**Report on Community Focus Group Discussions**

**Mawk Kon Local Development Organization**

**Introduction**

With the support of ICVA, Mawk Kon is implementing the interagency community outreach and communication fund on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) with aimed to make use of the existing access and build infrastructure of complaint mechanism in Keng Tung Township of Eastern Shan State, to implement its ongoing activities with awareness-raising among community and staff on the risks of SEA and to make reporting channels available to adequately respond to SEA and to ensure institutional reaction from September to December 2021. As informing and engaging communities is key, MKLDO will develop and adapt context specific PSEA outreach and communication materials raising awareness in communities, engaging them, and keeping track of how, when and where communities are informed to channels for reporting SEA, including referral pathways. To contribute to the output one of the project, Mawk Kon conduct focus group discussion to find the suggestions and advices of the community members on development of IEC materials and community complaint and feedback mechanism on PSEA with youth and adult women and men community members from 15 villages of target village tracts in September.

**Objectives**

1. To assess the community knowledge on PSEA
2. To identify the complaint channel convenient for community
3. To explore community perspectives on selecting appropriate IEC materials of PSEA

**Summary**

Mawk Kon conducted 4 times half-day focus group discussions with a total of 32 participants (Women 16: Men 16) to get inputs for development of PSEA IECs and Community CFM at the two targeted village tracts in Keng Tung on September 24th and 27th. Two FGDs had been organized with under 18 youth leaders’ groups and another two FGDs were conducted with village leaders, religious leaders, women leaders, and community focal person on PSEA for Mong Zin and Mong Lat village tracts. All the participants are ethnic minorities of Shan, Akha and Lahu. Each FGD involved 8 people with equal gender representatives. The FGD questionnaire is attached.

**Key points in the discussions**

**Presentation on PSEA Project**

Each discussion started with introduction of the project by presenting about the project, its objectives, activities, timeline, budget and introduce to the donor organization by the facilitator.

The presentation used the flipchart because it is easier to carry to the community rather than using Powerpoint projector. Some places are not able to use electricity as well.

**Discussion points on the questionnaire of FGD**

Mawk Kon had developed a set of questionnaires for the FGDs with the guideline of PSEA Network and it was used and discuss following points. The discussion involves two parts and part one focus on the general information on types of assistance that they are receiving from the humanitarian or development organization and PSEA and the part two of the questionnaire focused on the complaint channel and the assistance for the person with disability.

The targeted villages received food aid; personal protective materials such as masks, hand sanitizer to prevent COVID-19; personal hygiene stuff such as soap, toothpaste; educational support includes school uniforms, notebook, backpack; households’ materials, seeds for farming, solar panel etc provided by the different organizations including Mawk Kon, World Vision, Malteser International, Faith based organizations and social support organizations.

These organizations are providing aid to the villages before and during the COVID-19. Mostly, the villagers go and get aid materials at the village leader’s house when the materials are delivered in the villages. The village leaders announced through loudspeakers in local languages when the delivery of aid assistance in the village therefore, the community member do not need to approach anyone to get aid assistance. The community members reported that there was no incident related to SEA between aid workers and village members in the past for exchange or favor to get more aid materials. If the case is happening, the villagers will inform to village leaders. The common answered was no situation on the question related to the situations of any aid workers are visiting community members for a long period time with children or orphans or the persons with disability.

The FGDs informed that there have no reporting channels in the village on the SEA however, there has women groups can support GBV cases. If anyone from the aid organization make misconduct related to SEA, it should take serious actions and they do not to see that person any more in their village.

If SEA case is happening to anyone in the village, they want effective remedies and support services for the victims including psychosocial support. Also, they mentioned that the community should help the victims.

**Reporting Channel on SEA related to humanitarian or development organizations**

The community reported that currently any matter in the village has report to the village’s head who is the most responsible person in their villages. Therefore, regarding the SEA, the participant suggested to have a support group on the PSEA with the volunteers or focal from each of the village. The focal have the knowledge of SEA, literate person who can help and support village members. The focal person should raise PSEA awareness in their own communities as well as these people should be able to communicate or participated in the coordination with different organizations or government departments. Because due to the cultural and education background, most villagers do not want or have barrier to make direct communication with any outside organizations or government department.

Regarding the person with disabilities, there has no report on the exposed of sexual risks for the people with disabilities in the communities in the past. However, these people are most vulnerable groups because there is no aid programme target specifically for them. Therefore, the PSEA reporting channel should open online or phone call reporting as well. So that the vulnerable group can be identify and easy to access reporting.

**Development of IECs on PSEA**

The participants of the FGDs suggested the project to reprint the posters that had developed by the UNICEF which available on the MIMU PSEA toolkit because all the messages are relevant to the local context. However, they suggested to change some of the cartoon pictures to have better understanding for them. Therefore, Mawk Kon PSEA focal discussed for the possible changes of the cartoon images of the posters with UNICEF focal and Myanmar PSEA National Network Focal. Both focal from UNICEF and National PSEA Network agreed to make changes as suggested by the community members. As all the posters are easy to understand, the participants wanted to keep posters in Myanmar and Lahu languages.

The FGD’s participants suggested the development of pamphlets on the explanation of PSEA including different types of SEA and complaint mechanism for the community. They advised to developed with all the relevant languages which will include Myanmar, Shan, Akha and Lahu.

All participants recommend developing and produce a short video of PSEA awareness because it is easier to understand. The content for the video is suggested how community should inform the sexual misconduct by aid worker.

The community members do not want to create stickers on PSEA for the vehicles because it may not be easy to understand, and it can be sometime make trouble to the community members. Due to the political context in Myanmar, sometime security forces may ask about stickers to check whether link to the campaign against military. Therefore, to be safer for the community, the participant rejected to develop stickers but they wanted to have posters to have better visibility as many places as possible in their communities. During the FGDs, participant suggested the ideas for the video and Mawk Kon has developed the video story and scripts.