

Collaborating with NGO partners to prevent and challenge SEAH

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## Objectives



At the end of this webinar, participants will:



Have a better understanding of SEAH and their roles and responsibilities are when working through partners



Be clear about donor expectations and international standards when working with partners



Work collaboratively with partners on preventing and challenging SEAH in INGO activities, communications and programmes



### Content of webinar

- Definitions and Terminology
- International standards
- Donor Expectations
- Steps to collaboration
- Challenges
- Q&A

What is "safeguarding" in the international development sector?

Actions/ measures taken by development agencies to prevent and respond appropriately to harm, abuse or exploitation of others that may occur from the behaviour of their staff and/or representatives, activities or programmes.

Includes: good governance, organisational culture and leadership, clear and robust policies and procedures and accountability mechanisms to create a safe environment for all that come into contact with the development agency — whether in the workplace, communications, activities or programmes.

What is "SEAH"?
(Inter-Agency
Standing
Committee on
PSEA definitions)

- 'Sexual abuse' the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a victim's private part, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions which harms or injures the victim.
- Sexual Exploitation any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically. There there is an exchange of benefit for sexual purposes.
- These terms are usually used when those working in positions of trust e.g. INGOs and NGOs abuse their position in a sexual nature by causing harm to children and vulnerable people.

# What is "harassment"?

"Harassment" usually occurs when there is misuse or abuse of position designed to humiliate or injure another's name, reputation, position and job security. It can be verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct related to a victim's protected characteristics (actual or perceived) including age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

"Sexual harassment" - inappropriate, sexualized or misogynist language and behavior that makes the other extremely uncomfortable and safe. Sexual harassment can include sexual comments or jokes; physical behaviour, including unwelcome sexual advances, touching and various forms of sexual assault displaying pictures, photos or drawings of a sexual nature; sending emails with a sexual content.

"Survivor" – A term used for the person who has been sexually abused, exploited and/or harassment. It implies strength, resilience and the capacity to survive, however it is up the individual how they wish to identify themselves. Under national law, they would be known as "the victim".

# Who do INGOs partner with?

Local and National NGOs Local and national governments **Federations** Local, national and international private sector organisations (Southern) Internationally affiliated NGOs Western-based INGOs (in Consortium) Multilateral /UN agencies Multilateral development banks Research Institutions and Universities Institutional donors Corporate donors **Foundations** Think tanks

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# Different types of partnership include:

Partnership with local NGOs to deliver a specific project with mutually agreed aims and objectives

Strategic partnerships, working together over time with sufficient alignment of goals and objectives towards achieving a lasting impact on poverty

Alliances with single organisations or groups of organisations working together towards a specific goal even though organizational mandates and long-term purpose may be quite different

# International Standard underpinning "partnerships"

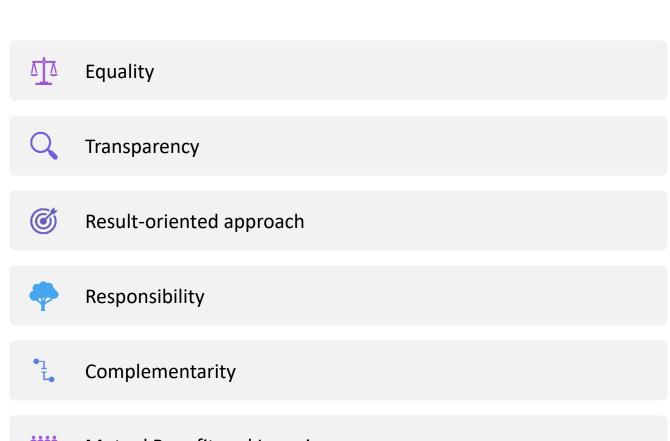
**Principles of partnership** - A relationship of mutual respect between autonomous organisations that is founded upon a common purpose with defined expectations and responsibilities.

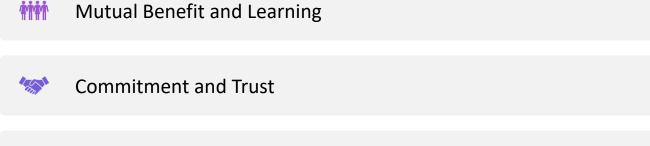
**Paris Declaration, 2005:** 5 fundamental principles (ownership, alignment, harmonisation, results, mutual accountability)

**SDG Goal 17, 2015** - Multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the SDG's

**Grand Bargain, 2016** - More support and funding to local NGOs (25% by 2020). Supported by **INGO Charter for Change** where INGOs committed to strengthening the capacity of partners.

# Principles of Partnership





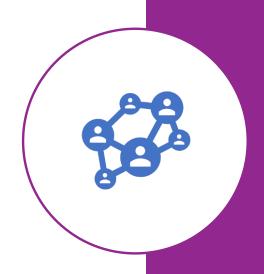
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Shared accountability

## Donor expectations on SEAH

'First tier partners (INGOs) are reminded of their responsibility to ensure appropriate safeguarding is cascaded down the delivery chain. This means that we expect the new enhanced standards to be applied throughout their delivery chains and we would expect to see evidence that the standards have been shared **and** that (implementing) partners are clear about those expectations.'

DFID current Enhanced Safeguarding Standards



Safeguarding, Social Responsibility and Respect for Human Rights



# Supply Partners must have robust procedures to:

- eliminate risks to SEA and Harassment;
- all forms of abuse and inequality, discrimination on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, culture or disability
- Unethical and illegal employment practices (modern slavery, child labour, ethical practices)
- Reporting and response mechanisms

DFID Supplier Code of Conduct (KPI 6a-d)

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# Donors who have endorsed DFID's Enhanced Standards

- Australia
- Austria
- Belgium (Ministry of Development Cooperation)
- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- France (Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France)
- Germany
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

- Luxembourg (Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs)
- Mexico (AMEXID)
- The Netherlands (Ministry for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation)
- New Zealand (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade)
- Norway
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom (including the Scottish Government)
- United States of America (U.S Agency for International Development)

# Collaborating with Partners Step 1: Due Diligence Process



Share Donor Enhanced Safeguarding standards and ask them to self-assess against these on their capacity to prevent, respond and manage SEAH



Use the self-assessment as part of your due diligence processes



Reviewing the partner self-assessment against its governance structure; organisational culture, organisational policies and procedures; accountability mechanisms, financial and personnel resources and capacity.



Discuss and develop plan with partner to address gaps

# Step 2 – Contractual matters

- Include safeguarding/PSEA clauses in the contracts where partners:
  - must commit to having "zero tolerance" culture have adequate policies and procedures in place to prevent and respond to SEAH
  - must sign-up to policies that include donor requirement and international safeguarding standards
  - must report serious incidents within 24 hours or as soon as possible together with whatever next steps it will be taking
  - must respond appropriately to SEAH complaints including investigating and taking disciplinary measures against it's staff and representatives
  - Neglect or failure to prevent, report or respond appropriately may lead to termination of the agreement

Step 3 – Strengthening capacity within the partnership for mutual benefit

INGOs should contract to support partners with low capacity in safeguarding to build their capacity through the provision of resources and capacity-strengthening activities so that they can work towards donor expectations and international standards.

Partners working in challenging situations would have been faced with SEAH concerns before and would welcome collaborative efforts

Ensure that capacity-building initiatives based on a strengthen-based model – with a view for continual improvement for both the INGO as well as partners.

# Step 4 – Gather evidence to demonstrate adherence to Enhanced Standards

# INGOs and partners could collaborate to:

- Develop tools to monitor implementation of SEAH Enhanced standards
- Develop accountability mechanisms e.g. community-based feedback and complaint mechanisms (age, gender and context specific)
- Appoint, train and support Safeguarding or SEAH Focal Persons Officers for concerns to be reported to
- Develop and support SEAH Community of Practice
- Identify designated Safeguarding Trustee/Director at Board level to oversee SEAH concerns in INGO and partners

Undertaking steps 1-4 will result in greater awareness of gaps in the wider protection system

Partners are in good position to challenge SEAH in society leading to advocacy and policy reform

Leads to greater accountability in society and eventual reduction of SEAH

Conclusion

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# Useful websites

#### DFID Enhanced Standards

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfi d-enhanced-due-diligence-safeguarding-forexternal-partners

- DFID Supplier Code of Conduct - <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/</a> dfids-supplier-review
- Principles of Partnership https://www.icvanetwork.org/resources/princip
   les-partnership
- Charter for Change https://charter4change.org/signatories/

Merci! Danke Schöen! Shukran! Asanti Sana!



### How can these challenges be overcome? Discuss

#### **INGOs** say

- We are only a small INGO
- We have no time
- We have no money
- We don't have expertise
- We don't know how to talk to partners about SEAH
- Partners are not interested
- Donors have unrealistic expectations

#### **Partners say**

- INGOs simply email us policies and we are told to sign only
- We would like to learn from INGOs but they say that they have no time, no money end/or expertise
- INGOs ask us to report but then don't help us when we need support to manage SEAH concerns that arise
- We want to do better but often find we are working alone

### Ideas to overcome challenges



Use the Principles of Partnership when working with local partners



Be creative when looking for time and resources e.g. including additional funding for capacity-building in proposals to donors; find other INGOs who run workshops which partners could attend



Improve the culture of safeguarding and PSEAH together



Develop good governance structures and management systems with partners



Ensure that partners understand the consequences of either failing or neglecting to take safeguarding seriously ie. suspension and/or termination of the contract