 

**PREVENTION OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE ENGAGEMENT MEETING.**

DATE: 08 December 2021

VENUE: WhatsApp platform

TIME: 1500hrs -1700 hrs.

The meeting was held on a WhatsApp platform led by K. Dembure a social worker from Childline. The meeting was about prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and also she highlighted on the project description and what it is all about. She also indicated that the project was an extension covering November and December 2021. She indicated that the project’s aim is to raise community-awareness on the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and available reporting channels is critical to preventing of SEA, as well as to ensuring that victims know where and how to safely report SEA when it take place.

In addition to that, Childline social worker indicated that, there was need for effective, updated information, education and communication (IEC) materials on PSEA that were tailored to local cultural contexts, operational realities, the groups that are most at risk, and which take into account among others of literacy, languages, age and capacity. In this project Childline developed and disseminated PSEA outreach and communications materials, and to make available to all IASC members and the wider sector the materials developed through the Fund for their further use or adaptation.

Moreover, she also pointed out that, strengthening of information and education on issues surrounding the prevention of SEA was of paramount importance. This was done through messages that factor in language that can be understood by all, prominence where the message is not within another language, Visibility where the message is displayed and how it is shared with emphasis on Reporting platforms and referral pathways and Confidentiality.

The project managed to address key community cadres and a training on sexual exploitation and abuse targeting the teachers was done. In the same light students were also trained on sexual exploitation and abuse. A total of 40 teachers were trained. Of the 40, 21 were male and 19 were female. Key amongst these partners were the guidance and counselling teachers and the students themselves.

In her conclusion she also shared information about the sustainability of the project and indicated that safe reporting for PSEA (Helpline, Drop in center, postal boxes) and case response. One Peer Counselor who speaks Swahili and French to be placed in the Helpline and the Drop in Agent at Tongogara Drop in Centre. In the absence of the project, the training of community gate keepers and teachers provides for an ongoing support system to beneficiaries or survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse. Community leaders and teachers will both keep each other in check and at the same time provide a support mechanism for those that need assistance with regards to PSEA.

Moreover, she also pointed out that the helpline is available as another support system for reporting cases or suspected cases of abuse.it is a free phone that can also be accessed by anyone using Zimbabwean network. Training of stakeholders also promotes ongoing support and calls for adherence to set policies on PSEA even amongst staff members. The drama will continue to be played out at key community events or gatherings to continuously provide a support system to survivors. The community will continue to learn and report cases as the drama is being played.

Compiled by Kiwarabilwe Dembure

Position Social worker

Signature : 