EMPOWERED AID: CENTERING LOCAL ACTORS IN BUILDING SCALABLE, EVIDENCE-BASED MODELS FOR SEA PREVENTION

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How might the ways we deliver humanitarian aid increase risks of SEA within affected populations?

Mitigating SEA risks through the creation or adaptation of aid delivery models that work to actively reduce power disparities and give women & girls a sustained voice in how aid is delivered.
Participatory Action Research

Dissemination & Uptake

Implementation Science

I am here to deliver the fuel voucher assistance you received a phone call about last week. Are you alone? Can I come inside to tell you more about this assistance?
Participatory Action Research Workshops
Reviewed study, defined research areas & tools

Data Collection
Conducted participatory FGDs & interviews with women & girls; other community members & key informants

Mid-Point Reflection Workshops
Reflected on our power and roles as researchers; create space for feedback and learning

Action Analysis Workshops
Shared and validated the findings and recommendations with women and girls

Partners in participatory action research phases
WOMEN & GIRLS’ RECOMMENDATIONS TO MAKE AID DISTRIBUTIONS SAFER – ACROSS LEBANON & UGANDA

Separate lines at distribution points for women/girls and men/boys to avoid them being pushed out of line, harassed, or targeted.

Transportation support to collect food, WASH, and other times, especially for vulnerable groups.

More women aid workers or women’s committees involved in aid distribution processes.

More security at distribution points (particularly WASH and fuel/firewood in Uganda and ATMs in Lebanon).

Formal/informal accompanying systems when women and girls collect/receive aid and information sharing on moving in groups.

Sessions for community sensitization to GBV / SEA and better knowledge and communication on SEA complaint on reporting mechanisms.

Visual representations of findings from Lebanon (left) and Uganda (below).
“Actually, the findings were exactly like what was happening in our communities. …After the team asked us about their findings, we agreed then from there they asked us about the recommendations. We came up with very many recommendations…”

Lady Aminah, South Sudanese co-researcher in Uganda

“We went through the distribution cycle as refugees, so we know better than anyone the risks we face across distributions. Our role was to provide the solutions to the problems we were facing.”

- Lama Sibaii, Syrian co-researcher in Lebanon

LISTENING TO AFFECTED PEOPLE IS A CRUCIAL FIRST STEP…

ACCOUNTABILITY MEANS PUTTING THEIR WORDS INTO ACTION
Six pilots conducted:
- Lebanon: Fuel and food pilot
- Uganda: Food, dignity kit & solar lamp pilot

Recommendations implemented
- Door-to-door distribution modality with at least one female aid worker present (Lebanon)
- Organizing small groups of aid recipients to come at pre-assigned (Uganda and Lebanon)
- More women aid workers at distribution sites (Uganda)
Women and men consistently identified the door-to-door distribution modality as safer during the household survey, citing avoiding SEA-related risks associated with taxis or going to a distribution site. (Source: Food & Fuel HHS)

Taxi transport was frequently identified as associated with SEA risk. Women mentioned cost of transport as a barrier to going to pick up aid, and noted fear around taking taxis. (Food HHS)

*Only applies to the door-to-door modality; **Only applies to the pre-assigned times distribution  (Source: Food & Fuel HHS)
TOOLKIT FOR PLANNING & MONITORING SAFER AID DISTRIBUTIONS

- **Targeting:** Humanitarian aid workers, M&E staff, researchers

- **Adapted & new** tools:
  1. Safety Audit
  2. Point of Distribution Questionnaire (PODQ)*
  3. Household Survey
  4. Focus Group Discussion Guide

- **Guidance** on how to plan, train, collect data, analyze data, and write-up findings for *action*
HELP AID WORKERS & RESEARCHERS BETTER PREVENT SEA IN AID DISTRIBUTION

Listen to diverse women, girls, and other members of affected communities

Apply Empowered Aid’s findings & recommendations to your context

Learn about participatory processes and how to utilize them in your own work

Navigate case studies based on findings from actual distributions of food, vouchers, and other aid.
SCALING UP AND SCALING OUT

• Expand partnerships to contextualize findings with women & girls and their communities in new contexts and for new types of aid

• Provide technical support to local and international organizations to mitigate risks of SEA.

• Continue to document and share a set of scalable models for safer aid with free guidelines, tools and resources and create a community of practice to make aid safer
How can I use Empowered Aid in my work?

Click on icons to be redirected to our free resources:

**STEP 1**
Learn how to reduce risks of SEA in distributions by reading our research findings and by enrolling in our online course and live discussions.

**STEP 2**
Contextualize our findings to your context using our participatory contextualization workshop guide.

**STEP 3**
Adapt your monitoring and evaluation tools to better capture risks of SEA and the impact of the recommendations you have implemented.

**STEP 4**
Adapt distributions based on findings from the contextualization workshop and monitor them with your newly adapted tools.

**STEP 5**
Share the results with our community of practice so that you can become part of the change to make humanitarian aid safer.

Our sector tip-sheets summarize key findings on SEA in relation to specific types of distributions and provide targeted recommendations to make them safer for women and girls.

Our free, self-paced online course (available in English, Arabic, French & Spanish) teaches you how to use participatory methods, how to prevent SEA in distributions & how to improve M&E processes.

Our Toolkit for Planning and Monitoring Safer Distributions helps you to adapt your M&E processes and tools to better capture and address risks of SEA.

Are you interested in working with us or do you need technical support? You can learn more about who we are and how to reach out to us here.
Special thanks to our co-researchers and partners in Bangladesh, Lebanon & Uganda, all those who participated in data collection, & national & global Technical Advisory Group members.

To all those working to better prevent & respond to SEA, we commit to amplifying & supporting each others’ work to achieve systemic change & actively center women & girls in how aid is delivered.

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All tools, guides, the free online course, and more available in multiple languages at: empoweredaid.gwu.edu