



Identifying the Needs of National and Local Humanitarian Organizations in Marib Governorate for Safeguarding Policies

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Introduction

In cooperation with the Youth Empowerment Foundation, Seyaj Organization for Childhood Protection carried out an assessment to identify the needs of humanitarian work institutions in Marib governorate for safeguarding policies and regulations in the work environment, to gauge the organizations' needs for safeguarding measures in the targeted organizations. The assessment included 45 local organizations whose official headquarters are located in Marib governorate.

The evaluation featured items and queries about the importance of safeguarding policies in local humanitarian organizations, previous backgrounds on safeguarding policies, ability to implement safeguarding policies in institutions, desire to improve the performance of workers in that institution in applying safeguarding-related procedures, and establishing reporting mechanisms for violations committed by relief workers in these institutions while on duty.

The significance of the evaluation, which took place between August 15-27 2023, stems from the fact that it was conducted in Marib governorate, which has the highest number of displaced people in Yemen. Seyaj aims to crystallize the outcomes of its collaboration with (RSH) to improve local organizations' awareness and efficiency in establishing PSEAH safeguard policies, responding appropriately to survivors, and raising community awareness, particularly among the most vulnerable groups such as women and children. Seyaj's mission is to contribute to building the capacity of local and national institutions to enhance preventive protection for children.

Evaluation Summary:

The evaluation, which was completed by 45 local humanitarian organizations in Marib governorate, revealed that 93.3% of the participating organizations do not have safeguarding policies and procedures in place to prevent sexual abuse, exploitation, or harassment (SEAH) and to respond to survivors.

While 95.6% of respondents emphasized the need to develop and implement safeguarding policies and procedures, only 6.7% of the total participating institutions conducted a safeguarding risk analysis. On the other hand, 100% of the leaders of the participating institutions—31% of whom were women—stressed the need for their institutions to develop safeguarding policies and procedures. The results showed that 84.4% of the organizations' employees and volunteers had never received any training on these policies, and 75.6% of the institutions do not have mechanisms to receive reports and investigate possible violations by institution employees or beneficiaries of humanitarian aid.

These findings suggest that humanitarian workers, beneficiaries, and local institutions are prone to SEAH and its repercussions, particularly for vulnerable groups such as

women, girls, and children. In such a conservative environment, a lack of awareness denies a large segment of girls the opportunity to work in the humanitarian field, which compounds their suffering since a significant number of women and girls work to support their families after losing a breadwinner in armed conflicts.

Recommendations:

Based on the results of the evaluation analysis, we issue the following recommendations:

National and local NGOs in Marib governorate:

- Include safeguarding policies and procedures within plans, priorities, and standards for recruiting and volunteering to protect the institution, recipients of its services, and its partners against any breaches committed by its members.
- Educate and train leaders, employees, and volunteers on the importance of safeguarding in humanitarian action and relief.
- Provide active mechanisms and forms to receive reports from beneficiaries regarding any violations or harm resulting from workers in relief and humanitarian work organizations while on duty.
- Raise community understanding of the need of safeguarding policies in preserving religious sanctity, honor, and societal morality.

Office Of The MOSAL in Marib Gov.:

- Urge national and local organizations working in safeguarding to prioritize establishing safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Reports on the execution of safeguarding policies and practices should be included in the yearly reports required of local and national organizations working in the governorate.

The executive unit for the management of displacement camps:

- Ensure that safeguarding policies and procedures are required of institutions to obtain a permit to provide services inside displacement camps.
- Require humanitarian civil society organizations in camps to publicize addresses and phone numbers to receive reports about safeguarding policy violations.

The UN and international organizations:

- Increase support for programs and projects to strengthen and build the capacity of civil society organizations in Yemen on safeguarding policies and regulations.
 - Encourage national and local non-governmental organizations to adopt and implement safeguarding policies in their administrative practices, and to adhere to them while providing humanitarian services.
-

Analysis of the results of the needs assessment

The needs assessment for safeguarding policies revealed a high level of need in all of the items presented. The analysis that follows is of each item on the list of needs:

Table No. (1): The need to provide safeguarding policies

Item	Respondent No.	Availability				Percentage of Non-availability of Safeguarding Policies	Level of Need
		Code of Conduct	Protection Policies	Safeguarding Policies	Unavailable		
Safeguarding or Anti-SEAH Policies in Place	45	17	9	3	26	93.3%	High

Table No. (1) Availability of Safeguarding Policies

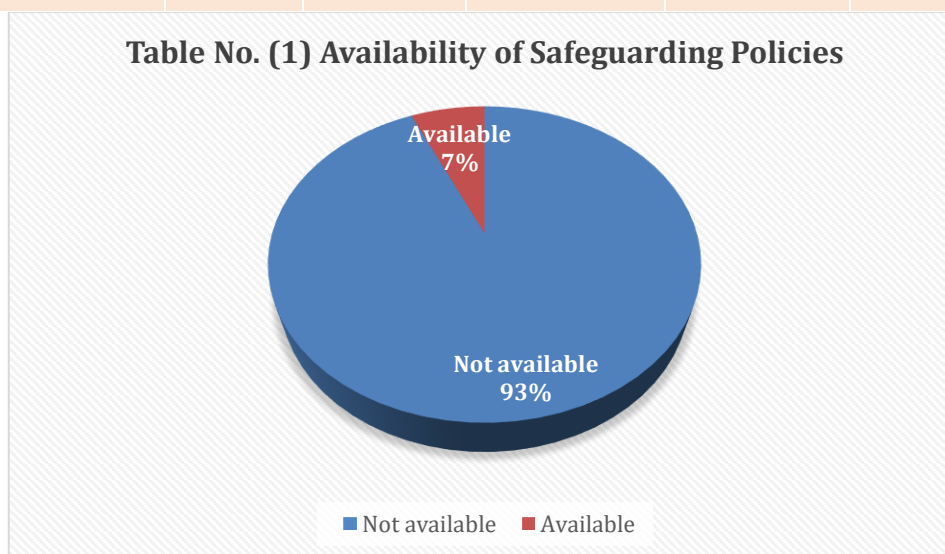


Table No. (2) Importance of having safeguarding policies

Item	Respondent No.	Importance				Importance Percentage	Level of Need
		Very Important	Important	Unimportant	N/A		
Importance of Adopting and Implementing Safeguarding Policies in Institutions	45	29	14	0	2	95.6%	High

Table No. (2) Importance of Having Safeguarding Policies

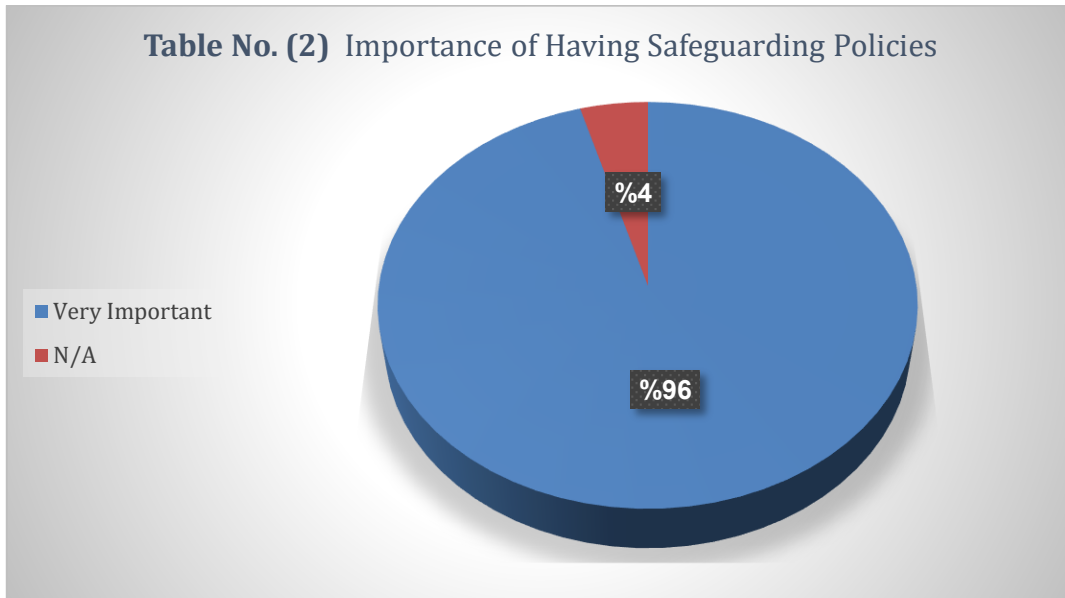


Table No. (3): The importance of analyzing SEAH risks

Item	Respondent No.	Analysis Completion		Non-completion Rate	Level of Need
		Yes	No		
Institution has Previously Conducted a SEAH Risk Analysis	45	3	42	93.3%	High

Table No. (3) Institution Has Completed a SEAH Risk Analysis

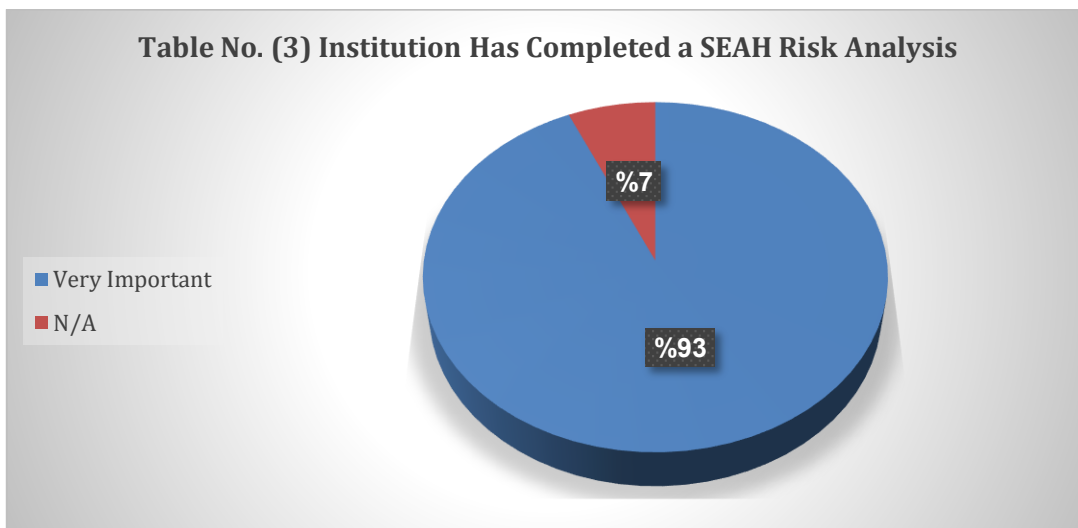


Table No. (4): Institutions' desire to join the Safeguarding Policy Development Programme:

Item	Respondent No.	Answer		Percentage	Level of Need
		Yes	No		
Institution's Desire to Develop Safeguarding Policies	45	45	0	100%	High

Table No. (4) Institution Willing to Develop Safeguarding Policies

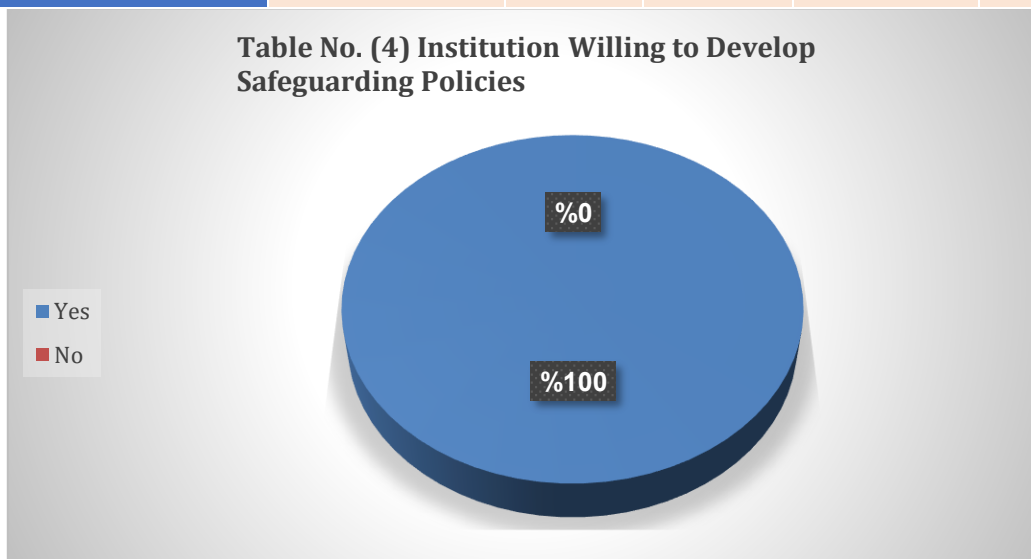


Table No. (5): Training employees and volunteers on Safeguarding concepts and policies

Item	Respondent No.	Previous Training		Untrained Staff Percentage	Level of Need
		Yes	No		
Previous Safeguarding Training for Staff and Volunteers	45	7	38	84.4%	High

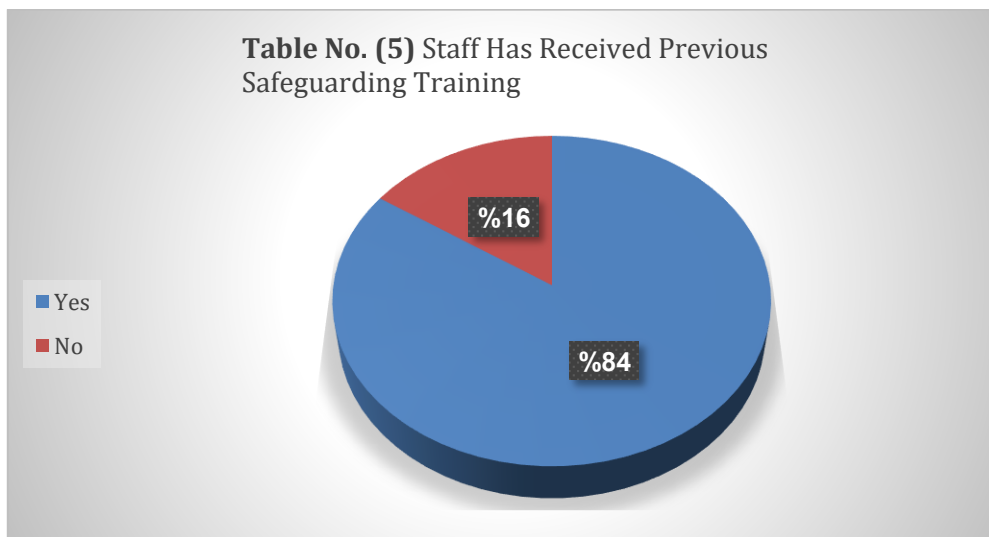
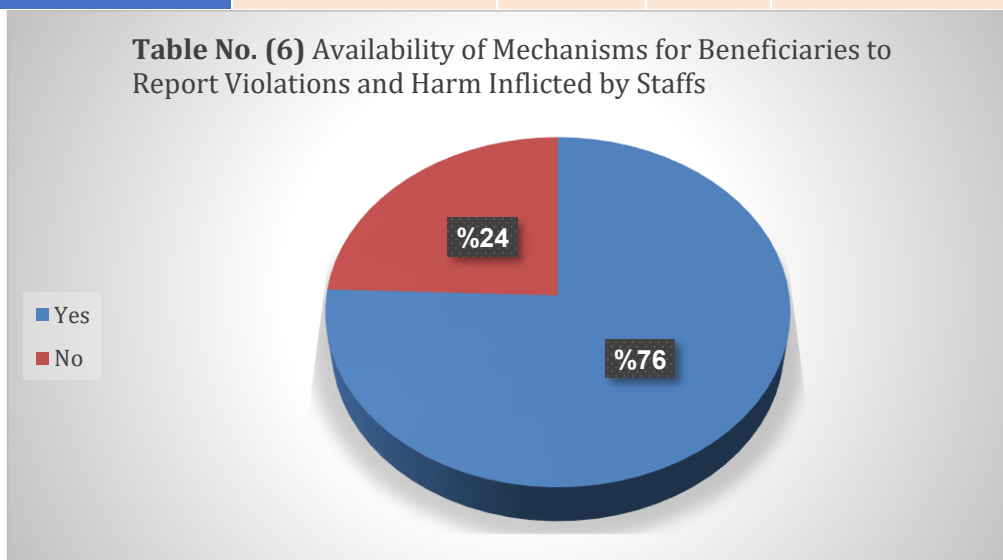


Table No. (6) Mechanisms for receiving reports from beneficiaries about violations and harm caused by institution staff

Item	Respondent No.	Available		Non-availability %	Level of Need
		Yes	No		
Mechanism Availability for Reporting Staff Violations	45	11	34	75.6%	High



Final Result:

After analyzing the needs assessments of local humanitarian organizations, Seyaj Organisation for Child Protection, in collaboration with the Youth Empowerment Foundation, determined that all items on the list of requirements indicated a high degree of need among the targeted organizations. The table below summarizes those needs.

Table No. (7): Overall Assessment of the List of Local Organizations' Safeguarding Needs

Level of Need	Need Percentage	Responding Sample No.	Need Item	#
High	93.3%	45	Need to provide safeguarding or prevention policies (SEAH)	1
High	95.6%	45	Importance of adopting and implementing safeguarding policies in institutions	2
High	93.3%	45	Need to conduct SEAH risk analysis	3
High	100%	45	Need to develop safeguarding policies	4
High	84.4%	45	Need for staff safeguarding training	5
High	75.6%	45	Need for mechanisms to receive beneficiary reports about institution staff violations	6

[Appendix No. \(1\) About Seyaj Organization](#) .

For more, [please visit our website](#).

To Report Safeguarding Violations

If you have complaints or concerns regarding any Seyaj employee, volunteer, consultant, or assistant, you can file a complaint with the lawyer in charge of receiving and investigating safeguarding violations by emailing PSEAH@seyaj.org or calling the designated reporting number: 733444663.

This mechanism has been established by the Seyaj Organisation for Child Protection to allow all members of society to report and lodge complaints in complete confidence regarding safeguarding violations by employees or volunteers working for the Seyaj Organization, a partner, or a service provider to beneficiaries. Additionally, you can report any harm that may have been brought on by a project or program of the organization.

Reporting any crime, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, or sexual harassment (SEA-H) is at the forefront of this.

Seyaj is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of work environment ethicality and operating in line with national laws, code of conduct, protection programmes, and safeguarding regulations.

Seyaj vows to take violations of the safeguarding principles and policies with the utmost gravity and to hold offenders accountable and subject them to strict administrative procedures, including complete dismissal and referral to the appropriate authorities in the nation in accordance with the law. It demands the same degree of dedication from all of its staff members, volunteers, partners, and service providers involved in its programmes and initiatives.

***Note:** In order to promote anonymous reporting, including your name and email address is optional.

When reporting, add as much information as possible, e.g.:

Identify the subject of the complaint, time and date of incidence, and perpetrator's name. In addition, specify whether there is any concern for anyone's safety, particularly that of minors and people with special needs, and whether or not the complaint has been forwarded to an official body.

Appendix No. (2) About the Youth Empowerment Foundation:

A Yemeni non-profit organization that has been licensed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor No. (13-2023). It strives to equip Yemeni youth with diverse life skills that will help them achieve their current and future goals by building capacity, supporting initiatives and activities, and giving the necessary support and assistance to enable the youth to contribute successfully across various spheres.

<https://yef-ye.org/>

<https://m.facebook.com/Youth.Empowerment.Foundation2023>

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