IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

SEARO
Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Overview

QUICK REFERENCE
2025 SEARO Global Index

OVERVIEW OF 2025 SEARO GLOBAL INDEX

Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by humanitarian workers is pervasive in different countries, primarily impacting women and children. Studies indicate that in countries experiencing prolonged crises or significant emergencies with extensive aid operations, the chances of sexual exploitation and abuse increases. Identifying and understanding SEA risks is essential for protecting vulnerable groups and preventing SEA incidents.

The SEA Risk Overview (SEARO) is a composite index designed to assist in risk analysis by aggregating indicators related to various factors that can influence the risk of SEA. Up-to-date information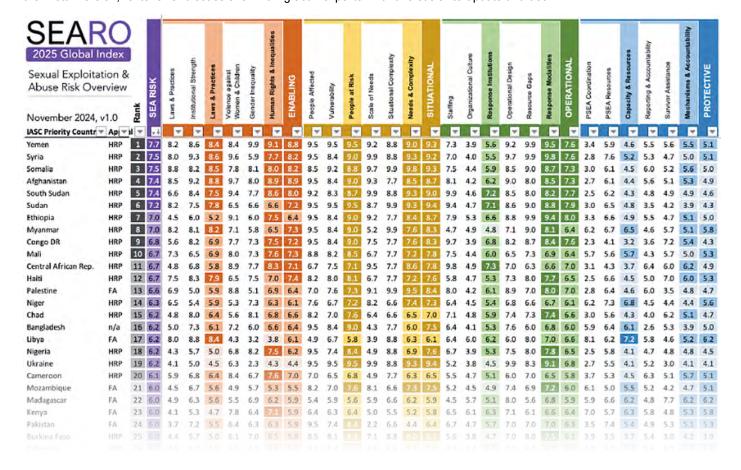 on these risks enhances accountability and transparency within the aid sector. This approach promotes evidence-based decision-making and optimizes resource allocation in a context where humanitarian funds are limited. SEARO contributes to the Commitment 3 of the IASC vision and strategy.

The SEARO Global Index categorizes humanitarian response operations according to their level of SEA risk, enables comparisons of risk between operations, and monitors how those risks change over time. The Index also supports identifying the main drivers of SEA within countries by assessing risk factors across sixteen different risk domains.

WHAT IS NEW IN 2025 SEARO GLOBAL INDEX?

The 2025 SEARO Global Index is an enhanced iteration of the SEARO Beta Index, which was introduced in November 2022. This updated index incorporates insights gained from testing the Beta version, extensive discussions with global experts and humanitarian practitioners, as well as a review of relevant literature. The revised SEARO includes new and updated indicators and data sources, expanded geographical coverage and is easier to update and use.

SEARO 2025 Global Index — Sexual Exploitation & Abuse Risk Overview — November 2024, v1.0

IASC Priority Country	Ap	Rank	SEA RISK	Laws & Practices	Institutional Strength	Laws & Practices	Violence against Women & Children	Gender Inequality	Human Rights & Inequalities	ENABLING	People Affected	Vulnerability	People at Risk	Scale of Needs	Situational Complexity	Needs & Complexity	SITUATIONAL	Staffing	Organizational Culture	Response Institutions	Operational Design	Resource Gaps	Response Modalities	OPERATIONAL	PSEA Coordination	PSEA Resources	Capacity & Resources	Reporting & Accountability	Survivor Assistance	Mechanisms & Accountability	PROTECTIVE
Yemen	HRP	1	7.7	8.2	8.6	8.4	8.4	9.9	9.1	8.8	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.2	8.8	9.0	9.3	7.3	3.9	5.6	9.2	9.9	9.5	7.6	3.4	5.9	4.6	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.1
Syria	HRP	2	7.5	8.0	9.3	8.6	9.6	5.9	7.7	8.2	9.5	8.4	9.0	9.9	9.2	9.3	9.2	7.0	4.0	5.5	9.7	9.9	9.8	7.6	2.8	7.6	5.2	5.3	4.7	5.0	5.1
Somalia	HRP	3	7.5	8.8	8.2	8.5	7.8	8.1	8.0	8.2	8.5	9.2	8.8	9.7	9.9	9.8	9.3	7.5	4.4	5.9	8.5	9.0	8.7	7.3	3.0	6.1	4.5	6.0	5.2	5.6	5.0
Afghanistan	HRP	4	7.4	8.5	9.2	8.8	9.7	8.0	8.9	8.9	9.5	8.4	9.0	9.3	7.7	8.5	8.7	8.1	4.2	6.2	9.0	8.0	8.5	7.3	2.7	6.1	4.4	5.6	5.1	5.3	4.9
South Sudan	HRP	5	7.4	6.6	8.4	7.5	9.4	7.7	8.6	8.0	9.2	8.3	8.7	9.9	8.8	9.3	9.0	9.9	4.6	7.2	8.5	8.0	8.2	7.7	2.5	6.2	4.3	4.8	4.9	4.9	4.6
Sudan	HRP	6	7.2	8.2	7.5	7.8	6.5	6.6	6.6	7.2	9.5	9.5	9.5	8.7	9.9	9.3	9.4	9.4	4.7	7.1	8.6	9.0	8.8	7.9	3.0	6.5	4.8	3.5	4.2	3.9	4.3
Ethiopia	HRP	7	7.0	4.5	6.0	5.2	9.1	6.0	7.5	6.4	9.5	8.4	9.0	9.2	7.7	8.4	8.7	7.9	5.3	6.6	8.8	9.9	9.4	8.0	3.3	6.6	4.9	5.5	4.7	5.1	5.0
Myanmar	HRP	8	7.0	8.2	8.1	8.2	7.1	5.8	6.5	7.3	9.5	8.4	9.0	5.2	9.9	7.6	8.3	4.7	4.9	4.8	7.1	9.0	8.1	6.4	6.2	6.7	6.5	4.6	5.7	5.1	5.8
Congo DR	HRP	9	6.8	5.6	8.2	6.9	7.7	7.3	7.5	7.2	9.5	8.4	9.0	7.5	7.7	7.6	8.3	9.7	3.9	6.8	8.2	8.7	8.4	7.6	2.3	4.1	3.2	3.6	7.2	5.4	4.3
Mali	HRP	10	6.7	7.3	6.5	6.9	8.0	7.3	7.6	7.3	8.8	8.2	8.5	6.7	7.7	7.2	7.8	7.5	4.4	6.0	6.5	7.3	6.9	6.4	5.7	5.6	5.7	4.5	7.0	5.0	5.3
Central African Rep.	HRP	11	6.7	4.8	6.8	5.8	8.9	7.7	8.3	7.1	6.7	7.5	7.1	9.5	7.7	8.6	7.8	9.8	4.9	7.3	7.0	6.3	6.6	7.0	3.1	4.3	3.7	6.4	6.0	6.2	4.9
Haiti	HRP	12	6.7	7.5	8.3	7.9	6.5	7.5	7.0	7.4	8.2	8.0	8.1	6.7	7.7	7.2	7.6	5.8	4.7	5.3	7.3	8.0	7.7	6.5	2.5	6.6	4.5	5.0	7.0	6.0	5.3
Palestine	FA	13	6.6	6.9	5.0	5.9	8.8	5.1	6.9	6.4	7.0	7.6	7.3	9.1	9.9	9.5	8.4	8.0	4.2	6.1	8.9	7.0	8.0	7.0	2.8	6.4	4.6	6.0	3.5	4.8	4.7
Niger	HRP	14	6.3	6.5	5.4	5.9	5.3	7.3	6.3	6.1	7.6	6.7	7.2	8.2	6.6	7.4	7.3	6.4	4.5	5.4	6.8	6.6	6.7	6.1	6.2	7.3	6.8	4.5	4.4	4.4	5.6
Chad	HRP	15	6.2	4.8	8.0	6.4	5.6	8.1	6.8	6.6	8.2	7.0	7.6	6.4	6.6	6.5	7.0	7.1	4.8	5.9	7.4	7.3	7.4	6.6	3.0	5.6	4.3	4.0	6.2	5.1	4.7
Bangladesh	n/a	16	6.2	5.0	7.3	6.1	7.2	6.0	6.6	6.4	9.5	8.4	9.0	4.3	7.7	6.0	7.5	6.4	4.1	5.3	7.6	6.0	6.8	6.0	5.9	6.1	6.1	2.6	5.3	3.9	5.0
Libya	FA	17	6.2	8.0	8.8	8.4	4.3	3.2	3.8	6.1	4.9	6.7	5.8	3.9	8.8	6.3	6.1	6.4	6.0	6.2	6.0	8.0	7.0	6.6	8.1	6.2	7.2	5.8	4.6	5.2	6.2
Nigeria	HRP	18	6.2	4.3	5.7	5.0	6.8	8.2	7.5	6.4	9.2	9.5	7.4	8.4	4.9	6.9	7.6	6.7	3.9	5.3	7.5	8.0	7.3	6.5	2.5	5.8	4.1	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.5
Ukraine	HRP	19	6.2	4.1	5.0	4.5	6.3	2.3	4.3	4.4	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.9	8.8	9.3	9.4	5.2	3.8	4.5	9.9	8.3	9.1	6.8	2.7	5.5	4.1	5.2	3.0	4.1	4.1
Cameroon	HRP	20	6.1	5.9	6.8	6.4	8.4	6.7	7.6	7.0	7.0	6.5	6.8	4.9	7.7	6.3	6.5	5.5	4.7	5.1	6.0	7.0	6.5	5.8	3.7	5.3	4.5	6.3	5.1	5.7	5.1
Mozambique	FA	21	6.0	4.5	6.7	5.6	4.9	5.7	5.3	5.5	8.2	7.0	7.6	8.1	6.6	7.3	7.5	5.2	4.5	4.9	7.4	6.9	7.2	6.0	6.1	5.0	5.5	5.2	4.2	4.7	5.1
Madagascar	FA	22	6.0	4.9	6.3	5.6	5.5	6.9	6.2	5.9	5.4	5.9	5.6	5.9	6.6	6.2	5.9	4.5	5.7	5.1	8.0	5.6	6.8	5.9	5.9	6.6	6.2	4.8	7.7	6.2	6.2
Kenya	FA	23	6.0	4.1	5.3	4.7	7.8	6.4	7.1	5.9	6.4	6.3	6.4	5.0	5.5	5.2	5.8	6.5	6.1	6.3	7.1	6.1	6.6	6.4	7.0	5.7	6.3	5.8	4.8	5.3	5.8
Pakistan	FA	24	6.0	3.7	7.2	5.5	6.4	6.3	6.3	5.9	9.5	7.4	8.4	2.2	6.6	4.4	6.4	6.7	4.7	5.7	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.3	3.5	7.4	5.4	4.9	5.3	5.1	5.3
Burkina Faso	HRP	25	6.0	4.4	5.7	5.0	6.1	7.0	6.5	5.8	8.5	8.1	7.1	8.8				5.6	3.8	4.7	7.0	8.0	7.5	6.1	3.9	3.5	3.7	5.4	3.0	4.2	3.9

HOW IT WORKS

The SEARO Global Index 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. SEARO organises those factors into four dimensions:

Enabling Environment: this dimension reflects factors that exist in every country, whether there is a humanitarian/aid response or not. They are the laws, policies, societal norms and practices that can create a permissive environment for the perpetrators of SEA, increase the vulnerability of women and children, and affect how the society and its institutions and services influence the risk of SEA.

Situational Context: this dimension assesses factors related to the introduction of one or more crises into a country, such as a conflict. It captures the geographic extent, scale, and intensity of the crises, as well as the people affected and the severity of needs.

Operational Context: this dimension reflects how the overall response operation is designed and managed, including the types of assistance and how they are delivered and monitored, as well as the awareness and commitment of aid workers and humanitarian organizations to prevent, identify, and address incidents of SEA.

Protective Environment: this dimension reflects the specific capacities and protective measures that are put in place to reduce, identify and address incidents of SEA. It considers the structures and resources in place to mitigate the impact and prevent the occurrence of SEA as well as the presence of reporting and accountability systems and assistance for victims/survivors.

Dimension	Enabling Environment				Situational Context				Operational Context				Protective Environment			
Category	Laws & Practices		Human Rights & Inequalities		People at Risk		Needs & Complexity		Response Institutions		Response Modalities		Capacity & Resources		Mechanisms & Accountability	
Component	Laws & Practices	Institutional Strength	Violence Against Women & Children	Gender Inequalities	People Affected	Vulnerability	Scale of Needs	Situational Complexity	Staffing	Organizational Culture	Operational Design	Resource Gaps	PSEA Coordination	PSEA Resources	Reporting & Accountability	Survivor Assitance

Where do the data come from?

SEARO aggregates data from a range of credible, publicly available sources, such as United Nations agencies, governments and multilateral organizations. These data must meet six quality criteria to be included in SEARO: They must be relevant, of high quality, consistent across countries and over time, updated regularly, provide sufficient geographical coverage, and be easy to obtain and process.

Which countries are included?

SEARO covers countries that have a Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), Flash Appeal or similar response and funding mechanism. SEARO will be updated in accordance with new emerging humanitarian responses. In the event of a major new humanitarian emergency arising between updates, a special update of the index may be published to include the affected country.

Explore SEARO at https://tinyurl.com/SEARO