Safe Programming

For CSOs in humanitarian and developing settings

UNDERSTAND

Safe programming aims to make sure that as far as possible members of the affected population are safeguarded from any intentional or unintentional safeguarding issues or risks that arise from how CSO programmes are designed and delivered.
During their activities in communities, CSOs may face or come across incidents like the below.

A boy / girl walking to and from a CSO programme location is abused or harassed by community members on that journey.

Male community leader or staff / volunteer working with the CSO ask a woman to have sex with him in exchange for food or non-food items or to be included in the aid.

A male CSO staff touches women and girls inappropriately during a food aid distribution.

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PREPARE

To support the safe design and delivery of programmes you should:

Appoint a safeguarding focal point (SFP) and give her/him terms of reference.

Provide all staff basic safeguarding training.

Ensure you have a map of existing local support services (which includes contact details etc.) and develop a referral plan. If possible, try and obtain mappings that other organisations have already done that cover the area(s) in which you work.

Ensure that any investigations will be conducted by trained investigators only.

Ensure that survivors or victims are supported by skilled staff.

RESOURCE & SUPPORT HUB

UKaid
from the British people

Safe Programming

BUILD TRUST

After a natural disaster, conflict, displacement or just over time there can be changes to a community,
including in leadership, support systems
and the people and organisations engaging with the community.
There are also changes in risks and type of abuse and abusers.
Building trust and working closely with communities is key to making programmes safe.

Communities can:

Identify what part
of a programme makes
them feel safe
and less safe.

Explain what,
how, when, where
and to whom they would
feel most comfortable
reporting abuse
by a CSO.

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DELIVER SAFELY
Embed safe programming throughout the programme cycle

Review performance and share lessons.
Report outstanding safeguarding concerns.

Include safeguarding
in any exit or handover plans.

Better understand local factors and
resources related to safeguarding
and sexual abuse,
exploitation and harassment.

Closure

Start-up

Implemen-
tation

Planning
and design

Establish community-based
complaints mechanisms.

Provide survivor-centred response to reports,
case handling and investigations.

Consider safeguarding in monitoring, evalua-
tion and learning.

Identify and assess the
safeguarding risks.

Embed safeguarding risk mitigation
strategies into design and planning.