

# EMPOWERED AID: CENTERING LOCAL ACTORS IN BUILDING SCALABLE, EVIDENCE- BASED MODELS FOR SEA PREVENTION

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The Global  
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THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



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How might the ways we deliver humanitarian aid increase risks of SEA within affected populations?

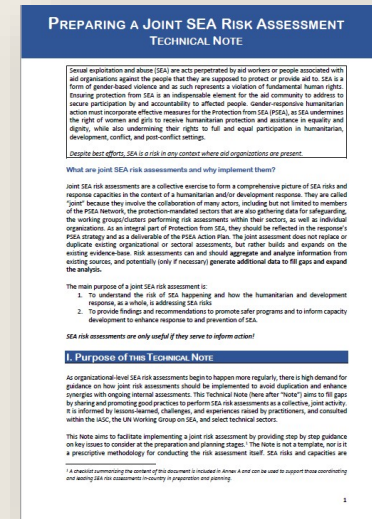
Mitigating SEA risks through the creation or adaptation of **aid delivery models** that work to **actively reduce power disparities** and give women & girls a **sustained voice** in how aid is delivered.

# Participatory Action Research



# Implementation Science

# Dissemination & Uptake



# OUR PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH PROCESS

## **Participatory Action Research Workshops**

Reviewed study,  
defined research  
areas & tools

## **Data Collection**

Conducted  
participatory  
FGDs &  
interviews with  
women & girls;  
other community  
members & key  
informants

## **Mid-Point Reflection Workshops**

Reflected on our  
power and roles as  
researchers; create  
space for feedback  
and learning

## **Action Analysis Workshops**

Shared and  
validated the  
findings and  
recommendations  
with women and  
girls

*Partners in participatory action research phase:*





# WOMEN & GIRLS' RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE AID DISTRIBUTIONS SAFER – ACROSS LEBANON & UGANDA

**Separate lines at distribution points** for women/girls and men/boys to avoid them being pushed out of line, harassed, or targeted

**Transportation support** to collect food, WASH, and other items, especially for vulnerable groups

**More women aid workers or women's committees** involved in aid distribution processes

**More security at distribution points** (particularly WASH and fuel/firewood in Uganda and ATMs in Lebanon)

**Formal/informal accompanying systems** when women and girls collect/receive aid and information sharing on moving in groups

**Sessions for community sensitization** to GBV / SEA and better knowledge and communication on SEA complaint or reporting mechanisms



*Visual representations of findings from Lebanon (left) and Uganda (below)*



## LISTENING TO AFFECTED PEOPLE IS A CRUCIAL FIRST STEP...

***“Actually, the findings were exactly like what was happening in our communities. ...After the team asked us about their findings, we agreed then from there they asked us about the recommendations. We came up with very many recommendations...”***

Lady Aminah, South Sudanese co-researcher in Uganda

***“We went through the distribution cycle as refugees, so we know better than anyone the risks we face across distributions. Our role was to provide the solutions to the problems we were facing.”***

- Lama Sibaii, Syrian co-researcher in Lebanon

## ...ACCOUNTABILITY MEANS PUTTING THEIR WORDS INTO ACTION

# OVERVIEW OF PILOTS UGANDA AND LEBANON

## Six pilots conducted:

- Lebanon: Fuel and food pilot
- Uganda: Food, dignity kit & solar lamp pilot

## *Recommendations implemented*

- Door-to-door distribution modality with at least one female aid worker present (Lebanon)
- Organizing small groups of aid recipients to come at pre-assigned (Uganda and Lebanon)
- More women aid workers at distribution sites (Uganda)



*Food distribution area cleared and spacious to allow for social distancing and pre-assigned groups to line up at the food pilot in Lebanon.*

Partners in this phase:

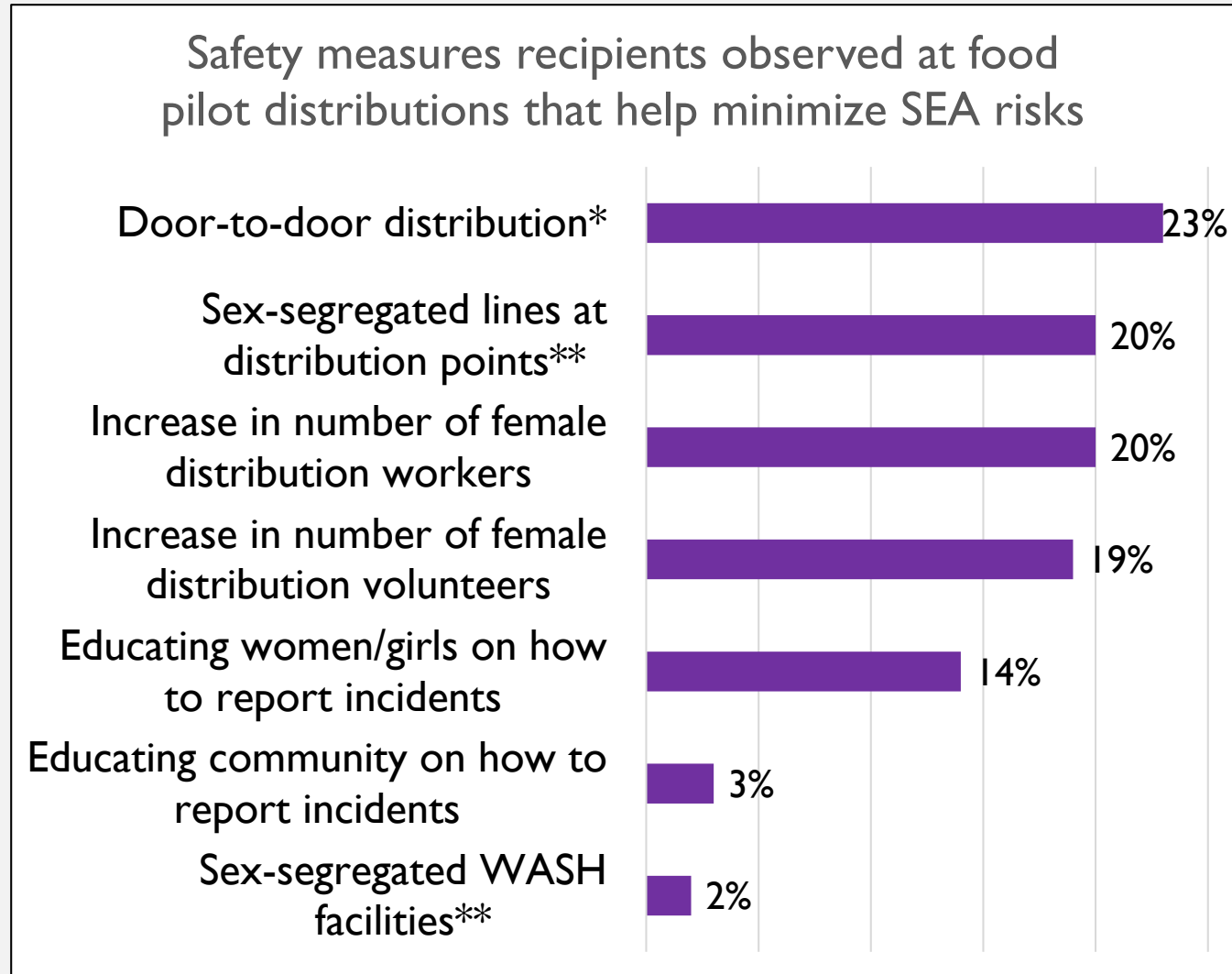




## FOOD & FUEL PILOT RESULTS

**Women and men consistently identified the door-to-door distribution modality as safer** during the household survey, citing avoiding SEA-related risks associated with taxis or going to a distribution site. (Source: Food & Fuel HHS)

**Taxi transport was frequently identified as associated with SEA risk.** Women mentioned cost of transport as a barrier to going to pick up aid, and noted fear around taking taxis. (Food HHS)

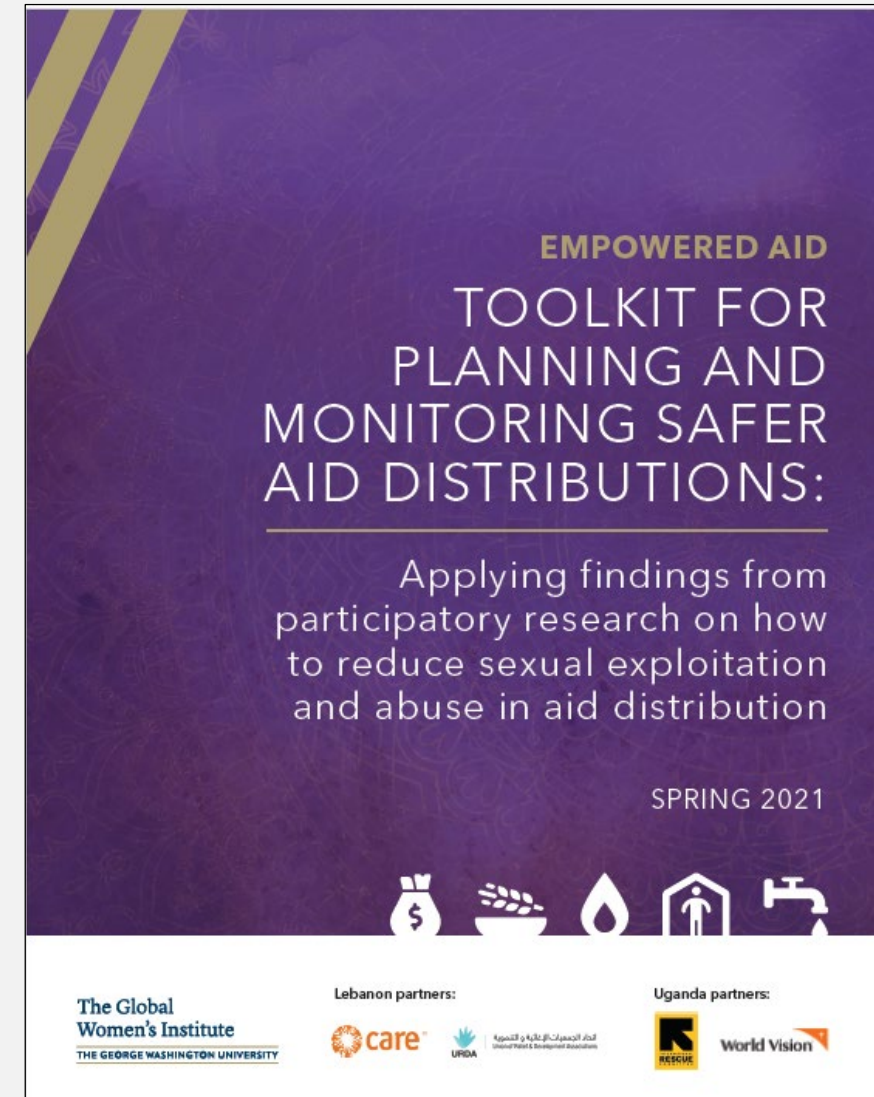


*\*Only applies to the door-to-door modality; \*\*Only applies to the pre-assigned times distribution* (Source: Food & Fuel HHS)



# TOOLKIT FOR PLANNING & MONITORING SAFER AID DISTRIBUTIONS

- Targeting: Humanitarian aid workers, M&E staff, researchers
- Adapted & new\* tools:
  1. Safety Audit
  2. Point of Distribution Questionnaire (PODQ)\*
  3. Household Survey
  4. Focus Group Discussion Guide
- Guidance on how to plan, train, collect data, analyze data, and write-up findings for *action*



**Apply**  
Empowered Aid's  
findings &  
recommendations  
to your context

# HELP AID WORKERS & RESEARCHERS BETTER PREVENT SEA IN AID DISTRIBUTION



**Listen to**  
diverse women,  
girls, and other  
members of  
affected  
communities

**Learn** about  
participatory  
processes and  
how to utilize  
them in your  
own work



*Navigate case studies based on findings  
from actual distributions of food, vouchers,  
and other aid.*





## SCALING UP AND SCALING OUT

- **Expand partnerships to contextualize findings** with women & girls and their communities in new contexts and for new types of aid
- **Provide technical support to local and international organizations** to mitigate risks of SEA.
- **Continue to document and share a set of scalable models for safer aid** with free guidelines, tools and resources and create a community of practice to make aid safer



## HOW CAN I USE EMPOWERED AID IN MY WORK?

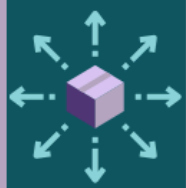
Click on icons to be redirected to our free resources

2



Our participative contextualization guide will help you adapt the findings of the participatory action research with local communities to produce recommendations for safer distributions that are contextually relevant and effective.

4



The contextualization guide (step 2) helps you identify & prioritize with the community a list of recommendations to mitigate SEA risk during your distributions.

During and after these distributions, use the adapted M&E tools (step 3) to capture the impact of recommendations in making distributions safer.

### STEP 2

Contextualize our findings to your context using our participatory contextualization workshop guide.

### STEP5 4

Adapt distributions based on findings from the contextualization workshop and monitor them with your newly adapted tools.

1



### STEP 1

Learn how to reduce risks of SEA in distributions by reading our research findings and by enrolling in our online course and live discussions.

2



3



### STEP 3

Adapt your monitoring and evaluation tools to better capture risks of SEA and the impact of the recommendations you have implemented.

4



5



### STEP 5

Share the results with our community of practice so that you can become part of the change to make humanitarian aid safer.

1



Our reports from research in different contexts share findings on risks of SEA and provide targeted, action-oriented recommendations to make aid distributions safer.

1



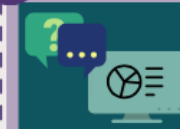
Our sector tip-sheets summarise key findings on SEA in relation to specific types of distributions and provide targeted recommendations to make them safer for women and girls.

1



Our free, self-paced online course (available in English, Arabic, French & Spanish) teaches you how to use participatory methods, how to prevent SEA in distributions & how to improve M&E processes.

3



Our Toolkit for Planning and Monitoring Safer Distributions helps you to adapt your M&E processes and tools to better capture and address risks of SEA.



**PROTECTION  
FROM SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION  
AND ABUSE**

**Are you interested in working with us or do you need technical support?**

You can learn more about who we are and how to reach out to us [here](#).



Special thanks to our **co-researchers and partners** in Bangladesh, Lebanon & Uganda, all those who participated in data collection, & **national & global Technical Advisory Group** members.

To **all those working to better prevent & respond to SEA**, we commit to amplifying & supporting each others' work to achieve systemic change & actively center women & girls in how aid is delivered.

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All tools, guides, the free  
online course, and more  
available in multiple  
languages at:  
[empoweredaid.gwu.edu](http://empoweredaid.gwu.edu)