Problem:

Sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) are among the most egregious failures of accountability in the aid sector. SEAH, rooted in gender and power inequality, is a manifestation of abuse of power by aid actors towards the affected communities they aim to serve. Inequalities among aid actors and recipient of aid are exacerbated in contexts of crisis and conflict. At present, there is no single, universally agreed definition or proven effective model on how to deliver a PSEAH victim/survivor centred approach. Current efforts to address SEAH are inadequate and cannot be tackled only from within and by the aid sector itself.

Solution:

Effective Protection against SEAH (PSEAH) must be based on the wishes and needs of victim/survivors, requires a contextualised response that is culturally appropriate, and embedded in an understanding of the local and national legislative frameworks and led by communities. Pilot projects demonstrating how this can be done and be brought to scale is essential to build future best practice.

This project will work together with victims/survivors through their trusted intermediaries to identify and pilot the PSEAH measures that must be in place in countries to effectively respond to SEAH in a victim/survivor centred way from violation to redress, the mechanisms utilized, the barriers and the actors involved.

Three Humanitarian settings:

External displacement and massive refugee population (Bangladesh).

Internal displacement and/or a significant returnee population (Ethiopia).

Protracted political conflict among the local population (OPT).

These contexts are characterized by violence, gross power imbalance, mass displacement, restricted access, dismantled family and societal structures, lack of protection, high presence of aid actors amplifying the risk of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.

Learnings and experience from the contexts will be important to informing and scaling up victim/survivor-centred approaches to PSEAH.