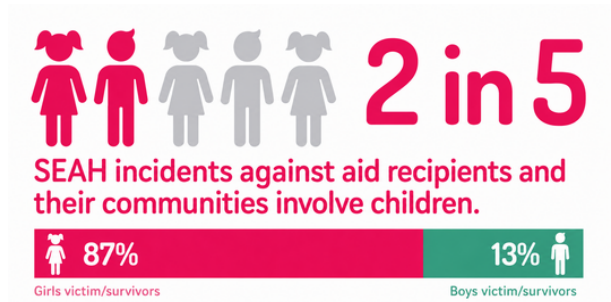


SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE AND HARASSMENT (SEAH)







What the data tells us and what needs to change



WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

- ▶ **Scale and Severity:** Since the [Harmonised Reporting Scheme \(HRS\)](#) began, 156 incidents involving children under 18 have been reported across 38 countries, accounting for 38% of all reported SEAH incidents involving aid recipients and their community
- ▶ **Who is Affected:** 87% of child victims are girls, 13% boys, also likely reflecting under-reporting among boys due to stigma and social norms. Most incidents are reported in Eastern and Central Africa, but data reflects where incidents are disclosed, not necessarily where risk is highest.
- ▶ **How Disclosures Occur:** Only 9% of incidents are reported directly by children; most disclosures come via trusted adults. Three-quarters of cases are reported in person, highlighting the importance of training trusted intermediaries on top of providing formal systems.
- ▶ **Accountability Gaps:** Only 29% of incidents involving children are reported to national authorities. Investigative capacity and evidence challenges can prevent cases from resulting in disciplinary or legal action, allowing perpetrators to leave organisations without a documented sanction and potentially continue working elsewhere. Accountability is further complicated by the fact that 45% of cases involve outsourced personnel (volunteers, partners, contractors and incentive workers), where oversight and disciplinary authority may be fragmented.
- ▶ **Support Gaps:** Nearly one in three child victim/survivors receive no assistance. Access to support is uneven, 45% receive psychosocial support, 31% medical care, and only 15% legal assistance.

OVERVIEW OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

 <p>Accountability</p> <p>Senior leaders must ensure child safeguarding is embedded across all relevant activities, with clear roles, responsibilities, and oversight.</p>	 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Proactively identify and mitigate risks to children, including through safe recruitment, training, and codes of conduct that address child-specific risks.</p>	 <p>Participation</p> <p>Safeguarding systems should be designed with input from children and families, using age-appropriate and safe consultation methods.</p>
 <p>Accessibility</p> <p>Reporting and support mechanisms must be trusted, accessible, and adapted for children's diverse needs and contexts.</p>	 <p>Response</p> <p>All disclosures must be managed safely, confidentially, and in a way that prioritises the child's best interests and protection from further harm.</p>	 <p>Learning</p> <p>Use data and evidence to continually strengthen safeguarding measures, adapting to emerging risks and lessons learned.</p>

More detailed guidance is available [here](#).