Female Focus Group Discussion on SEA in the Somali Region, Ethiopia, Photo: SIRAD

Communicating with Communities on PSEA

Insights from Drought Affected   Communities

UNITED NATIONS
ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIA PSEA NETWORK

NO EXCUSE
FOR ABUSE
Preventing Sexual Exploitation
and Abuse in Humanitarian Action

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EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the Communicating with Communities Project (CwCP), an initiative led by the Ethiopia Inter-Agency Network for Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). It emphasises the importance of meaningfully involving women and girls in humanitarian response planning and strategies, and lays out an approach as to how this can be done. The approach builds on Global Women's Institute's Empowered Aid concept – a feminist participatory action research methodology that considers women and girls as contextual safeguarding experts and enables local communities to provide feedback to humanitarian actors. The pilot version of the CwCP was conducted in the Somali Region of Ethiopia between March - May 2022, as part of the Ethiopia PSEA Network's response to the drought and the sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) related risks emerging therefrom. Through the project, a total of 11 communities were consulted across four zones. This took place within the framework of 30+ focus group discussions and awareness raising sessions, and the collection of 24 community focal points. A number of interesting conclusions emerged from the community consultations. These will be leveraged across strategic and capacity building efforts of the Ethiopia PSEA Network. For example, varying levels of awareness about SEA were common among camps, with many of those located further away from the regional capital displaying lower levels of SEA knowledge. A number of potential threats and vulnerabilities facing women and girls in drought affected areas were also noted, as well as obstacles to reporting. In addition, communities provided recommendations for establishing a stronger two-way communication between them and humanitarian stakeholders on SEA, and expressed preferences for future SEA engagement and communication   efforts.

KEY FINDINGS

Participation

233 members of affected communities across the Somali Region of Ethiopia participated in the pilot version of this project, 167 female and 66 male.

Awareness

Communities located closer to the regional capital, Jigjiga, displayed significantly higher levels of SEA Awareness than communities located further away.

Vulnerabilities

While male participants focused on physical vulnerabilities, females focused on such that would increase levels of desperation for food and other survival goods.

Introduction

Humanitarian and crises situations disproportionately affect women and girls, wherever they break out around the world. Few contexts, however, are as vulnerable to the gendered impacts of shocks and disasters as Ethiopia. As the devastating consequences the crisis are amplified by limited services to respond, power imbalances continue to contribute to increased risks for various types of sexual and gender-based violence, such as SEA.

Within this context, the Inter-Agency Ethiopia Network Against Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse works to establish robust and sustainable systems for preventing and responding to SEA incidents. Systems that empower communities and individuals to report incidents while also feeling assured that their complaints are handled confidentially and efficiently. This is critical to ensure an accountable humanitarian response.

However, effectively establishing these systems requires a sound understanding of the affected communities and their context. This is critical to ensure accurate and timely information as well as a two-way communication between communities and humanitarian actors on issues related to protection. Only then will humanitarian actors in Ethiopia be able to effectively address and shift the intersectional power imbalances between men, women, aid workers, and beneficiaries that often drive the protection risks, including SEA, that women and girls face in emergencies.

The Communicating with Communities Project

Participation needs to be at the centre of an accountable humanitarian response. Likewise, effective PSEA awareness raising is fundamental to maintaining the accountability of humanitarian actors and preventing staff from causing harm and to enabling humanitarian actors to respond to allegations of misconduct.

The Communicating with Communities Project is an endeavour undertaken by the Ethiopia PSEA Network which seeks to establish a more practical approach to meaningfully involving women and girls in the process of planning and implementing efforts to prevent and respond to SEA in Ethiopia.

The primary objective of the project is to support data and evidence generation on communicating with crisis affected communities in Ethiopia to increase understanding of the intersectional needs in humanitarian interventions and to better incorporate these in response strategies. The project's secondary objective is to develop the capacity of women and girls in these communities to communicate around SEA and to be vocal and effective advocates able to hold humanitarian and development actors accountable through new and establish feedback and complaints mechanisms. To achieve this, the the CwCP is built on three core questions.

1. *What are the engagement and communication preferences of communities on SEA related issues?*

In-depth knowledge about the unique and context specific communication and engagement preferences of affected communities is key to ensure that no harm is done, and that a survivor-centred approach is applied across all interactions that involve both humanitarian actors and beneficiaries. Qualitative analysis of focus group discussions with women and men from affected communities will disaggregate perception data to provide to generate information on the ways in which communication preferences on SEA related issues may differ across sites, woredas, zones, and regions in Ethiopia.

2. *How can humanitarian and development actors best engage with communities on these issues?*

Members of communities have detailed knowledge about the unique sensitivities that might exist across regions, zones, woredas and sites as well as factors affecting perceptions of humanitarian actors. Incorporating their advice into communication and response strategies is critical to ensure a strong two-way communication between stakeholders and local communities. Knowledge of local cultural sensitivities and information needs is also critical to accommodate the engagement preferences of affected communities in an appropriate manner and to effectively raise awareness about SEA.

3. *How can we strengthen community-based complaint mechanisms based on the communication and engagement preferences of affected communities?*

Members of affected communities are contextual experts on safeguarding. Identifications of key risks areas by women, girls, men, and boys as part of the focus group discussions thus constitute a vital resource in generating new insights and tools to improve the efficiency of, and strengthen community-based complaint and feedback mechanisms (CBCMs). These insights are equally important to update country-wide and agency specific risk assessments as well as risk mitigation actions at agency and country wide level.

The Drought

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by disasters with global studies showing they are 14 times more likely than males to die during crises[i]. This trend is mirrored in Ethiopia where recent inter-sector and inter-agency assessments have shown that the drought in the Somali Region is having a devastating impact on the lives and livelihoods of affected communities[ii]. For example, where the drought has forced women to travel further in search of food and water, they have also been observed to be at greater risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including survival sex and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)[iii].

In the Somali region more than three million people are facing water shortages and an estimated 3.6+ million are facing food shortages.

Furthermore, the situation is continuously forcing families to adopt negative survival strategies, including commercial sex, child labour and child marriage. This has resulted in an increase in psychosocial distress of children and caregivers, family separation, and risks of sexual violence, domestic conflicts, and forced/early marriage[iv].

Additionally, communities, including female-headed households, who live some distance from distribution centres, often lack reliable information about distribution of humanitarian assistance and livelihood opportunities. This also includes access to health, legal, psychosocial, and available reporting services for SGBV related issues[v].

Although the current drought response in Ethiopia is being scaled up across sectors, including food and nutrition assistance, safe water provision, livelihood protection and more, there remains a risk that the needs of women and girls may not be met due to a number of compounding factors.

These include the breakdown of key services which are critical to the health, protection, and recovery of women and girls; weakened informal and formal protection and accountability mechanisms; disrupted livelihoods, increased displacement, power imbalances, and limited access to resources.

A Gendered Response

Hence, a more gender-sensitive approach is necessary to ensure that the needs of women and girls in drought affected communities are met. To this effect, the Ethiopia PSEA Network is actively working with existing national, regional and community-based coordination mechanisms, to respond to the drought emergency.

The primary response has thus far consisted of awareness raising and training sessions, equipping humanitarian staff with the tools to conduct prevent and report SEA and communities with the knowledge to hod humanitarian workers accountable. This has been done through the distribution of over 14,000 IEC materials to drought affected communities and responding organisations in the Somali Region, and through community engagement efforts such as the CwCP.

Methodology

To build capacity and strengthen the two-way communication between humanitarian and development actors and communities, the Ethiopia PSEA Network is implementing a novel approach to communicating with communities in Ethiopia. It leverages the Global Women's Institute's participatory action research (PAR) 'Empowered Aid' methodology[vi] given its proactive acknowledgment of power imbalances, both between men and women and aid workers and beneficiaries. This is especially considering the inherent power imbalances that lie at the core of SEA related issues. Lessons learned through collaborations with partners, dedicated townhalls and assessments have played an equally important role in the design of this project. These have all particularly emphasised the need for community engagement on PSEA to ensure access to timely, relevant, and context-specific information about expected and prohibited staff behaviour.

A Three-Phase Approach

Phase One

This phase consists of data collection and collection of PSEA community focal points. Through this phase, enumerators are sent out to targeted communities' where they hold focus groups discussions (5-10 participants) with women and girls in affected communities to identify communication and engagement preferences on issues surrounding SEA.

Phase Two

In this phase, data collected from affected communities is consolidated and analysed; the observations from female and male participants in focus groups guide the identification of SEA risks of ways to improve SEA prevention and preparedness efforts. The end of this phase will be marked by the release of a summary report.

Phase Three

Insights from the analysis are leveraged to implement the tools in other regions of Ethiopia, and to ensure peer-to-peer capacity building through the development and rollout of trainings and other means of building capacity. Other knowledge and strategic products based on these insights and analyses will also be produced at this stage.

Pilot Sampling

For the purposes of this pilot, the CwCP defines affected communities as groups of individuals and households who have had their standard of living, access to productive assets, services, work, and place of residence and livelihoods adversely affected by the drought in Ethiopia. As such, the CwCP defines these communities based on geography, guided by IOM DTM's PSEA Thematic Reports.

The geographical focus is key to ensure that the social aspects of the project's target groups are appropriately addressed. Ensuring shared patterns of social interaction is important to create a baseline against which social communication and engagement preferences can be measured. It also means that subsequent communication and engagement activities, and interventions will work more effectively to affect behavioural factors, social networks, and norms (including power imbalances) that may contribute to the protection risks the CwCP seeks to address.

Against this backdrop, the pilot of the CwCP targeted 11 affected communities in the Somali Region (Table 1) of Ethiopia, as part of the Ethiopia PSEA Network's drought response.

These communities were targeted based on the 2021/22 IOM DTM PSEA Thematic Reports[vii, viii] which indicated that community engagement is the strongest source of information about SEA among affected communities, and recommendations from expert members of the sub-national Ethiopia PSEA Network in the Somali Region.

Due to access constraints, convenience sampling provided the best method to select members from community, ensuring voluntary participation and informed consent in the focus groups. That is, as enumerators arrived at their target locations, anyone who felt inclined was able to participate in the sessions that were held. Those who did not feel comfortable to participate in the focus group discussions were given an opportunity to opt out before they started while still retaining the chance to participate in the SEA awareness raising/training session. Focus groups were separated by males and females, with female enumerators conducting focus groups for female participants and vice versa.

The CwCP utilises a gender balanced team to enable focus group discussions with both male

TABLE 1- TARGETED COMMUNITIES

ZONE	WOREDA	SITE
Shabele	Gode	Gabi cas
	Adedle	Higlo
		Farburo
Dollo	Warder	Qudhacle 02
		Rob,day
Fafen	Awabre	01 kebele IDPs sites
	Babili	Koloji, 1 and 2 camp
	Tulli-Guled	Gaba-Gabo
Siti	Shinile	Jadane
	Meiso	Meiso kebele 01
	Erar	Asbuli camp

and female participants. The dual participation of both males and females in the study (albeit in separate focus groups) is justified by the critical role men and boys can play in efforts to prevent SEA, through awareness raising and through supporting their wives, mothers, and sisters. Moreover, although the CwCP recognised the disproportionate risks that women and girls face with regards to SEA, the project recognises that SEA can occur in any situation, regardless of the gender of the survivor.

Research Process

PSEA ToT and Training on Data Collection Tools with Enumerators in Jigjiga, Photo: UNW

Initially, a number of documents and tools were developed to enable the data collection, to raise awareness about SEA, collect PSEA Community Focal Points, and to examine the PSEA related communication and engagement preferences of drought affected communities in the above locations. Prior to the start of the fieldwork, a mandatory in-person PSEA Training of Trainer (ToT) course was conducted with the enumerators (a gender balanced team, consisting of three males and three females), following the UNCT-HCT endorsed three-module curriculum developed by the Ethiopia PSEA Network[ix]. This was done to ensure the enumerators' full understanding of Ethiopia PSEA Network's standard operating procedures and expected and prohibited behaviours when addressing sensitivities related to SEA. During this process, all enumerators and staff involved in the project signed the Ethiopia PSEA Network Code of Conduct[x], and were equipped with copies of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Pocket Guide on Survivor Support[xi].

Throughout the training on the data collection and dialogue tools, there was a strong focus on the standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the upcoming fieldwork. Specifically, towards applying a survivor-centred approach, including measures that can be undertaken to ensure informed consent, confidentiality, safety, accountability and non-discrimination. The principles and

PSEA ToT and Training on Data Collection Tools with Enumerators in Jigjiga, Photo: UNW

rules for mandatory reporting if facing an SEA concern were also clearly set out and discussed, as was the Ethiopia PSEA Network Referral Pathways[xii].

The fieldwork commenced in early May 2022 and lasted a total of 15 days. During this period enumerators conducted between 2-4 community consultations per day at each target location (full sessions, including focus SEA awareness raising, group discussions, and collection of community focal points). Community Focal Points (CFPs) for PSEA were elected by vote of confidence at the end of each focus group. Specifically, as the role of CFPs was explained after the focus group discussions, community members were asked if anyone wanted to volunteer. Asked this, members came together and discussed, after which they appointed someone from the group – most commonly someone elder, and who was considered knowledgeable and trustworthy as a spokesperson.

TABLE 2- OVERVIEW OF TOOLS AND DOCUMENTS

NO.	DESCRIPTION
Tool 1	Key messages and guidelines for dialogue – the full script for the community consultation, including introduction of purpose, consent, awareness raising and information session, focus group discussion and collection of focal point.
Tool 2	Answering form for enumerators. Enumerators use one of these per consultation /focus group to take down notes and answers.
Tool 3	PSEA Community Focal Point contact form – where the volunteering focal points provide their contact details.
Tool 4	Service mapping of GBV referral pathways in the Somali Region by UNFPA – essential for enumerators to carry with them and a useful tool through the information and awareness raising session.
Tool 5	Post session evaluation form – this form is used by enumerators to note down impressions and reflections/notable items that didn't fit on the answering template, including lessons learned.
Ethiopia PSEA Network IEC Materials	Enumerators carried with them a few selected posters that they will use as they hold a short SEA awareness raising session, prior to starting the focus group discussion. How and when these should be used is detailed in Tool 1.
Fieldwork Standard Operating Procedures	A detailed instruction outlining recruitment procedures for enumerators (to ensure a gender balanced team), expected behaviors during fieldwork, including safety precautions, instructions on data collection, mandatory reporting, and more to ensure "do no harm", confidentiality, and a survivor-centered approach.
Letter of support from the Regional Disaster Risk Management Bureau	A letter of support ensuring acceptance of mission and proving endorsement from authorities.
Fieldwork and data quality control plan	A document developed to plan, monitor and track fieldwork to ensure targets are met and quality is maintained.
Training course on data collection tools	A one-day course undertaken by enumerators before start of fieldwork to ensure familiarity with data collection tools and fieldwork SOPs.

The end of phase one of the project (data collection and collection of PSEA Community Focal Points) was marked by a debrief of the enumerators during which physical copies of notes and answering sheets were collected, tools evaluated, and additional impressions from communities, including reception, reactions and impressions were recorded. Phase two of the project was initiated immediately after whereby translation and digitalisation of data and analysis of results was conducted simultaneously. The end of phase two will be marked by the release of this report, after which phase three will begin. During phase three the outcomes and results from the pilot stage of the CwCP will be evaluated, lessons learned will be extracted and work will commence to incorporate these in trainings
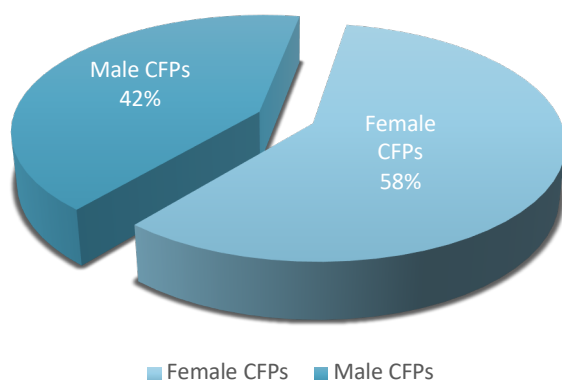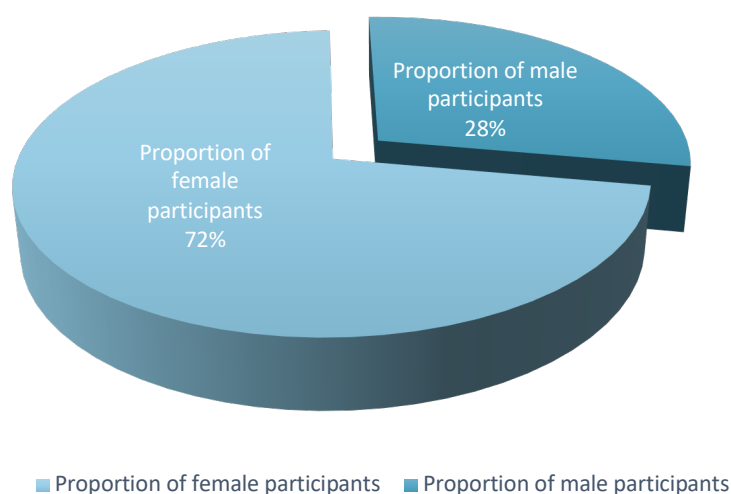
and capacity buildings. Simultaneously, work will begin to implement the CwCP in the Amhara and SNNP regions of Ethiopia.

Key Statistics

Male FGDs
31%

Female
FGDs
69%

■ Female FGDs ■ Male FGDs
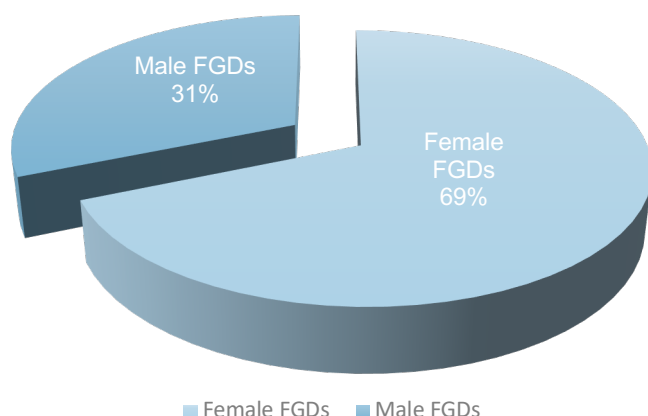
A total of 32 focus group discussions were held throughout the data collection, 22 of which were female, and 10 male.

Overall, 167 females and 66 participated in the awareness raising and focus group discussions. The total number of participants was 233.

Proportion of male participants
28%

Proportion of female participants
72%

■ Proportion of female participants ■ Proportion of male participants

Male CFPs
42%

Female
CFPs
58%

■ Female CFPs ■ Male CFPs

Out of a total of 24 PSEA Community Focal Points that were collected, 14 are female and 10 are male.

Findings ━━━━━━━
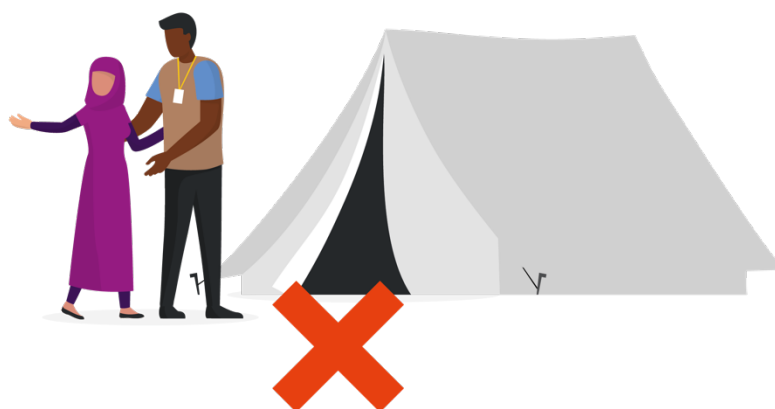
The outputs from the focus group discussions indicated a broad consensus among affected communities on how they would like to engage and communicate around SEA related issues. However, levels of knowledge and confidence in reporting and feedback mechanisms varied significantly among geographic locations, as did impressions of risk factors.

Varying Levels of Awareness

Participants from the Fafaen and Sitti zones displayed significant knowledge about SEA (see map of regions on next page). Accurate definitions of the SEA were provided across the focus group discussions and high levels of awareness about available reporting mechanisms were observed. For example, a majority of the female participants in the Qoloji Camp were able to point to a specific focal point to whom they could report. In these locations, participants also displayed higher levels of confidence in humanitarian actors thanks to frequent SEA awareness raising sessions.

Many of the participants were able to name specific humanitarian organisations and their SEA related awareness raising activities due to the frequency with which they interacted with them on SEA and GBV related issues. Once asked about the most common sources of information about SEA, most participants in Fafaen and Sitti zones cited community engagement efforts and awareness raising sessions by humanitarian organisations, including NGOs. The sites that displayed the highest levels of awareness and knowledge about SEA was Qoloji Camp and Jadane. In these locations, participants also indicated that there is a small community of women that receive SEA and GBV reports, and then forward these directly to the relevant humanitarian focal point.


Results from the focus group discussions in the Dollo and Shabelle zones, however, indicated lower levels of awareness and knowledge about SEA. While many of the participants understand that SEA is a type of GBV, most do not fully differ between them. When asked about the most common sources

of information about SEA, participants indicated that the most common source of information about SEA was through hearing about an actual case. Such information would commonly reach them through gossip from neighbours, elders, or family and friends. Other sources of information included elders, and fellow women who are seen as eloquent and wise. None of the male participants indicated a particular source of information about SEA. Furthermore, male participants displayed an overall lower level of awareness about SEA than females.

Community Recommendations

In line with the findings of IOM DTMs thematic reports on PSEA[xiii,xiv], community engagement was heavily cited as the most common source of information for SEA. Strengthening community engagement efforts was thus given as a key priority across the focus groups, with participants particularly emphasising the importance of having a high frequency of awareness raising sessions. Indeed, many of the sights in which participants displayed high levels of awareness and knowledge about SEA were those where humanitarian organisations are organising

Map of the Somali Region of Ethiopia (FAO, 2021)

weekly or biweekly information sessions and meetings on SEA. Targeting males for these awareness raising sessions was another priority that was frequently brought up among participants across the all sites. As such, the principal recommendation with regards to awareness raising, based on the focus groups discussions is:

> *Conduct frequent and routine, weekly or bi-weekly, if possible, awareness raising and training sessions on SEA in camps and at sites that targets both males and females.*
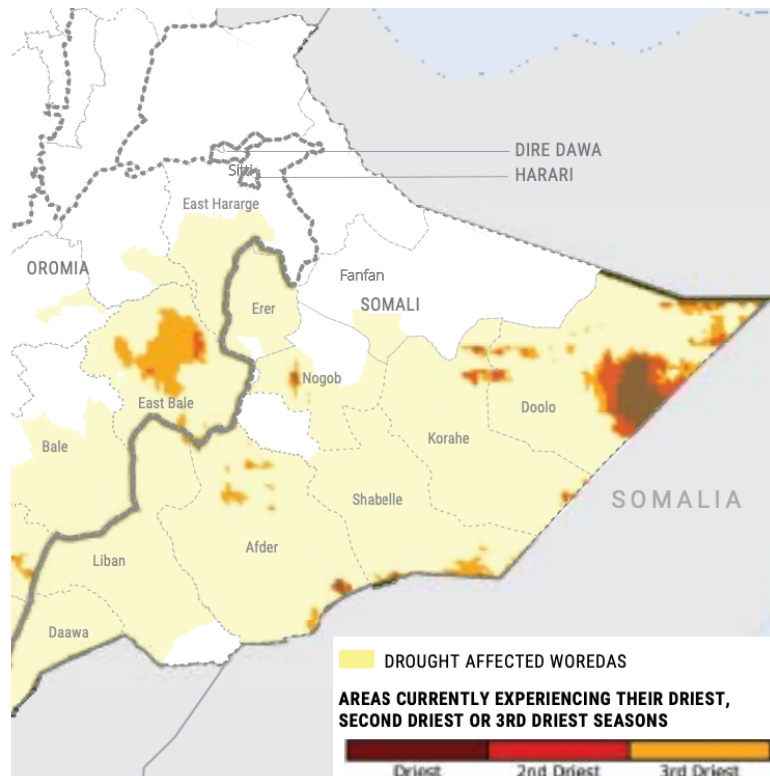
Vulnerabilities, Risks, and Threats

While male focus group participants tended to emphasise the physical vulnerabilities of women as the principal cause for increased exposure to SEA risks (inability to defend themselves and so on…), the majority of the female participants focused on the risks associated with aid distributions. One aspect that was frequently mentioned was the trade-off between needs and risks. Specifically, participants indicated that women would constantly measure the risks of going to a distribution against their level of desperation. Hence, the higher the level of desperation, the greater the willingness to subject themselves to SEA related risks.

This reasoning may explain why many of the participants, despite displaying high levels of awareness about SEA, considered a potential relationship with a humanitarian worker an opportunity rather than an SEA risk when questioned about the power imbalances that SEA entail (due to the assumed benefits, including priority in distributions and so on…).

Being displaced and staying in a host community was also put forward as a significant vulnerability, especially since women in particular would be disadvantaged by host communities. These disadvantages were primarily expressed in terms of children being kicked out of school (which is important, partly because of education, partly because of school feeding), and being intimidated by the host community to refrain from utilizing community resources, including distributions. While having children removed from school and being disadvantaged by the host community do not constitute SEA risks per se, they certainly contribute to higher levels of desperation, which in turn increases the risk for SEA.

Other vulnerabilities that were observed by the participants (all of which were mentioned as compounding factors to their desperate situation) include lack of male representation in the household (rendering female headed households more vulnerable) and lack of education and literacy, especially among women. Younger age was also cited as a vulnerability, along with lack of trust in younger peoples reports as a threat – people who were considered to be more mature and older are trusted more often. This was observed to be a clear deterrent from reporting SEA related incidents.

Community Recommendations

The lengths to which members of affected communities, especially females, are prepared to go to obtain essential goods for survival illustrates the importance of training humanitarian staff on expected and prohibited behaviours as well as signing the Ethiopia PSEA Network Code of Conduct. Indeed, frequent trainings are the backbone of ensuring appropriate levels of knowledge about SEA and expected and prohibited staff behaviours across humanitarian and development organisations, and as such accountability and "do no harm" across all sectors and clusters.

Key fears related to SEA and aid distributions:

1) *Being asked about phone number in exchange for registration*
2) *Being asked to strip in exchange for aid items*

Obstacles to Reporting

In line with IOM DTMs thematic reports on PSEA, the principal reasons for underreporting that were observed by the participants included, fear of consequences (including being disadvantaged in distributions), lack of confidence in the system (previous cases having gone unresolved, issues with confidentiality), fear of stigma, and embarrassment. Furthermore, illiteracy and lack of knowledge of

terminology were also significant factors. It was also suggested that a common outcome of GBV/SEA cases in the Somali Region is for elders to arrange a marriage between the perpetrator and the survivor, which constituted a strong deterrent from reporting.

Another obstacle to reporting SEA appeared to be the reporting system itself as involving a large number of instances whereby people may compromise the confidentiality of the case. Specifically, participants indicated that the most commonly cited procedure for a survivor to go through would be to first tell their parents or family, who would then forward the case to the elders, and if unresolved there, it would be passed on to the Kebele Administration/Committee who would then pass it on to the police and the local Women's Bureau.

Community Recommendations

The principal recommendation made across all communities in the Somali Region the creation of a dedicated committee for SEA at each site. It was suggested that such committee should consist of elders, community leaders, Kebele Representatives, police and Local Bureau of Women's Affairs. This way, instead of going through these entities separately or in sequence, there would already an institution in place that is endorsed by the community in place. If such a committee was created, they would also need frequent trainings and meetings led by a humanitarian representative.

Along with this, the need for hotline numbers was also emphasised. Another strong recommendation that was made was to continue to collect/appoint community focal points for PSEA. These are seen as important assets and are usually members that are trusted by the group. As such, they would be considered a reliable source of information and reporting.

COMMUNITY RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

Raising Awareness
Conduct frequent and routine, weekly or bi-weekly, if possible, awareness raising and training sessions on SEA in camps and at sites that targets both males and females.

Mitigating risks
Proper, rigorous, and contiuous training of humanitarian staff is critical, as is signing the Ethiopia PSEA Network Code of Conduct.

Removing Obstacles to Reporting
Create a dedicated committee for SEA Reporting and Management that includes local informal and formal institutions & an hotline for reporting.

Revisiting the Core Questions

From the review of the observations by community members, along with the those of the enumerators a number of lessons can be extracted. For example, the varying levels of SEA awareness and confidence in reporting mechanisms between Fanfan and Siti (higher levels) and Dollo and Shabelle

(lower levels) suggests that the gains in knowledge and awareness have greater impact and sustainability the larger the community involvement in the practical activities of PSEA promotion.

Furthermore, the strong focus on specific situations and scenarios in the participants' examples suggests that any SEA capacity building efforts need to have an immediate relevance, both emotionally and practically to communities in order to be efficient. This demonstrates the importance of meaningfully framing initiatives and adapting them specifically to the target groups. As such, engagement needs to be conducted in a very specific and highly localized manner, especially in areas with disparate social contexts and high levels of diversity, such as IDP camps (e.g., even within the IDP camps, there are significant variations in preferences).

What are the engagement and communication preferences of communities on SEA related issues?

- The greater the number of institutions that are or can potentially get involved in the reporting procedure, the smaller the likelihood that a survivor would report. This is mainly due to confidentiality concerns.
- Members of the community are more prone to communicate about SEA with people they already trust such as a parent, friend, or neighbour as opposed to a stranger, even if they are a designated authority (e.g., PSEA Focal Point). As such, for humanitarian staff to be effective advocates of PSEA, they need to build trust within affected communities.

- Awareness raising and training are just as important as actively encouraging community members to report SEA. Almost every focus group emphasised the importance of continuous awareness raising withing communities by humanitarian organisations.

How can humanitarian and development actors best engage with communities on these issues?

- Provide assistance/help coordinate dedicated committees for SEA prevention and reporting - one for each site. These should include elders, kebele administration, the local Women's Bureau, the Police and other relevant formal or informal institutions, depending on the location. This will help reducing the number of institutions involved in sequence, and provide a dedicated place of reporting that is in line with local sensitivities and formal institutions. A strong preference was also expressed that these committees should consist of women.
- The key to building trust in communities and to effectively raise awareness lies in the frequency of sessions held with communities. All of the humanitarian organisations that were mentioned as SEA champions across the focus group discussions were well known for one

single reason: holding weekly or bi-weekly awareness raising/training /check in sessions on SEA with communities. This built trust among community members and turned these organisations into a popular source of information about SEA.

- The most efficient way to engage with communities is through Community Focal points.

How can we strengthen community-based complaint mechanisms (CBCMs) based on the communication and engagement preferences of affected communities?

- The overall level of trust in an organisation will determine the efficiency of the CBCMs they are involved with. To strengthen existing community-based mechanisms for reporting (based on the above), frequent interaction and awareness raising withing communities is needed. To this end, community focal points constitute a key resource, as trust in them tends to spill over on the organisations which they are attached to. As such, when collecting/identifying community focal points it is important that they are not appointed by the requesting organisations, but rather elected (e.g., by vote of confidence) by their peers.

Concluding Notes ━━━━━━━

Although this report constitutes the end of the second phase of the Pilot CwCP, the raw data will continue to be analysed and lessons learned will be leveraged throughout the upcoming implementation in the Amhara and SNNP regions of Ethiopia. Some key insights to ensure successful implementation across other regions and relevant areas include:

- Setting ambitions targets (in terms of number of FGDs, participants and CFPs) and plotting backup locations is critical to ensure that sufficient data is collected. This is due to the number of unpredictable circumstances that can occur during the process of fieldwork, from localized conflicts, to loss of data, or unwillingness to participate among affected communities.

- Strict management of fieldwork is required to ensure data quality and proper reporting.

- Providing a full script, with a strong justification that connects the participation of affected communities in focus group discussions to actual humanitarian outcomes is key to ensure effective participation.

Next Steps ━━━━━━━

Based on the core questions that this project seeks to answer, the CwCP will undertake the below next steps during phase three:

- Explore options and strategies through which members of the Ethiopia PSEA Network and clusters can assist with organising dedicated PSEA committees that brings together informal and formal institutions (e.g. elders, representatives from Kebele Administration and so on) to reduce the potential sequence of instances in the non-UN reporting procedure.

- Build PSEA capacity with PSEA Community Focal Points and work with Members of the Ethiopia PSEA Network on extending the network of and effective utilization of PSEA Community Focal Points as an awareness raising, capacity building and reporting resource.

- Take steps to ensure more frequent and regular awareness raising efforts with communities on PSEA and work with partners and humanitarian organisations who have been named by the communities as PSEA champions on lessons learned and how to increase awareness.

- Leverage the above points to build capacity for community-based complaints mechanisms (CBCMs). Improved understanding of, and collaboration between formal and informal institutions in the community will enable stronger CBCMs, that are more intersectional and context- and gender-sensitive.

- Develop dedicated trainings and training materials for PSEA Community Focal Points and elaborate and hone existing trainings and training and awareness raising materials, including

creating audio and audiovisual versions of current Ethiopia PSEA Network IEC Materials, based on lessons learnt from communities.

- Leverage lessons learnt from the Somali region pilot across implementation in Amhara and SNNP regions.

Gratitude

The support of UNICEF, WFP, the wider regional PSEA sub-network, and the Somali Institute for Research and Development throughout the mission and beyond has been and will continue to be a critical element to this project's success, and for that you have our sincerest thank you. Our thanks are also extended to the Somali Regional Bureau for Disaster Risk Management who has made sure that our enumerators could safely collect data and engage with communities.

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[vii] https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-dtm-prevention-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-psea-thematic-report-august

[viii] https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-dtm-prevention-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-psea-thematic-report-2

[ix] https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ethiopia/inter-agency-psea

[x] Ibid.

[xi] https://psea.interagencystandingcommittee.org/resources/ethiopia-gbv-pocket-guide-survivor-support

[xii] https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ethiopia/document/ethiopia-psea-network-flowchart-sea-referral-pathways

[xiii] https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-dtm-prevention-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-psea-thematic-report-august

[xiv] https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-dtm-prevention-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-psea-thematic-report-2

Appendix

Resources

ETHIOPIA PSEA NETWORK CODE OF CONDUCT

English, Amharic, Tigrinya, Somali, Oromiffa

ETHIOPIA PSEA NETWORK TRAINING PACKAGE

Training Manual, Module 1: Introduction to PSEA, Module 2: Extended PSEA Focal Point Training, Module 3: Training of Trainers

ETHIOPIA PSEA NETWORK TRAINING PACKAGE - IA SOPs FOR CBCMs REPORTING

Ethiopia PSEA Network Training Manual - IA SOPs for CBCMs Reporting, Ethiopia PSEA Network Training Presentation - IA SOPs for CBCMs Reporting

INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (IEC) MATERIALS ON PSEA

Campaign Guide

Ethiopia PSEA Network Campaign Guide

IEC materials for affected communities

Amharic, key messages for affected populations, Tigrinya, key messages for affected populations, Somali, key messages for affected populations, Oromiffa, key messages for affected popualtions

IEC materials for humanitarian stakeholders

Amharic, key messages for humanitarian stakeholders, English, key messages for humanitarian stakeholders, Tigrinya, key messages for humanitarian stakeholders, Somali, key messages for humanitarian stakeholders, Oromiffa, key messages for humanitarian stakeholders

Gender Based Violence (GBV) Pocket Guide (PG)

Amharic, GBV PG , English, GBV PG , Tigrinya, GBV PG , Somali, GBV PG , Oromiffa, GBV PG

SEA RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE - ETHIOPIA PSEA NETWORK

SEA Risk Assessment Guide - Ethiopia PSEA Network

'NO EXCUSE FOR ABUSE' - SHORT VIDEO ON PSEA

6-minute video on PSEA: 'No Excuse for Abuse' [English], 6-minute video on PSEA: 'No Excuse for Abuse' [Amharic], 6-minute video on PSEA: 'No Excuse for Abuse' [Somali], 6-minute video on PSEA: 'No Excuse for Abuse' [Tigrinya]

EMPOWERED AID TOOLKIT

Toolkit, English

Overview of Focus Group Discussions

LOCATION	GENDER	# PARTICIPANTS	#CFPs
Shabele, Gabi Cas	Female	6	1
Shabele, Gabi Cas	Female	8	1
Shabele, Gabi Cas	Male	7	1
Shabele, Gabi Cas	Male	8	1
Shabele, Higlo	Female	5	1
Shabele, Higlo	Female	6	1
Shabele, Higlo	Male	5	1
Shabele, Higlo	Male	7	1
Shabele, Farburo	Female	7	1
Shabele, Farburo	Female	8	1
Shabele, Farburo	Male	6	1
Shabele, Farburo	Male	6	1
Dollo - Qudhacle	Female	11	1
Dollo - Qudhacle	Female	9	1
Dollo - Qudhacle	Male	7	1
Dollo - Qudhacle	Male	5	1
Wahrder, Roob Daay	Female	8	
Wahrder, Roob Daay	Female	9	
Wahrder, Roob Daay	Male	8	1
Wahrder, Roob Daay	Male	7	1
Fafaen, 01 Kebele IDP sites	Female	8	1
Fafaen, 01 Kebele IDP sites	Female	7	
Fafaen, Koloji	Female	8	1
Fafaen, Koloji	Female	8	
Fafaen, Gabagabo	Female	7	1
Fafaen, Gabagabo	Female	7	
Siti, Jadane	Female	8	1
Siti, Jadane	Female	6	
Siti, Meiso	Female	8	1
Siti, Meiso	Female	8	
Siti, Asbuli	Female	8	1
Siti, Asbuli	Female	7	

Contact
DETAILS

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