

# SEA Programmatic Risk Assessment

It is important to carry out an SEA risk assessment for all programmes which are community facing in order to minimise the risks posed by our people, operations, projects and services.

The risk assessment team should include staff experienced in PSEA or safeguarding along with programme delivery staff. Part of the risk assessment should be carried out with consultation of the community. This guideline is accompanied by the **risk register** tool.

## Step 1 Identify and categorise the risks

The risk register is split into sections under which there are different risks to consider. The following are example risks to consider for each section.

### Situation analysis (external environment)

- Prevalence of harm or abusive practices like child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), gender-based violence.
- Onset of a humanitarian emergency can make vulnerable people more at risk of SEA.
- Operating in an area where there is conflict.
- High levels of poverty can make desperate people vulnerable to SEA and could lead to child labour.
- High number of people living with disabilities.
- High number of refugees, immigrants, or internally displaced people.
- Poor governance, policing and weak legislation to protect SEA survivors.
- SEA/ abuse/exploitation is not illegal and/or high tolerance in the community.
- Social care services/ organisations for referral are lacking.

### Programme assessment

- Main target population are women and/or children.
- Target population are people with complex needs (disabilities, refugees etc.)
- Programme requires staff and volunteers to enter community members' homes.
- Programme is distributing high value items such as food, cash, equipment.
- No or low levels of community engagement in the programme throughout the programme cycle.
- Programme is not designed using the safe and inclusive framework.
- Awareness raising about PSEA is not done correctly with the community or not communicated in relevant languages.
- Programme monitoring is done infrequently and/or inconsistently.
- Community was not consulted in the feedback mechanism.
- Accessing the community-based feedback mechanism was not communicated clearly.
- Referral mapping has not been done.

**Community assessment**

This should be done in consultation with the community. The following are some risk indicators taken from a target community.

- Children could get hurt in the venue of the programme or could run away.
- Marginalised groups are excluded from the programme activities.
- Language barriers.
- Lack of sufficient transport links.
- Risk of false expectations of the programme by the community.
- Overcrowding.

**Step 2: Identify ways to mitigate and manage these risks**

Document mitigating actions which correspond to every risk in the risk register. Identify who are involved in the action. Set responsibilities and a timeframe according to each mitigating action. Possible mitigating actions may include:

- Engaging with the community from the design phase of the programme.
- Setting up a PSEA-compatible community-based complaints mechanism which is easily accessible by the community.
- Programme staff and volunteers have all read and signed the code of conduct.
- Programme staff and volunteers are trained in PSEA.
- PSEA focal points are appointed.
- Volunteers always work in pairs.
- Staff or volunteers are never alone with a child.
- Volunteers are allocated in such a way as to encourage the participation of marginalised groups.

**Step 3: Monitor the risk and mitigating actions every 3 months**

In the review, adapt mitigating actions when necessary.

**Step 4: Revisit all the risk indicators**

Revisit all the risks including those that were low risk and update the risk register.