



IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES: PREVENTION OF ABUSE & EXPLOITATION OF BENEFICIARIES BY NGOs, COMMUNITY LEADERS, etc...

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Lesson Learned –Exploitation/Abuse Exist...

- *We have a big problem;*
- *Most of the time, they go undocumented and unreported;*

Challenges – Risks of dealing with Exploitation & Abuse of beneficiaries

- *As an agency, the biggest problem most times is our staff...few bad eggs can ruin every good work;*
- *Instead of trying to get them to be very good on their jobs, support them to become good people, then they can do better job;*
- *There must be stiff punishment for this kind of inhumane behaviors...termination is my final recommendation...*
- *Lead by example;*
- *Use element of Surprises...through segregation of duties/...it ensures accountability; {this might not be good enough}*
- *People with authority have so much power to spoil your work;*
- *First thing comes to mind here are community leaders...how about your partners...contractors...etc...;*
- *They must know your values while working with you;*
- *They must know that beneficiaries are your clients, they can't mess with your customer base;*
- *The beneficiary ignorance... very prevalent in Women & Girls in Borno state;*
- *The more they know the better;*
- *Explore every avenue to let them know;*
- *Knowing is as important as receiving assistance;*

Exploitation & Abuse Prevention Messages

The IRC is your friend!

- *The IRC is here to support you regain your life back;*
- *We'll treat you properly and with respect in all our interactions;*
- *We will be;*
 - *Polite;*
 - *Independent and simple;*
 - *Sensitive to gender;*
 - *Fair;*
 - *Capable;*
 - *No hidden agenda;*
 - *No exploitation;*
 - *We have a responsibly to support you and your community;*

Watch Out!...

Don't do this to any one [our staff, volunteers or anybody];

- *Don't give or accept bribe or favor in order to access assistance;*
- *Don't let anyone abuse you in order to give you assistance;*
- *We don't bully, ask for sex or use abusive word in trying to support you. If that happens report to IRC immediately;*
- *We don't threaten you or behave unethical with children;*
- *We don't ask for sex in exchange for relief assistance;*

If this happens make sure someone in IRC is aware!!!

Things to Know-your rights

Those in need of humanitarian assistance have rights, including;

- *Right to receive assistance;*
- *Right to live with dignity;*
- *Right to be protected from harm;*
- *Right to get the right information to make good decisions;*
- *Right to be part of decision-making that may affect your right to complain if things are not done right;*

COMPLAINTS ...

Stop any IRC staff and inform him/her immediately, it's your right to complaint!!!

Interesting Findings ...

- *Knowledge is power...if they know...they can't be abuse/exploited...;*
- *Especially women & girls in the first instance feel empowered by the EA prevention messages...;*
- *If agency don't emphasis this risk...exploitation/abuse is very likely to take place;*
- *Beneficiary abuse & exploitation is always happening, most times decision makers are not aware it is happening;*
- *Beneficiaries are very likely not to mention exploitation/abuse because of fear or cultural norms;*
- *Strong protection mainstreaming targeting women & girls has proven to reduce the risk;*
- *Community leaders and religious leaders are powerful stakeholders. If they buy the idea, there is high tendency that exploitation/abuse will never occur;*

Further Learning/Recommendation

- Despite all the sensitization, acceptance, continuous monitoring is key;
- Effective coordination with key protection sectors/programmes like WPE/Protection has help the IRC reach more women & girls with these prevention/empowerment messages;
- At project startup, Protection team should be consulted especially on women & girls issues and how project could target them without doing harm in the communities;
- **Effective communication:** *programme team should explain to the communities the criteria for targeting, why and what the expectations are associated with this targeting, feedback mechanism;*

THANKS!

ANY ?????