8) Funding proposal guidelines

Why it is important to integrate PSEA

As part of Red Cross and Red Crescent commitments to protect people, all proposals and projects should include action to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse. Global minimum standards clearly lay-out the need for PSEA to be included in all projects and proposals. Additionally, commitments to PSEA reflected in Red Cross and Red Crescent strategy, policies and resolution/pledges[11] including that Movement actors should implement good practice based on minimum standards in accordance with the **Inter-agency Standing Committee Minimum Operating Standards on (IASC MOS-PSEA)**.

Each Red Cross and Red Crescent project will be unique, and the actions required will vary based on the context. It is important therefore that PSEA issues are built into programming from the outset. This should include an initial risk assessment, referrals mapping and complaints mechanism established for SEA concerns.

Donor requirements related to PSEA are increasing – PSEA is often part of due diligence and evaluation processes, and PSEA activities and results must be measured and integrated to project reporting.

Actions

In order to help ensure that projects and services are safe and inclusive, a joined up approach to PSEA, community engagement and accountability (CEA) and protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) is recommended. The following **minimum actions** (based on Movement standards[12]) are to be included within all projects and services:

Complaints mechanism: Integrate a mechanism to listen and act on feedback and complaints from the communities we work with into the project design documents. This should include concerns related to abuse, sexual exploitation and abuse, misuse of funds, fraud and corruption. It should be designed with the participation of the community members of all genders, ages and abilities, and staff and volunteers should be trained on how to manage it.

Referrals: Make plans to map referral pathways including quality of services, community perception of services, and barriers to access. Disseminate referral pathways to staff, volunteers and community members who express concerns. Services should include child protection, health care (including sexual and reproductive health care service), trafficking in persons, counseling and legal services, at a minimum.

Information sharing: Introduce plans to ensure that communities, particularly the

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11   See Red Cross and Red Crescent commitments on page 7.

12   These minimum actions are based on the **IFRC CEA Guide**, **IASC MOS-PSEA**, and **dignity, access, participation and safety (DAPS) of affected communities (PGI minimum standards)**.

most vulnerable and marginalized, receive timely, accurate and accessible two-way information. This should include, but is not limited to, information on who we are, our Fundamental Principles, rights (including right to be treated with respect, and right to receive humanitarian assistance free of charge and without being exploited or harmed), overview of program activities, contact details and how to report a concern. Where relevant, it should also include life-saving information, such as weather forecasts or health-related messaging. Channels of communication should depend on the preferences of members of the community, especially vulnerable or marginalized groups.

Inclusion: Introduce plans to ensure the program is accessible for people of all genders, ages, abilities and backgrounds. These plans should be informed by the collection and analysis of disaggregated data, and focus group discussions with vulnerable groups. Where this is not possible (for example at the early stages of a rapid onset emergency or in areas with limited access to the affected population) estimates can be provided using national and international statistics, data gathered by other organizations, or through small scale surveys or key informant interviews with people working with vulnerable people of all genders, ages and abilities in the community. Design and plan support to ensure additional action is taken to include the most vulnerable in the program.

Risks: When planning project activities, analyze protection risks and capacities, including risks of sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers, and ensure mitigating actions are integrated throughout the intervention. This includes keeping information safe, secure and confidential (when processed and forwarded internally and transmitted externally); safe spaces for program activities; gender-balanced teams; and supervision/checks to ensure staff and volunteers are never alone with a child (under 18) or vulnerable adult[13].

Indicators: Ensure the community acts as a key source of information and, where possible, and an active participant to the evaluation participates in evaluation, including levels of satisfaction and accessibility to the program, and how it was delivered (for example, community members of all genders, ages and abilities felt safe and able to participate).

The extent and level of action on PSEA to be taken within any project will depend on its specific context, timeline, funding and National Society capacity. However, all projects should aim to reach the above-mentioned aims, as a minimum. Where other parts of the Movement and/or external partners are working together with the National Society, efforts should be made to coordinate PSEA support and to align approaches, as much as possible.

Key indicators linked to the above minimum actions include:

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13 Refer to **Washington Group questions**.

- Action plan for mitigating risks within the program
- Progress against the action plan
- Branch-level training with staff and volunteers on CEA, PSEA and PGI
- Community members of all genders, ages and abilities have been involved in the design of the system and their level of satisfaction with it assessed.
- Feedback and complaints, including SEA concerns, are collected from community members based on preferred channels, and response and outcomes to SEA concerns are documented and tracked.

Please see **Tool 7** for further examples of outputs and activities which can support proposal development, monitoring and evaluation.