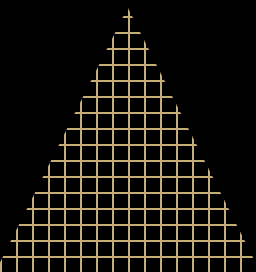


# Homelessness, Mental Health Services and Drug Abuse

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

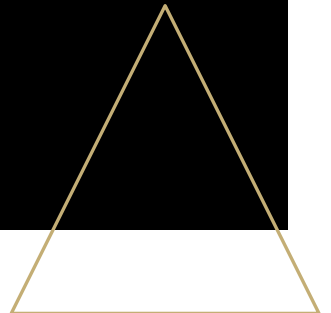
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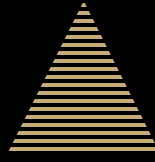
# Target Population

- Homeless and or Living on the Street
- Mental Health difficulties
- Drug Abuse

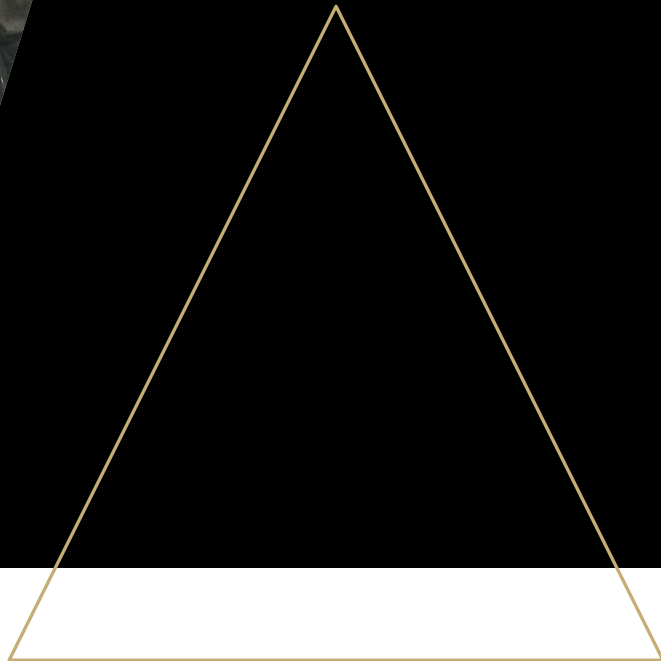




## General Overview of Homelessness



- Poverty
- Poor Mental, Physical, Medical health
- Lack of access to Education, Social Services
- Lack of access to clean water and sanitation
- Prone to Physical/ Sexual abuse
- Severe Drug Abuse
- Lack of general social support





## Current Mental Health Services

- In-patient services: medication review, Psychotherapy, etc.
- Continued reintegration of routine Mental Health Services into Primary Healthcare
- Revitalization of In-patient Substance abuse group
- Community Mental Health Services- Decentralized mobile clinic in the varied geographical communities
- Limited Private and Public sector response: Counselling, Social assistance, Temporary housing, Food drives etc.
- Awareness Programmes
- Mental Health Act
- National Health Sector Strategic Plan

# Rehabilitation Challenges

- Housing Insecurity is one of the gaps in service to rehabilitation/recovery of Psychiatric patients/Substance Use Issues
- Psychiatric patients with Substance Use issues: limited access to healthcare, stable housing and employment, social/financial assistance affecting recovery/rehabilitation
- Lost to Follow-up for care, treatment and support



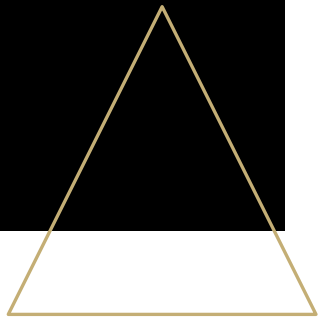
# Rehabilitation Challenges

- Institution overcrowding
- Accessibility of substances
- Stigma and Discrimination of the different populations
- Abandonment and Neglect





## Specific to Homelessness-Mental Health Services in SVG

- Definition of Homelessness
  - Lack of evidence on Homelessness in SVG
  - No national/comprehensive strategy on Homelessness
  - Limited funding directed to alleviate Homelessness
  - Locating clients for follow-up care and treatment
  - Inadequate Social Support (private and public sector)
  - Stigma and Discrimination
- 

- Strengthening the care, treatment and support of those with mental health conditions and substance use issues or disorders
- Appropriate utilization of in country trained personnel in Substance Use care and treatment
- *Research on Homelessness in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Gender, Geographics, Issues, etc.)*



Way Forward



# Way Forward

- The development of cohesive national strategy on Homelessness including linkage to other sectors; Community based approaches
- *The need for adequate:*
  - Shelters
  - Half-way homes and drug rehabilitation centres and substance use treatment programmes including day centres and self-help groups
- *Helping institutions can be used as “one-stop” facilities where clients can access basic healthcare, including mental health services and other basic services*

Thank You

