

Blossom Incorporated Child Advocacy Centres & Extended Services

2020 Annual Report

3rd February, 2020

Prepared by: Blossom Inc.

Mission Statement

Blossom Inc.'s mission is to respond, deliver and promote effective interventions and education services to children and families affected by sexual violence and exploitation.

From Our Managing Director

What a year it has been for the world, what a year it has been for Blossom! 2020 will forever be the year that Team Blossom proved that collectively we can step up and respond in challenging circumstances and in heightened trauma.

We responded to an increase in referrals for forensic interviews – which evidenced that our services were reaching more families. However, this was also a stark reminder that children were being hurt more than ever as being home, for some, meant being available to be abused!

For our Migrant Support Programme, the levels of sexual and gender-based violence also saw an alarming increase which saw our Migrant Support staff on the ground and in the field every day!

A heartfelt thank you to all our Blossomers' who, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, showed up for children and families who suffered severe trauma. You worked so efficiently and so professionally and with an energy that is to be commended. I salute you all!

And to our funders: Government of Guyana, UNICEF, Emerge BPO, British High Commission, Digicel, IOM and all others, you made it possible for us to increase our reach and do so safely. We were able to take services to our most vulnerable children & families in extremely hard to reach areas. Our directors, staff and I thank you for the support.



BLOSSOMERS



Interventions and Preventions



Multidisciplinary Team



Forensic Interviews



Therapy Services – Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy & Psychosocial Support



Education Awareness
Outreaches



Victim Support Services



Migrant & Host Community
Services



Training & Staff
Development

Multidisciplinary Team - MDT

The Multidisciplinary Team works in a collaborative fashion to effectively respond to victim exploitation and abuse.

No National MDT meetings were held in 2020 due to Covid-19. The Team, however, utilized the WhatsApp group features in a coordinated effort to share and respond to victim exploitation and abuse.

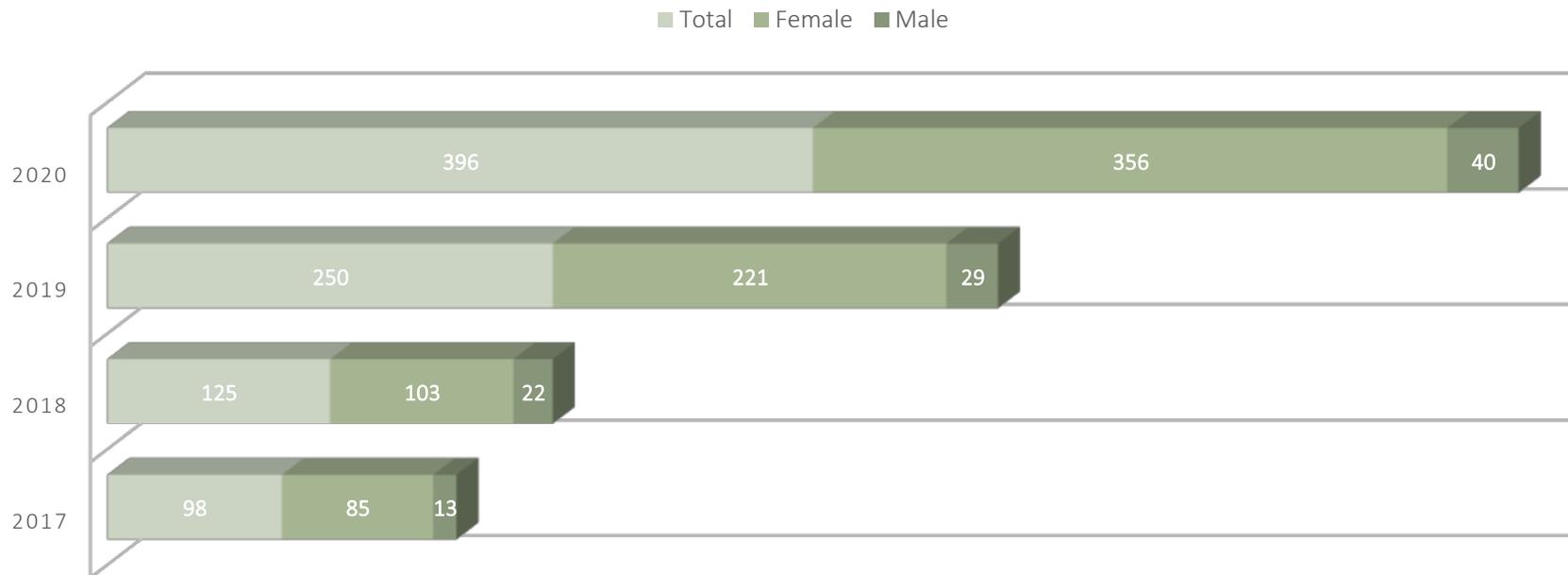
Three Regional MDTS meetings were held in Regions 2,7 and Kwakwani.

Forensic Interviews

Forensic interviews are conducted on victims who may have experienced or witnessed acts of sexual violence and exploitation.

- **373** Forensic interviews were conducted with children who are victims of child abuse.
- **16** Extended/further forensic interviews were conducted.
- **7** Forensic interviews were conducted with 'special victims' who suffered from sexual violence and exploitation.

Forensic Interviews Conducted between 2017 - 2020



Therapy Services

Children and families who are affected by trauma are referred to Blossom Inc. for therapy services.

Blossom Inc. provides Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioural Therapy & Psychosocial Support.

- **246** Referrals were received from the Childcare & Protection Agency.
- **304** Emergency In-Person sessions were provided to children and families.
- **1,721** Weekly Tele-psychosocial support sessions were done with children and their families.

Referrals Received between 2017-2020



Education & Awareness Outreaches

Due to the recognition that communities play an essential role in the protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse, Blossom Inc. has conducted several education awareness outreaches in communities in Regions 7 & 10.

10 Communities were impacted by education & awareness sessions (St. Mary, Agatash, Paruima, Jawalla, Imbamadai, Koko, Waramadong, Ituni, Aroamia & Hururu)

337 Community members participated in these outreaches

40 Community members from Regions 2 & 7 (Bethany, Mashabo, Capoey, Wakapau & Karrau) participated in a capacity building child abuse workshop.

2 Community Prevention Action groups were established (Karrau & Region 2) to assist in the fight to combat child abuse – these are all active action groups!

Victim Support Services

SEXUAL OFFENCES COURT

20	Convictions
20	DPP
27	Magistrate Court
23	High Court
104	Dismissal
12	Not Guilty
1	Hung Verdict
1	Case Aborted
20	Counseling
546	Pending Investigation
406	Unaccounted Cases

SERVICES

Case tracking & Reviews were done at all police stations and at the DPP

70 Children and Families received Psychosocial Support

50 Clients were provided with court support

Migrant & Host Community Services

Over 2,500 Migrants were reached and benefited from the psychosocial support migrant services.

1,119 Migrants benefited from collaborations – UNICEF, Immigration, IOM, Hope Foundation, GWI, Catholic Diocese, Red Cross, GRPA, CPA, IDB, TIP, Ministry of Education, UNHCR, Essequibo Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Amerindian Hostel, GPF & Toshao Council.

65 Households received Emergency Shelter & Accommodation (246 migrants benefited – 153 adults and 93 children).



Migrant & Host Community Services Cont'd

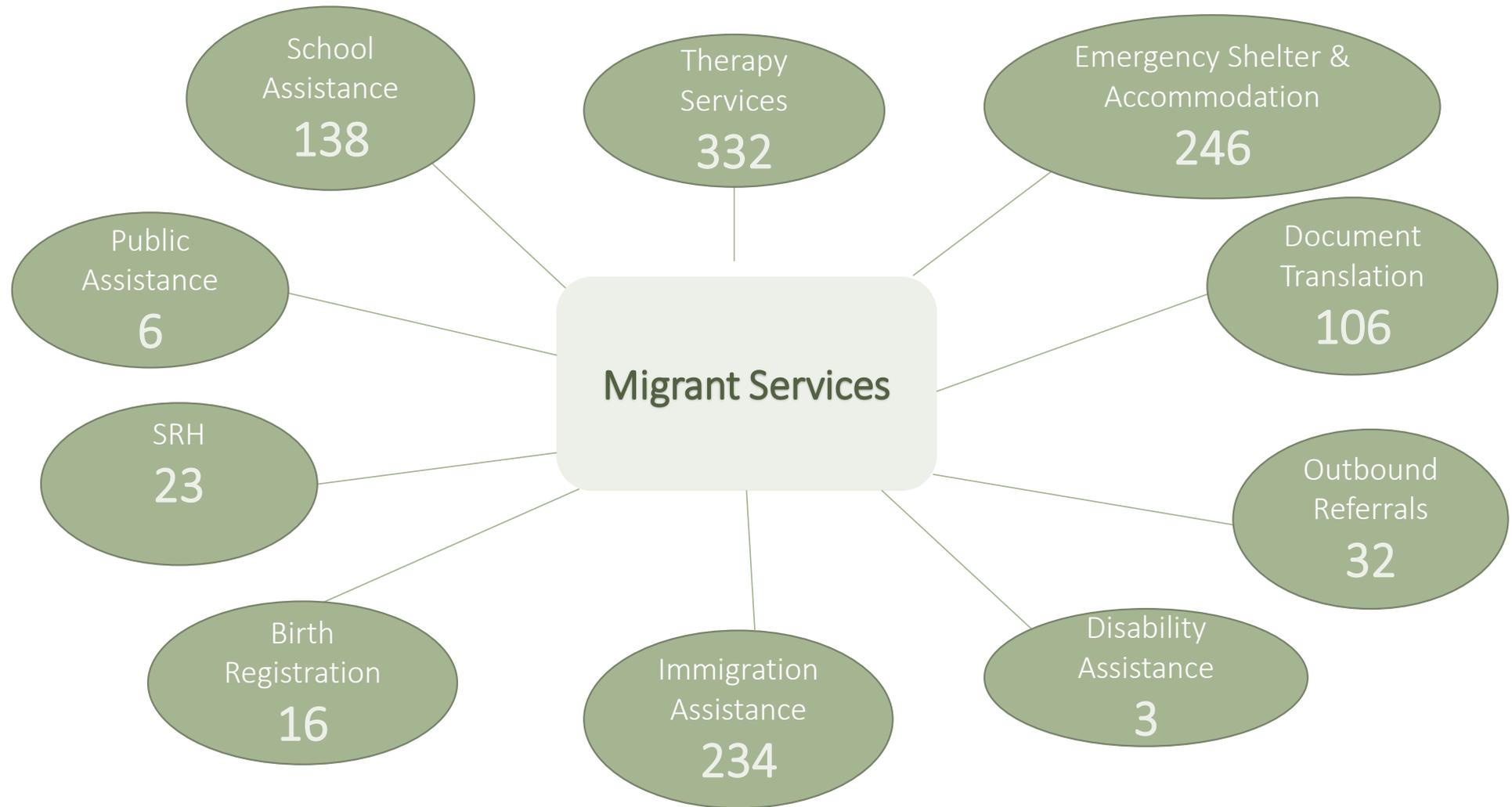
29 Outreaches were conducted in Regions 1,2 & 7 to take psychosocial services to migrants and education awareness sessions with host community members

1588 Migrants reached through outreaches

543 Host community members participated in the education awareness sessions

Communities Visited			
Four-Mile	Bartica Hotels & Bars	Chiney Creek	Sand Hill
Shortcut	Itaballi, Puruni & Barakat Landing	Thomas Island	Quartz Stone
Cabacalli	Goshen – River View	Surinamo	Kumaka
Cabrora	Oku	Black Water	Mora
Pololma	Fal Mouth	Kumg-Kumg	Main-Stay
Ricon	Jeffery Mines	Lime Tree	

Migrant Services - Highlights



Training & Staff Development

3 new staff completed the mandatory training in “Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy”.

4 Staff received “Gender-Based Violence” training hosted by HIAS.

4 Staff benefited from “Mental Health & Psychosocial Support” training led by HIAS.

All staff participated in the “Child Sexual Abuse: Understanding underlying dynamics” workshop facilitated by Voices GY.

All staff participated in the workshop - “Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse” led by UNICEF.

24 first responders attended and participated in the “Trauma-Informed Service Delivery for the Sexual Offences Court of Guyana” training conducted by Blossom Inc. in partnership with BHC.

2 Staff participated a webinar for “Becoming Court Ready”.

5 Staff received training in “Refugee Protection in Guyana” facilitated by HIAS & UNHCR.

98% Staff completed their yearly target of 20 hours of continuous professional development.



To our Funders

- ❖ Ministry of Human Services & Social Security – MHSS
- ❖ United Nations International Children’s Emergency Funds – UNICEF
- ❖ Emerge BPO
- ❖ British High Commission – BHC
- ❖ International Organization for Migration – IOM
- ❖ Digicel
- ❖ Private Sector

Thank You

Jerusalemma Dance Challenge

Child Protection Week

