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

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The Global Women's Institute THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY Funded by the US State Department, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration

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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



I am here to deliver the fuel voucher assistance you received a phone call about last week. Are you alone? Can I come inside to tell you more about this assistance?

#### PREPARING A JOINT SEA RISK ASSESSMENT TECHNICAL NOTE

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Despite best efforts, SEA is a risk in any context where aid organizations are present. What are joint SEA risk assessments and why implement them?

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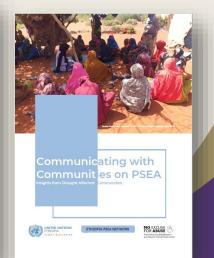
The main purpose of a joint SEA rick assessment is: 1. To understand the risk of SEA happening and how the humanitarian and developmen response, as a whole, is addressing SEA ricks 2. To provide findings and recommendations to promote safer programs and to inform capacity

EA risk assessments are only useful if they serve to inform action!

#### Purpose of this Technical Note

As cognizational-level SEA next assessments begins to happen more regularly, there is high demand for guidance on how just in this assessments build be implemented to avoid displacition and enhance sprongres with organic internal assessments. This Technical Note (here after "Note") aims to fit gaps by haring and promoting good practices to perform SEA nitis assessments as a collective, bit attactive, it is informed by lasson-aarmed, challenges, and experiences raised by practitioners, and consulted within the NGS. The UN voiving (group SEA and Seate Centrolical assessments as a collective) and the total for the UN voiving (group SEA and Seate Centrolical assessments).

This holes aims to facilities implementing a joint risk assessment by providing step by targ publicate on key issues to consider at the preparation and planning stages.<sup>1</sup> The liketie is not a template, nor is it a prescriptive methodology for conducting the risk assessment itself. Such risks and capacities are <sup>1</sup>A dualist comparing the context of this document bi include in Anne Ann con be used to paged those coordinating



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### 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

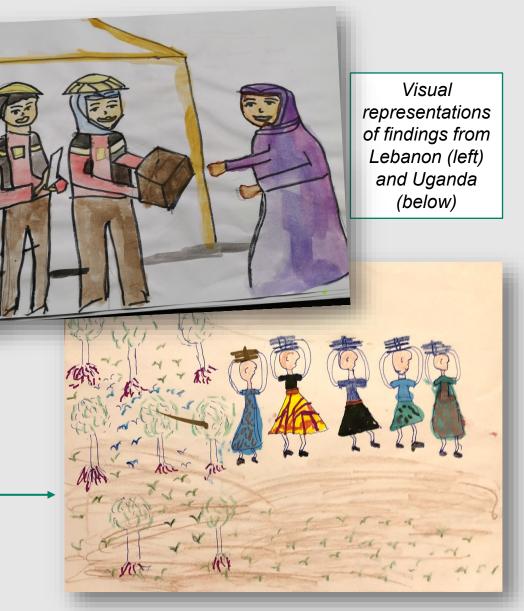
Separate lines at distribution points for women/girls and men/boys to avoid them being pushed out of line, harassed, or targeted

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

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

Formal/informal accompanying systems when women and girls collect/receive aid and information sharing on moving in groups More security at distribution points (particularly WASH and fuel/firewood in Uganda and ATMs in Lebanon)

Sessions for community sensitization to GBV / SEA and better <u>knowledge and</u> communication on SEA complaint on reporting mechanisms



"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.







### 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) Safety measures recipients observed at food pilot distributions that help minimize SEA risks

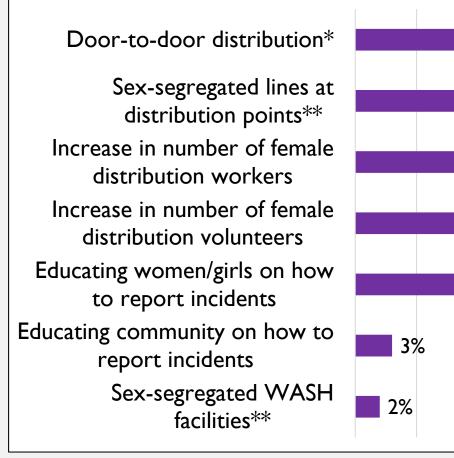
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\*Only applies to the door-to-door modality; \*\*Only applies to the pre-assigned times distribution (Source: Food & Fuel HHS)

### TOOLKIT FOR PLANNING & MONITORING SAFER AID DISTRIBUTIONS

- Targeting: Humanitarian aid workers, M&E staff, researchers
- Adapted & new\* tools:
  - I. Safety Audit
  - 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*

TOOLKIT FOR PLANNING AND MONITORING SAFER AID DISTRIBUTIONS:

Applying findings from participatory research on how to reduce sexual exploitation and abuse in aid distribution

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لداء الجسبات الإغائبة والتموية

The Global Women's Institute SPRING 2021

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Iganda partners

Apply Empowered Aid's findings & recommendations to your context



Navigate case studies based on findings from actual distributions of food, vouchers, and other aid. HELP AID WORKERS & RESEARCHERS BETTER PREVENT SEA IN AID DISTRIBUTION

Grace Kiden

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

communities

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



#### 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

# Empowered AID

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

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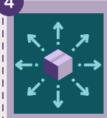
#### Click on icons to be redirected to our free resources



Our participative contextualization quide 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.

#### STEP 2 Contextualize our

findings to your context using our participatory contextualization workshop guide.



The contextualization guide (step 2) helps you identify & prioritize with the community a list o 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.

#### STEP5 4

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

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.

#### 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.

#### STEP 3

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



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

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



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.





Arabic, French & Spanish) teaches you how to use participatory methods, how to prevent SEA in distributions & how to improve M&E processes.

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.



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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For more info: contact Alina Potts (PI) apotts@gwu.edu



All tools, guides, the free online course, and more available in multiple languages at: empoweredaid.gwu.edu