

Country Assessment

Jordan Hub

MENA Resource and Support Hub



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Background

The Country Assessment provides an analysis of the safeguarding landscape in Jordan with the aim of informing the design and operationalisation of the Jordan Hub.

It provides detail on the national context as well as the key stakeholders, initiatives and resources that already exist to address safeguarding and Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH) in Jordan.

It identifies the strengths, gaps and needs, and provides recommendations on the immediate priorities and opportunities for the Jordan Hub.



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Methodology

The information for the assessment was collected using a mixed-methods approach.

1. A **desk review** was conducted to identify existing policies and legislative frameworks relating to the protection of women and other marginalised groups and supporting or undermining safeguarding
2. An **online survey** was conducted with 33 INGOs and local NGOs located in governorates throughout Jordan
3. **5 key informant interviews** (KIIs) were conducted with NGOs, and semi-government institutions to understand the safeguarding capacity and the challenges faced

Limitations include a small sample size, respondents from outside the priority target group and minimal qualitative data.



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Context in Jordan

The risks and issues that impact on SEAH/safeguarding in Jordan include:

- The country's social norms, attitudes, customs, and practices which negatively impact women and girls
- Certain stipulations in the legal framework, such as the Personal Status Law, reinforce social norms, attitudes and practices that negatively affect women
- Although the Jordanian Labour Law criminalises sexual harassment, the definition of harassment is vague and only addresses physical assault, not verbal
- The reported numbers of incidents do not represent an accurate picture of SEAH in the context of Jordan



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Key stakeholders

The SEAH/ safeguarding discussion is led by a relatively small number of key stakeholders in Jordan. These include:

- Some NGOs
- Some semi-governmental organisations
- Some international organisations
- PSEA Network
- Other coalitions/networks aiming to address SEAH are the Jordanian Women's Union, Jordan National NGOs Forum, Jordanian Women's Network to Defend Women's Rights and Participation in Jordan, Shama'a ("candle")
- Official bodies that play a role in investigating reported instances of SEAH and referring cases for additional support are the Public Security Directorate and Family Protection Department



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Key findings

Respondents identified the following challenges to implementing safeguarding:

- **Difficulty of applying 'international standards'** for safeguarding in context, with no legal provisions mandating organisations to adhere to safeguarding-related legislation
- **Cultural and social norms** deriving from a patriarchal society which can reinforce negative perceptions of women
- **Limited funding and technical capacity** available for safeguarding, including a lack of affordable and qualified experts and challenges to obtaining foreign funding
- **Challenges of reporting and responding to concerns**, including a lack of trained service providers



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Key recommendations

The Jordan Hub can address these challenges and strengthen capacity on safeguarding in the following ways:

- Ensure international standards and **support to organisations are contextualised** and based on the local context
- Engage multiple stakeholders, networks, and semi-governmental and INGOs in **dialogue around partnership in safeguarding**, building on PSEA network efforts
- Offer **long-term support to NGOs** and address the root causes of SEAH in Jordan
- Use **blended approaches** that mix in-person and online trainings
- Leverage high internet usage to **maximise use of the website** and its features, such as the resource library
- Facilitating **peer-to-peer exchanges** to work with and support partners in strengthening SEAH policies



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Thank you!

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