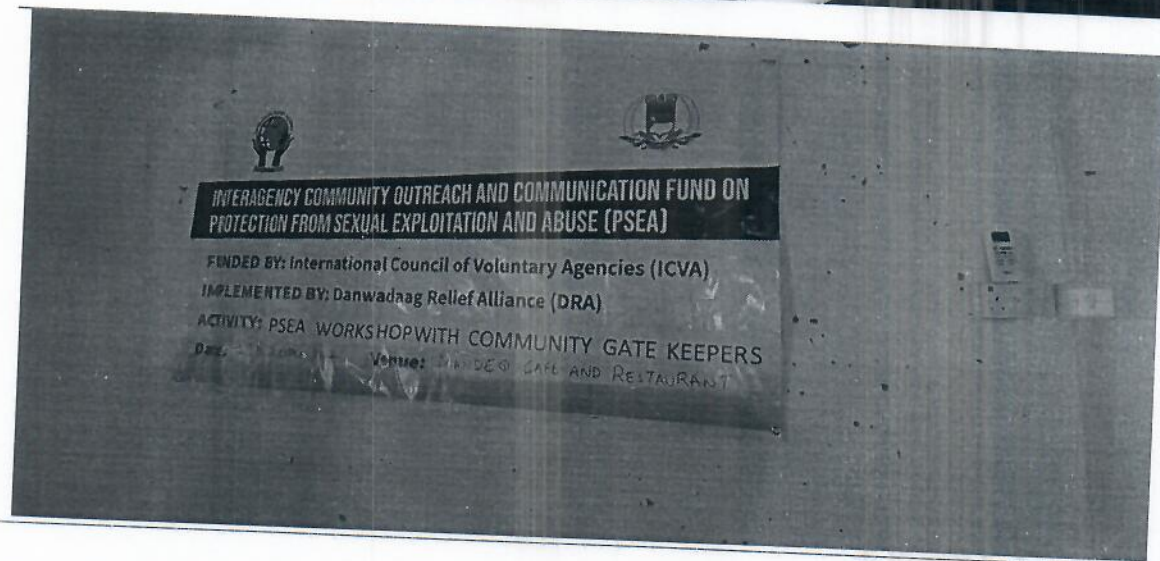




TRAINING REPORT ON PSEA WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY GATEKEEPERS HELD IN DHOBLEY, SOMALIA ON 11th TO 13th OCTOBER, 2022



Type of Training: PSEA Workshop with Community Gatekeepers

Number of participants: 40 (27M; 13F)

Duration of Training: 2 days

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

Activity Location: Dhobley

Name of Facilitator:



Date of submission: 06th January, 2023

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Introduction

Danwadaag Relief Alliance (DRA) in partnership with ICVA is implementing an Interagency Community Outreach and Communication on Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in Dhobley, Somalia. The project will run for six months and its aim is to promote principled and effective humanitarian action through the development and dissemination of PSEA outreach and communications materials.

DRA works with Internally Displaced Persons in Southern Somalia. The organization was born with an aim of providing humanitarian assistance, saving lives, alleviate suffering and restoring dignity to the Somali people. At the very core of our operations is the protection and upholding the rights and dignity of girls and women.

This report details the training of community gatekeepers on PSEA which was held on 11th to 13th October, 2022 in Dhobley at Mandeeg café and restaurant . The activity was aimed at sensitizing community gatekeepers on their role in protecting vulnerable members in the communities they work in from SEA, as well as sensitize them on identifying, reporting, investigating and acting on SEA cases that occur within their target communities. It was also conducted with the purpose of sensitizing the gatekeepers in Dhobley on their role in upholding or breaking social norms, and to impart them with knowledge that will encourage the highest standards of conduct and foster reflection in protecting vulnerable members of the community. A total of forty participants were in attendance (13 Female; 27 Male).

Preparation and launching of Training

Prior to the training, DRA conducted a desk review of data on PSEA in Africa and in Somalia, and the role of gatekeepers in preventing this. A training curriculum was then developed by DRA and approved by ICVA, and a facilitator identified. The DRA Field Officer mobilized participants weeks prior to the training through phone calls. A training venue was identified and booked and necessary stationery and facilitation tool arrangements were made.

Description of Target Participants

The training targeted community gatekeepers. In Somalia, community gatekeepers include village elders, religious leaders in the community, women group leaders, youth group leaders, representatives of persons living with disabilities, reputable business owners in the target communities and other opinion leaders from within the community. These individuals play an important role in ensuring humanitarian work is carried on smoothly within the community and ensure mobilization for certain activities. In many cases also, they play a key role during the distribution of food and non-food humanitarian items.

The training targeted 40 gatekeepers (13 Female; 27 Male) who represent and come from within the project target community in Dhobley. These individuals are consulted during disbursement of humanitarian work and often approached to seek project buy-in by agencies and organisations working at the community level.



Training Objectives

The following were the specific objectives of the training workshop:

- To sensitize participants on the effects of negative social norms in perpetrating SEA
- To define sexual exploitation and abuse in the context of humanitarian aid work and explain its consequences.
- To identify and explain factors that lead to sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian work.
- To sensitize the community on the rights of every human being and to ensure that they take lead in ensuring the protection of vulnerable members of the community
- To explain the six principles agreed on by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on sexual exploitation and abuse and relate them to policies and codes of conduct of humanitarian agencies

Participant Expectations

The facilitator then gave participants an opportunity to express their expectations from the workshop, which are summarized below:

- To get to know more about DRA and ICVA
- To gain new knowledge on new developments in humanitarian standards
- To learn more about how norms and beliefs encourage sexual exploitation
- To identify vulnerabilities which expose individuals, groups and communities to SEA
- To learn more about actions they need to take in order to tackle SEA
- To learn more about how the community can partner with DRA to prevent abuse and exploitation of individuals

With these expectations in mind, the facilitator was able to adapt the training material to meet the expectations of the participants and to also create a conducive environment where knowledge sharing was encouraged.

Activity process

Introduction and Setting the Environment

The facilitator welcomed all participants to the training session on the first day of the workshop, introduced himself and encouraged a volunteer-led ice-breaking activity to put all participants at ease. One village elder took up the challenge and led in an icebreaking activity, which was shortly followed by each participant introducing themselves and the role they play within the community.

Training Norms Established

Before commencing the training, participants agreed on rules and norms to govern the training for the two days. The following were agreed upon unanimously:

- That participants will switch off their phones/ place them on silent mode during sessions
- That participants would keep time
- That participants would respect each other's opinions
- Participants would seek permission if they need to go out mid-session



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- That participants would engage with an open mind and avoid a stereotype mind-set

Further, as part of the preliminary activities, participants designated a chairperson, icebreaker and a timekeeper from amongst themselves.

Materials used

Materials used in the dissemination of this training included:

- Flip charts
- Mark pens
- Notebooks and pens- Issued out to each participant for note taking
- Banner – Containing information about project name, donor, partner organization and Training name

Training Approach

The facilitator took participants through an overview of DRA profile and a run through on the project being implemented, the partner ICVA and the project's specific objectives. Topics tackled during the two day workshop include:

- Definitions of terms in the context of PSEA
- On-the-ground realities on SEA for different groups of vulnerable members of the community (open discussion and role plays were heavily used during this session)
- The role of gatekeepers in preventing SEA
- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee's purpose and its Six-Core Principles on SEA
- Reporting, investigating and redress mechanisms on SEA and in the context of Somalia

Approaches used to impart knowledge and foster learning included:

- Facilitator-led session to pass knowledge on theoretical concepts
- Open discussion sessions for experience sharing and group learning
- Role plays to break monotony and build scenarios which mirror realities of SEA survivors
- Plenary discussions to recap and review of training content and knowledge sharing on locally-based reporting mechanisms and how to access support services for survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse
- Group discussions to share best practices
- Energizers to keep the momentum going for two days

Training Content

Participants learnt about the basic human rights and entitlements, child rights, as well as the importance of creating a safe environment at the community to foster PSEA. The workshop provided valuable insights and knowledge sharing on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in Dhobley. They also gained an understanding of the reporting mechanisms and support services available for survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse.

A summary of the training content is as follows:

Human Rights

The facilitator asked the participants to explain or define what they understand when they hear of human rights.



The participants gave various explanations. For instance, one participant stated that "A human right is what one is the basic entitled to". Others said that human rights are justices while other said that human rights are what a must is for one to get.

After attempts by participants to explain human rights in their own words, the facilitator defined human as; 'Basic freedoms to which everyone is entitled to'. Human rights observance is critical in that it upholds the human dignity principle which ensures we have peaceful and healthy communities and families where everyone feels part of and secure in it.

After the definition of human rights, the participants were taken through the various human right provisions as per the Provisional Somalia Constitution (2012) and other applicable Acts of Parliament as well as the Universal Declaration of Human rights.

Participants were taken through the following sub topics;

- Characteristics of human rights
- Sources and Source Legal documents for human rights like Universal Declaration of Human Rights, African Commission on Human rights and Peoples rights and the Somalia Constitution.
- Bill of rights as spelled out in the Kenyan Constitution
- State obligation in ensuring citizens enjoy their rights

Child Rights

The facilitator took participants through all the four categories of child rights and explained in details. The facilitator informed participants that the Somalia government signed the UNCRC and has laws on child rights stipulated within the Provisional Constitution.

The facilitator informed participants that the Constitution makes provision for parental responsibilities in ensuring children enjoy their rights fully, as well as children's responsibilities even as they enjoy their rights.

Definition of PSEA terminologies

With the foundation laid, the facilitator then defined terminologies related to PSEA.

Negative Social Norms

The participants were taken through negative social norms session where the negative social norms were defined as traditional or cultural practices and beliefs that encourage or foster SEA practices.



Group discussion

The participants were asked to identify negative social norms that hinder the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of vulnerable community members

Below are issues the participants identified as negative norms that hinder the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of vulnerable community members in the community.

- Lack of strong community-based reporting structures
- Lack of education on PSEA
- Clannism
- Apathy towards protection

Group discussion

As community leaders what can we do to hinder the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation of vulnerable community members.

After discussions in groups the participants came up with the following strategies and ways of addressing negative social norms in their localities.

- Educate other community leaders on the importance of protection and safeguarding for all through barazas and other community forums
- To report cases of abuse and exploitation and hand over culprits to the authorities
- Promote guidance and counseling
- To be role modest in the community
- Promote messages on child protection
- Prioritise women-headed households during distribution of humanitarian items
- Continuously educate the community on the effects of SEA
- Community leaders to work as a team in addressing negative social norms in the community
- Sensitize community on the laws and policies prohibiting sexual exploitation and abuse
- Empower community leaders on reporting mechanisms on SEA

The workshop provided valuable insights and knowledge on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in the community. Participants learnt about legal and ethical frameworks, their rights and entitlements and how to work with humanitarian workers to ensure protection for all. They also gained an understanding of the reporting mechanisms and support services available for survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse.

A summary of the training content is as follows:



Closing Ceremony

To conclude the two day workshop, participants had the opportunity to take part in a post-training discussion to share learnings. Each participant was given an opportunity to share what they have learnt and their closing remarks with a pledge to apply the knowledge gained in their future work. The chairperson selected from among the participants gave a vote of thanks on behalf of all participants and expressed appreciation for the project, ICVA, DRA and the facilitator and with that, the three day workshop came to a close.

Action Plan /Way Forward

- It was agreed that each person will take it upon themselves to create awareness on the importance of protecting vulnerable members from SEA in community
- The participants also agreed that they will individually and collectively uphold and respect the rights of all people
- The participants also undertook to sensitize their fellow community members on PSEA and how to report cases

Challenges encountered during the workshop

- One of the main challenges faced during the workshop was ensuring that all participants felt comfortable and safe discussing the topic, given its sensitivity and complexity in the target society.

Recommendation

Based on the discussions and feedback received during the workshop, the following recommendations were raised:

- Provide ongoing training and support to gatekeepers often on PSEA
- Empower community-based reporting structures to ensure SEA cases are handled effectively
- Increase awareness and understanding that prompts reflection on the importance of preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse

Emerging Issues

During the workshop, several emerging issues were identified, including the need for ongoing training and support for gatekeepers in preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as the need for improved reporting mechanisms in Somalia and support for survivors.

Conclusion

The PSEA workshop targeting gatekeepers was a welcome opportunity to improve the lives of the people at Dhobley. An empowered leadership structure leads to an empowered community and the gatekeepers pledged to champion the rights of all vulnerable individuals in the community. It is important that DRA continues to provide ongoing support and training to all staff and community members to enhance PSEA knowledge and practice in Dhobley.



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ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of participants

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Annex 2: Training Program
Insert Here



Annex 3: Activity Photos

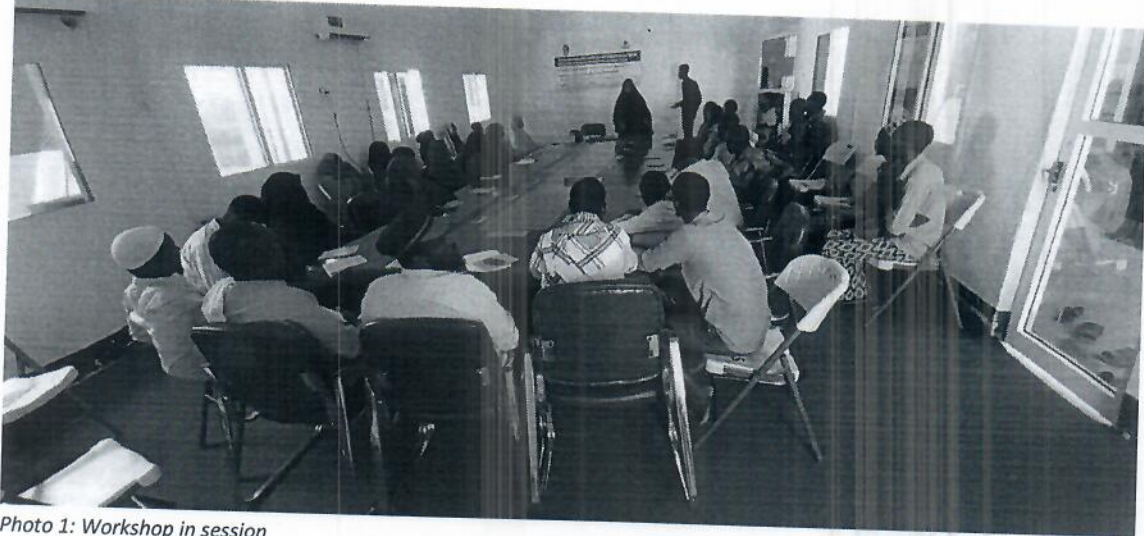


Photo 1: Workshop in session



Photo 2: Participants in group work



Photo 3: Group photos