Practical examples for implementing safeguarding at the project level
Introduction

UK Aid Direct grant holders implement a range of measures to ensure that they have project level safeguarding in place to protect their beneficiaries, staff, volunteers, and anyone else who comes into contact with their project, from harm and abuse.

In this document, we have collated some practical examples of ways grant holders are implementing safeguarding at a project level.

Thank you to the following organisations for their contributions: MEMPROW, Afghanaid, The Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance, Saferworld, Raising Futures Kenya, Carers Worldwide and Sense International.

Photo credit: A parent watches videos during one of Sense International’s safeguarding trainings in Kericho County, Kenya

About this publication

This safeguarding guidance was published March 2021. If you have any accessibility issues with the document, please contact ukaiddirectcomms@manniondaniels.com.
1. MEMPROW

Mentoring and Empowerment Programme for Young Women (MEMPROW) have a Jo Cox Memorial Strengthening grant to implement a 36 month-long women’s empowerment project in Uganda. The project is called ‘Strengthening feminist consciousness and agency to disrupt patriarchal norms and practices/mindsets’.

Recognising the increased risks for girls and women during COVID-19, MEMPROW commissioned safeguarding focused radio infomercials. The infomercials encouraged community members to be vigilant to the increased risks posed to women and girls, and featured community leaders like community development officers and Parish Chiefs to endorse the messages.

Details of safeguarding reporting mechanisms and referral pathways were also featured in the infomercials.

2. Afghanaid

Afghanaid have a UK Aid Direct Impact grant to implement a three-year women’s empowerment project in Afghanistan entitled ‘Empowering Afghan women to reduce poverty and promote equality’.

The organisation is committed to ensuring that the communities they work with understand their rights and the project’s approach to safeguarding them. They have translated their safeguarding policies into the local languages of Dari and Pashto, and provided each community with a copy of the policy.

3. The Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance

The Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA) are delivering a three-year health project with a UK Aid Direct Community Partnership grant entitled, ‘Building a compassionate community in Bangladesh working towards universal health coverage’.

The organisation facilitated a review meeting with their Palliative Care Assistants (PCAs) whose role it is to carry out home visits to beneficiaries. Following feedback from the PCAs which highlighted that they did not feel safe carrying out initial visits with new beneficiaries alone, WHPCA adapted the project to ensure that all initial visits to new patients are carried out by two PCAs for safety reasons.

Organisations should recognise the increased safeguarding risks posed by COVID-19 and other pandemics/epidemics.

Regular safeguarding risk assessments should be carried out to adapt to the changing situation.

Map and create linkages with local services available for survivors of abuse.

Ensure your safeguarding approach is appropriately adapted and made accessible to all beneficiaries, communities, staff and volunteers.

Regularly review your project design from a safeguarding perspective.

If new safeguarding risks are identified through review points or beneficiary or staff feedback, appropriate adaptations should be made.
4. Saferworld

Saferworld, a UK Aid Direct Impact grant holder is implementing a three-year conflict resolution project in South Sudan, entitled ‘Contributing to poverty reduction through community security and peacebuilding’.

Following a pilot in Myanmar, Saferworld developed a safeguarding training pack for each of their country offices.

Staff safeguarding training is now delivered during three-day workshops at the beginning of every project and as refresher training also, during it. Each session is tailored to the context the project is working in and focuses on ensuring that project staff understand the power and gender dynamics behind:

- Why safeguarding incidents occur
- How to mitigate the likelihood of these incidents, and
- How to support survivors of abuse or harassment.

5. Raising Futures Kenya

Raising Futures Kenya have a Small Charities Challenge Fund grant to implement a two-year livelihoods project - ‘Holistic skills training, mental health and business support for marginalised young people’ - in Kenya.

The organisation has developed their whistleblowing policy and introduced an additional reporting mechanism of suggestion boxes for the students and young people they work with. The suggestion boxes were introduced following concerns that students did not feel comfortable reporting concerns via other mechanisms and wanted an anonymous way to do so.

Training and sensitisation sessions around safeguarding, and the ways in which concerns could be reported were delivered to all students.

Posters on the various reporting mechanisms were also displayed around the centres.

Photo credit: A suggestion box for concerns, Raising Futures Kenya
6. Carers Worldwide

Carers Worldwide have a Jo Cox Memorial Strengthening grant to implement a two-year women’s empowerment project entitled ‘Promoting social and economic empowerment of carers by strengthening women-led carers associations’ in Nepal.

At the start of the pandemic, Carers Worldwide recognised the increased risks associated with carers and their families due to being more isolated in the home and living under increased emotional and financial strain.

They held sessions with staff and carer representatives to remind them of concerning behaviours to look out for when conducting home visits, and the actions that should be taken if they suspect abuse is taking place in the home.

7. Sense International

Sense International have a UK Aid Direct Impact grant to implement a three-year disability inclusion project entitled ‘Learning for all: inclusive education for learners with complex disabilities’ (in Kenya).

The organisation have ensured their safeguarding resources are accessible and tailored to every audience. This has included:

- Creating a safeguarding video for parents of children with complex disabilities which explains: what safeguarding is, recognises the types of abuse that can occur in the communities, where these can happen and who might abuse children; the rights of children to grow up in a safe environment - including Kenya’s laws, that prohibit abuse of children - ; where, and how parents can report any safeguarding concerns they have; and how reported cases are handled; and mapping of local child protection and health services available like the police, child helpline, children’s officers, hospitals etc.
- Developing a safeguarding awareness brochure for project stakeholders.

In addition to ensuring that the safeguarding approach is appropriately adapted and made accessible to all beneficiaries, communities, staff and volunteers, grant holders should also engage and sensitise all other relevant project stakeholders in their safeguarding approach.

Ensure that staff, volunteers and stakeholders receive regular safeguarding training throughout a project.

Given the changing context and increased risks associated with any pandemic/epidemic, ensure all staff are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities, know how to identify and mitigate risks, and are briefed on any changes to the project’s safeguarding approach in light of the situation.
Additional reading

UK Aid Direct recommends visiting Bond’s website for additional support in safeguarding:

•  [www.bond.org.uk/resources-support/safeguarding](http://www.bond.org.uk/resources-support/safeguarding)

Getting in touch

If you would like to get in contact with any of the grant holders featured, to find out more about their safeguarding approach or strengthening measures, please contact us by email at [ukaiddirect@manniondaniels.com](mailto:ukaiddirect@manniondaniels.com) and we will try to facilitate this.

You can also visit [www.ukaiddirect.org](http://www.ukaiddirect.org) for more information about the UK Aid Direct fund and for additional learning materials.

Reporting a safeguarding concern

If you have a safeguarding concern you can report it by contacting the UK Aid Direct Safeguarding Lead by email at [ukaidssafeguarding@manniondaniels.com](mailto:ukaidssafeguarding@manniondaniels.com) Alternatively, you can contact the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) directly, through the following secure email address: [reportingconcerns@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:reportingconcerns@fcdo.gov.uk)

Photo credit: Afghanaid