

REPORT FOR CONDUCTING THREE REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON SAFEGUARDING POLICY

*FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ACTORS IN THE MID-WESTERN,
KARAMOJA AND ACHOLI SUB REGIONS.*



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1. Background to the meeting

Over recent years, there has been increasing recognition of the way in which children, young people and vulnerable adults are at risk of discrimination, neglect, abuse and exploitation by those who are in positions of trust and power over them, including through international development activities. As a consequence, there has been a significant increase in the efforts made by development organisations to ensure that no harm results from the contact their employees, volunteers and other representatives have with their target populations or communities.

Safeguarding policies are a donor requirement especially for Local and National Organisations seeking funding in the humanitarian sector. Therefore, there is need to support the LNHA's delivering humanitarian response develop their own safeguarding policies as a pledge to protect communities they serve.

It is against this background that the National Humanitarian Platform for Local and National Humanitarian Actors conducted three orientation meetings for the members of the Mid Eastern platform for Local and National Humanitarian actors, Platform for Acholi Local and National Humanitarian Actors and the Karamoja Alliance for Local and National Humanitarian actors with support from a Resource Person. The purpose of the meetings was creating a deep understanding of what safeguarding is and also support members of the Mid Eastern Platform for Local and National Humanitarian actors to develop their own safeguarding policies in relation to the humanitarian context basing on the knowledge acquired in the meeting and the handbook/policy guide on safeguarding. The meetings took place on the 26th, 29th and 30th March 2021 in Kagadi, Kotido and Gulu respectively.

The meetings were attended by mainly Executive Directors and senior management team members of the organisations that were invited an aspect which was good because the meeting needed staff in decision making positions.

2. Presentation and key discussion issues

The consultant started her presentations by re-echoing the objective the meeting, the importance of safeguarding in the humanitarian context, why the need for a safeguarding handbook/policy guide and who it is intended for. She also took them through how to develop a safeguarding policy in a step-by-step approach including the key sections in the policy. She informed them that the developed handbook on how to develop a safeguarding policy is a guide and so should be customized as per organizational context. Below were some of the key discussion issues from the participants after the presentations:

- a) Some organisations such as IRC, World Vision, FOCAPAWA and NUWOSO have safeguarding policies, but the representative confessed that they were not giving it much attention and its importance.

- b) Some participants realized that they have some policies such as anti- corruption, whistle blowing, code of conduct.
- c) This was an eye opener for some of the participants and committed them selves to provide back the feedback of the proceedings of the meeting.
- d) Some participants wanted to know if the safeguarding policy can be able to protect their office property such as laptops in case of theft.
- e) Participants proposed for another meeting to support them in finetuning the draft safeguarding policies that they would have developed.

3. Way forward and action points

Below are the key action points that each participant agreed upon to do when they go back as per the three regions:

3.1 Action points for the Mid-Western platform for Local and National Humanitarian actors

No	Organisation	Action point
1	IRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Relate the contents of the policy and what they have as an organisation. b) Share/disseminate the key lessons learnt with top management. c) Apply the policy in his day-to-day activities.
2	Kabarole Research Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop a draft safeguarding policy for KRC
3	Rwenzori Forum for Peace and Justice (RFPC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sensitise the staff about the safeguarding policy and its relevancy b) Take lead in the drafting of the safeguarding policy. c) Popularize the safeguarding policy for RFPC
4	Hope Partners Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Revise and implement what is in the policy. b) Sensitise other staff members on the importance of the policy. c) Discuss at length on the policy.
5	Bulisa Initiative for Rural Development (BIRUDO)	Discuss with the ED so that they can develop an organizational safeguarding policy
6	World Vision	Internalizing on the Child and Adult Safeguarding policy of World Vision using the guidance shared by the consultant
7	KCSO	Orient the staff on the relevance and guidelines for the development of the safeguarding policy

3.2 Action points for the Karamoja Alliance for Local and National Humanitarian actors

No	Organisation	Action point
1	RADO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Write to the board of directors to task them to come up with a safeguarding policy. b) Orient the staff on the proceedings from the safeguarding meeting. c) Take lead in developing the draft safeguarding policy for RADO
2	Communication for Development Foundation Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Already have the safeguarding policy though it looks obsolete because it was developed way back in 2002. So will ensure liaison with the senior management team to input what has been learnt to update the policy
3	Aridland Development Programme (ADP)	Support ADP to develop the safeguarding policy
4	WIDEA	Brief the ED and the board on need to develop the safeguarding policy
5	Nakarere Rural Women Action (NARWOA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Share the information with ED, HR and manager on the importance of developing the safeguarding policy. b) Then develop a draft policy with guidance from the board of directors
6	Riamriam Civil Society Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Work with the staff to develop the safeguarding policy. b) Conduct staff training/induction on safeguarding policy and submit a report of the training to the ED
7	AWARE Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Holding a meeting with the Board of Directors to share the proceeds from the meeting. b) Develop a safeguarding policy and ensure that it is approved. c) Communicate and submit a copy of the developed policy to the LNHA's
8	Vision Seed of Hope	Will use the safeguarding manual being developed as a guide to develop the some of the safeguarding policies such as sexual harassment and child protection policies

9	Foundation of Rural Disabled Persons Organisation (FORDIPOM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide feedback to the board of directors and staff about the need to develop a safeguarding policy. b) Start on developing the safeguarding policy
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3.3 Action points for the Platform for Acholi Local and National Humanitarian Actors

No	Organisation	Action point
1	ARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop the safeguarding policy within a period of 3 months.
2	K-WAF	Develop the organizational safeguarding policy by end of June 2021
3	WORUDET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Orient fellow staff members on the importance and need of a safeguarding policy. b) Formulate the safeguarding policy putting in mind the idea of context of the environment.
4	NUWOSO	Review the organizational safeguarding policy and document best practices as well as identify areas that are missing in the policy to be addressed.
5	Pader NGO Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Brief the staff on the importance and need for the safeguarding policy. b) Develop a safeguarding policy by Dec 2021
6	Women Voice for Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Have a meeting the staff to go through the safeguarding policy and make it acquainted to them. b) Re- activate and amend the safeguarding policy of the oragnaisation
7	FOKAPAWA	Review of the safeguarding policy
8		Ensure that the existing safeguarding policy is put into practice especially when implementing project activities.

4. List of participants

List of participants for the Mid-Western platform for Local and National Humanitarian actors

No	Name	Organization	Phone number
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1	Tumwesige Keneth	BIRUDO	0781316301
2	Ayesiga Joyce	World Vision	0782663246
3	Mwanje Candise	World Vison	0702657530
4	Katajogya Alice	Kabarole Research and Resource Center	0772990050
5	Kyokusiima Maureen	Hope Partners Africa	0775177552
6	Bisoro Andrew	World Voices Uganda	0779999484
7	Tamezira Poyonofisha	KCSON	0782294914
8	Musiguzi Leonard	International Rescue Committee	0785989585

List of participants for the Karamoja Alliance for Local and National Humanitarian actors

No	Name	Organization	Phone number
1	Teko John	Riamriam Civil Society Network	0783780144
2	Lomonyang Anna	FORDPOM	0782762417
3	Max Choudry	Rural Action for Development Organisation	0773040006
4	Loboria David	AWARE	0777059895
5	Onyango Daniel		0778300276
6	Ambrose Toolit	GARD	0392841225
7	Omara Jonathan	Nakere Rural Women Activist	0781322098
8	Kapel Mary grace	Aridland Development Programme abim	0773505449
9	Kapel immy mike	CDFU	0772683131

List of participants for the Platform for Acholi Local and National Humanitarian Actors

No	Name	Organization	Phone number
1	Adong Babra	NUWOSO	0772810812
2	Abalo Dorit	Women Voice for Development	0773704947

3	Andrew Simbo	Keru Women Action Forum	0781603728
4	Odongo George Otto	Pader NGO Forum	0772971722
5	David Oryem	FOKAPAWA	0782253693
6	Opoka Brian	WORUDET	0782159617
7	Otto Ben	Advocates for Research in Development	0772329841
8	Arao Chogeta	NUWOSO	0771628876
9	Okello James	NUWOSO	0777485948