

Horn of Africa Peace Network (HAPEN)

Concept note for Focused Group Discussions (FGD) on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and abuse

Project Information

Name of Partner: Horn of Africa Peace Network (HAPEN)

Project Name: Interagency Community Outreach and Communications Fund on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Project Country: Somalia

Project Area (if applicable): Kismayo District

Project Duration: 4 months

Project Start Date: 1 October 2021

Project Planned End Date: 31st January 2022

Background to the problem

Kismayo is the most heavily populated district in Jubaland and hosts an increasing number of IDPs, currently estimated at 70,000 in about 140 camps. IDPs are exposed to risk factors for sexual exploitation and abuse due to them being vulnerable. The vulnerability arises from a myriad of issues eg displacement, lack of supporting structure, lack of housing, lack of income generating activities, limited economic opportunities, lack of economic pillars considered as wealth e.g. land or livestock. Women, girls, children and other minority groups are more prone to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) since they are most vulnerable and lack the voice and physical strength to defend themselves.

These IDPs and minority groups are exposed to SEA from staff of agencies and government or community authorities whom they seek assistance from. The staff yield power due to the decision power in regards to providing assistance to the IDPs and minority groups. These vulnerable groups either lack knowledge of their rights, acts of SEA and more often are desperate for assistance.

Lack of proper reporting channels especially for women and girls further impede access to justice. Since the onset of covid-19 outbreak, civil society organizations have faced reduced access to resources to create awareness. The need to observe social distance and restrict movement has also negatively affected PSEA outreach efforts with the fear that using the traditional public forums may lead to a surge in infections.

Objective

The main objective of holding focused Group Discussions (FGDs) is to discuss SEA in Kismayo and address them. Specific objectives are

- To discuss what SEA and how it currently addressed at community level and policy / institutional level
- To propose ways of preventing SEA at community level

- To identify best mechanisms and most appropriate ways of reporting and action taken
- To identify ways of protecting survivors

Justification

HAPEN plans to use FGDs to gather information on existing SEA issues. The organizations plans to do this at two levels policy level where local authority and government officials will participate and community level where camp members will participate. FGDs are a way where people can come together to point out the problems, review what has worked and what hasn't and finally brainstorm on the way forward on addressing SEA issues.

Methodology

HAPEN will use questions and pointers to trigger the discussions. The moderating staff will try to use questions and issues from the group to point out the existing issues and trigger the group to come up with ways on how to address SEA issues in camps and community at large. Staff will refrain from lecturing the group but let it be an open and participatory forum.

Outcome

By the end of all three FGDs , the following outcomes are anticipated;

- Come up with the most effective way of awareness creation and communication channel for each target camp
- Discuss mechanisms on how to prevent reprisals for any cases reported.
- Institutions where cases can be reported i.e. ministry of gender or police station; how can these be made approachable and discreet for victims
- Participants identify themselves as agents and champions who can speak openly without fear and creating awareness, also can help victims to seek assistance