.

2. Creating a survey for gathering information from key institutions that respond to survivors.

3. Consultation and training with Haitian data consultants.

4. Gathering information from survivors themselves about their experiences with these institutions.



GRW Guiding Principles

GRW routinely includes consultation and interviews with survivors as part of data collection methods in its work around the world, believing that survivors of VAWG provide authoritative and essential insights into understanding the gap between what survivors need and what institutions provide.

Partnering with in-country women's organizations to learn their experience and priorities and working with them to interview survivors is also a hallmark of GRW's program work.

UN Women's Essential Services Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence (the ESP) guided evaluation of the status, capacity and level of awareness of existing services.

Principles for the Essential Service Package for Women and Girls Subject to Violence

- Use a rights-based approach, advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Culturally and age appropriate and gender-sensitive.
- Survivor-centered approach.
- Safety is paramount, along with perpetrator accountability.
- Informed consent and confidentiality.
- Effective communication in design, implementation, and assessment of services, data collection and information management, linking with other sectors and agencies in coordination.

What we learned from gender-based violence survivors about conditions in Haiti

“If I were to tell you everything I went through in my life, all the violence, I don’t think you would have enough tears.”
--Haitian Survivor

- Survivor interviews needed to be conducted in a timeframe for women to be able to return home before 4 p.m.
- Walking outside after certain hours is dangerous for anyone due to kidnappings and gang violence.
- Women and girls are especially at risk for sexual violence, and sexual assaults are common while traveling, especially at borders of geographic regions.
- When conditions are good enough to be out, some parents spend all day taking their children to and from school. Routes are changed and closed daily due to where gangs are moving.
- There are times of day when the police will not go out due to fear for their own safety.
- Without the shelter/service agencies’ help, women would have no place to live or nothing to eat when they were kicked out of their homes by an abusive spouse or his family.

Survivor Interviews

In gathering survivors' voices, GRW worked closely with the Alliance des Femmes Pour Une Nouvelle Haiti (AFHNA) to interview twenty-four survivors from two primary locations–one urban, one rural.

AFHNA worked to recruit women for interviews, schedule sessions, host the remote interview sessions, and support women who participated.

GRW extensively reviewed the session transcripts from the twenty-four interviews and analyzed them for themes about women's experiences seeking support and services across response sectors.

GRW provided this analysis and redacted transcripts in a summary report for UN Women-Haiti and Task Force partners. The goal of the report is to elevate survivors' voices to decision-makers and provide additional context for those tasked with analyzing results from the surveys of institutions.

By the Numbers

24

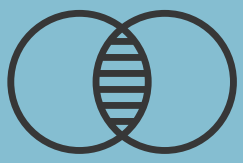
Virtual survivor interviews conducted*

5

online surveys (1 each for the sectors of courts, prosecution, police, social services, and health), each offered in 3 languages, English, Haitian Creole and French, in 7 geographic regions

4

Training sessions for data collectors



1

Consolidated 10 different service listing directories into one

**Paid stipends to AFHNA for their organizing and to survivors for participating, and provided additional compensation to two interpreters to fully translate the recordings so that GRW could accurately represent survivors' accounts of their experiences.*

Project Partners & Supporters

AFNHA—Alliance des Femmes Pour Une Nouvelle Haiti

- *Elcie Nicole Dalexis, Executive Director/Coordonnatrice Générale*
- *Sajine Banatte, Administrative Assistant*
- *Kerlande Joseph, Présidente de la Fondation Essence-Elle (FÉE) and Consultant to AFNHA*

Global Rights for Women:

- *Cheryl Thomas, Executive Director*
- *Melissa Scaia, Director of International Training*
- *Laura Wilson, Human Rights Attorney*
- *Laura Williams, Director of Systems Advocacy*
- *Rhonda Martinson, Independent Consultant to Global Rights for Women*

Haitian Ministry of Women's Affairs

- *Ketleine Charles, Departmental Coordinator*
- *Kettia Noël, Departement de L'Ouest Liaison*

La Plateforme Genre du Nord'Est (PGNE)

- *Jesula Blanc, Coordinator*
- *Paulane Estival, Accountant Assistant*
- *Joane Fredelyne Manigat Alfred, Coordinator project VSBG, Plan International Haiti*

United Nations Women

- *Nadége Beauvil, Program Specialist, UN Women Haiti*
- *Sadrax Louis-Charles, Program Analyst-Spotlight Initiative, UN Women Haiti*
- *Claudia Gazol, Spotlight Initiative-Haiti*

Nathalie Faubert, Translating/Interpreting Services
Keesha Joseph, Independent translation services

GRW

For specific questions about this project or about future workshops, please contact Melissa Scaia, Director of International Training at mscaia@grwomen.org.
To learn more about Global Rights for Women, please visit our website at: www.globalrightsforwomen.org.