

Bethune House 2019 Report

General objective: To provide the holistic needs of the mind and body of women foreign domestic workers in distress that can enable them to access to justice and redress.

Particular objectives:

- a.1. Meet the mental and emotional needs of foreign domestic workers in distress to capacitate them mentally and emotionally for the difficult situation they face
- a.2. Provide a safe and sufficient environment that sustains the needs of women foreign domestic workers in distress during the duration of the process of their accessing justice and distress

To meet the general and particular objectives set by the project, the Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge shall conduct a two-pronged approach that will answer the comprehensive needs of the women migrants in distress and lay the ground for the optimum condition for them to access the justice and redress system in HK.

- b.1. The first approach is the **Comprehensive Wellbeing Program** focusing on developing the best mental and emotional state for the distressed women migrants while their cases are ongoing.
- b.2. The second is **Case Support and Assistance** that includes helping them in navigating the legal procedures in Hong Kong

The direct beneficiaries of the project are women foreign domestic workers who lost their job and are in danger of not being able to pursue legal actions for justice and redress. They are women foreign domestic workers from the Philippines, Indonesia, India, Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

1. Project Achievement

- a. **No. of beneficiaries:** 681
- b. **Accomplishments:**

b.1. I. The project is still very much needed. There are notable outcomes and impacts on what have been accomplished during the duration of the project by using the two pronged approach.

II. For the **Comprehensive Wellbeing Program**, all the activities set in the proposal were all implemented.

We were assisted by volunteers in the planning and implementation. We signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the MFMW who endorsed us to the HK Sheung Kung Hui and Red Cross for the life and work Skills training such as Child Care, First Aid, Elderly and Dementia Care.

III. In the **case support and assistance program**, the close monitoring, briefing and de briefing and peer group support has given confidence to women FDWs in crisis to make informed decision. Six hundred eighty one (681) women FDWs were provided with multi- forms of assistance to obtain and access justice. For health -related cases, more than 150 residents have availed of medical assistance. Bethune House has contributed in the prolongation of once life by allowing women with cancer to stay in the shelter so they can continue to avail of their treatment. Three cancer patients are still undergoing medical treatment up to now.

There were cases of acquittal of theft cases and child abuse. Lives and the future of these women are spared from being wasted. For those who won their labor claims, it provided some kind of economic relief especially to their families who rely on their financial assistance.

In the temporary shelter provision of the project, it has been recorded that we have assisted and accommodated 681 women FDWs, a one year old baby girl and a new born baby. This is 113 % increase out of the 600 target output for 2019.

Thirty four (19%) percent out of women FDWs were police cases which dragged for several months during this period. As a result, it has limited our acceptance of new migrants in distress. Meanwhile, it has continued to strengthen further our relations with other shelters to take in those that we failed to accommodate.

PLANNED OUTCOMES	ACTUAL OUTCOMES
1. No less than 600 women can avail of the education sessions on rights and legal processes in Hong Kong, confidence-building	The long working hours under stressful conditions and the lack of uninterrupted rest impacts the

<p>activities, life-skills trainings, and calming and de-stressing activities</p>	<p>health and well-being of domestic workers.</p> <p>Liberating their minds from worries and stress, the different learnings soothed the bodies and minds of the residents.</p> <p>Migrant women while in the shelter should also experience and have the opportunity to enjoy their lives while developing their work and life skills.</p> <p>Seven Hundred forty three (743) women benefitted from multi - forms Comprehensive well -being program - training, educational seminars and psycho-social activities.</p> <p>Know Your Rights and Responsibilities and Training on how to handle complaints on exorbitant fees - 146 participants</p> <p>Peer formation activities, retreat and reflection (Handicraft, Brain Gym, Arts therapy, Bible Studies, Koran reading and Interfaith Reflections- 249 participants</p> <p>Relaxation and Social Activities (Zumba, Yoga, visit to Ocean park, celebration of Christmas and New Year- 318 participants</p> <p>Life and work skills (Child care, First Aid and Elderly and Dementia Care) - 40 participants</p>
<p>2. No less than 600 will be assured of a safe, secure and sufficient</p>	<p>Six Hundred eighty one (681) women and two babies were</p>

<p>environment while they are vulnerable and in crisis</p>	<p>provided safe, secure and accessible shelter provisions. Filipinos-406 Indonesians- 248 Indian - 8 Sri Lankan - 12 Thai - 1 Nepali-1 Local Chinese caregiver - 3 Babies - 2 (Indonesian and Filipino)</p>
<p>3. No less than 600 women will be enabled to have access to justice and redress. Justice and economic relief will be achieved by at least 70% of beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Six Hundred eighty one (681) women and two babies were assisted. Four hundred fourteen or 61% out of 681 have been assisted with their labor, Immigration and police cases.</p>
<p>4. No less than 200 women foreign domestic workers will be provided with needed health needs.</p>	<p>More than 150 residents from cancer, stroke patients, common colds, back pain, numbness of the arms and hands, unable to walk due to dog bites, irregular menstrual problem were provided with medical assistance. A Chinese herbal doctor regularly performed medical service for women migrants who were not feeling well. There were 16 women who underwent breast and cervical examinations through the HK FDH Initiatives, later referred to the Family Planning Clinic for follow-up.</p>

Charitable Assistance to residents

Safe, secured and accessible shelter provisions with three meals a day were provided to 681 women including 2 babies. With provisions of these basic necessities, anxiety of the residents are lessen and their worries on where to get support so they can focus on their cases are attended to.



Free Meals



Sheltered New Baby Girl



Refurbishment of the shelter

We also ensure that the shelter is livable and undergo refurbishment from time to time. Our service users are very transient, so we maintain high quality of cleanliness and hygiene for a healthy environment.

Regular Education and Seminars are important component of our services in raising the awareness of the residents to better cope with their legal cases as well as understanding the issues that relate to their employment.



Know Your Rights and Responsibilities



Seminar on Malpractices of Agencies

Bible Studies, Reflections and other activities: Religious practices in the shelter vary as the Service users are Christians, Muslims, Hindu and Buddhist. Everyone respects each other's religious affiliation, so we organized interfaith activities too. Reverend Sharon Langbis of St. John's Cathedral and Reverend Joram H Calimutan alternately attend to the spiritual upliftment and needs of the residents.



Filipino Bible Study



Celebration of Idul Fitri

Life Skills Development: Most of the residents need upgrading in terms of skills development. One of our key difference is our mission to empower our service users through life skills training to increase their employability not just in HK but when they decide to return to their country of origin. We partner with Individuals to teach cooking lessons and handicraft making.



Knitting



Donut Making



Dumpling Making

Stress Reduction Workshops and Leisure



Brain Gym



Art Therapy



Outing in Deep Water Bay

Inter - cultural Exchanges/Social functions



Birthday Celebration



Christmas Party



New Year's Party

i. Comments from service users

- a. *"I am blessed and beyond grateful to found a haven like Bethune House. That time when I felt hopeless about my situation and almost gave up, I am thankful to the staff who reassured me that they will help me through this and until I recover from what had happened. I am also happy to meet new friends, we shared different stories of each and we console each other, lift each other's confidence, and supports who is facing her day of trial.*

The food and accommodation provided by organization is already enough to be grateful, and their financial support is just an additional blessing. I will never forget MFMW and Bethune House for the rest of my life. I found another family here. Thank you very much. May the almighty God bless all of you a thousandfold in return.”

- b. *“Dear Bethune House, thank you so much for helping me out during these difficult times. Your help has been invaluable to me and I don’t know how I would have managed without your help and support, again thank you so much. I sincerely appreciate your generosity....God Bless us all”...❤️ ❤️Cherry*
- c. *“Bethune House is a safe house for migrant workers to get help, assistance and shelter for all without discrimination. Include Indonesian staff and spacious kitchen and stove, regular training to improve skill of migrant workers.”*

There are only a handful of shelters and crisis centers for women migrants in HK. The demand is increasing!

We are an agent to changing lives and transforming victims to survivors. We are a vital place of refuge and empowerment for women in their time of need.

Currently, we have 30 women in our two shelters at the moment. Bethune House with our two shelters need to raise HK\$230,000 per month for rent, food, utilities and other needs of our residents, such as personal hygiene, medical requirements, visa extension fee, and transportation, emergency assistance and documentation during the duration of their cases.

We are grateful to everyone who have supported us for 2019 so we can continue to shelter, empower, support and care for these women in crisis.