

SEA-RO

SEA Risk Overview

RISK ANALYSIS for ADDRESSING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION and ABUSE

Women and children face an ongoing risk of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by aid workers in countries with active humanitarian operations. In recent years, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated factors contributing to SEA. In a context where humanitarian funds are limited, it's critical for the international community to be able to effectively identify, prevent, reduce and address incidents of SEA.

The SEA-RO Risk Overview is a Composite Index that brings together indicators on a range of different factors that can influence the risk of SEA. Understanding risk can help IASC members and donors make the most strategic use of limited humanitarian resources by prioritizing issues and countries of concern.

AIMS and OBJECTIVES

The SEA Risk Overview will identify countries that have ongoing humanitarian response operations that have a heightened risk of SEA, as well as some of the key factors that drive that risk.

The SEA Risk Overview will categorize humanitarian response operations according to their level of risk, enable comparisons of risk between operations, and monitor how those risks change over time

TIMELINE and DELIVERABLES

The project began in January 2022 and aims to produce an initial version of the index by the end of June 2022. The project design phase includes consultations with more than 30 experts working in the fields of SEA and composite indices and literature review of more than eighty sources and databases.

GOVERNANCE

The project is being led by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).



HOW IT WORKS

The SEA Risk Overview analyses information about many different factors that influence the likelihood of SEA occurring as well as the capacity of the humanitarian community to reduce that risk and address incidents of SEA where they occur. The SEA-RO organises those factors into four dimensions:

Enabling Environment: the strength of national laws and policies that provide protections to children and women from sexual abuse and exploitation; social and gender norms and practices that normalize and sustain the risk; observed incidents of violence against women and children; as well as data on gender inequalities and poverty

Humanitarian Context: the geographic scope and intensity of crises in the country and the situation of people affected; and the size and complexity of the humanitarian response operation

Operational Context: the design of the humanitarian response operation, including the types of assistance and how its delivered and monitored; and the awareness and commitment of aid workers and humanitarian organisations to prevent, identify and address any incidents of SEA

Protective Environment: specific mechanisms and resources put in place by the humanitarian community to raise awareness, engage with communities, establish complaint mechanisms, investigate incidents of SEA, and support survivors

Risk of Sexual Exploitation & Abuse																		
DIMENSION	Enabling Environment				Humanitarian Context				Operational Context			Protective Environment						
CATEGORY	Policy & Societal Norms		Human Rights & Gender Equality		Crisis Scope & Intensity		Response Scale & Complexity		Response Modalities	Response Institutions		Capacity & Resources	Mechanisms & Accountability					
COMPONENT	Laws, Policies & Practices	Institutions & Services	Violence Against Women & Children		Gender Inequalities		Crisis Scope & Intensity	Crisis Severity	Operational Size	Operational Complexity	Operational Design & Management	Operational Reach	Leadership & Staffing	Institutional Culture & Practices	Funding & Resources	Coordination & Programming	Reporting & Accountability	Survivor Assistance

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The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) prioritizes the implementation of Protection from SEA (PSEA) from the outset of humanitarian response.

For more information about IASC work on PSEA, visit www.psea.interagencystandingcommittee.org

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