

Five key focus areas to strengthen child SEA/H prevention and response in World Bank projects¹

	If...	Consider that...	And ask...
1	The sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEA/H) risk assessment and categorization does not mention <i>child</i> SEA/H risks	Adult SEA/H and child SEA/H are different, and certain contexts exacerbate project-induced risks.	What factors and contexts have been weighed in this project to assess the specific child SEA/H risks in this project?
2	An SEA/H action plan will be developed but there is no plan or outline present in the documents and/or the budget is unstated	A draft SEA/H action plan provides a clear roadmap for assessing, mitigating, and monitoring project SEA/H risks and should be disclosed before approval. Without a defined budget, costs may be underestimated, jeopardizing effective prevention and response.	Can you share a draft SEA/H action plan to have clarity on the activities, timeline, responsible actors, and budget? Can you provide a detailed explanation of how the budget for the SEA/H action plan has been estimated and secured to avoid delays/flaws in implementation?
3	The grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be gender-sensitive, but it does not mention that it will be child-friendly	Being gender-sensitive is not indicative of its ability to serve children.	What specific steps will be taken so that the GRM is accessible and understandable to children?
4	Service providers are mentioned, but their capacities to handle child SEA/H are not assessed	Failing to map, contract, address, and fill the gaps of service providers to handle child SEA/H can compromise victims' access to the support services they need.	What strategies are in place to address any gaps in the service providers' capacities to handle child SEA/H?
5	Capacity-building components focus on gender-based violence (GBV) and SEA/H but do not reference child SEA/H and how this is linked to the project	Lack of awareness can lead to underreporting of cases and to actors not bringing up concerns about the topic because they don't understand how they are linked to the project.	What commitments will be made to guarantee that training and awareness-raising activities will cover child SEA/H concepts and the link between the project and child SEA/H incidents?

¹ These five areas are based on the Bank's Good Practice Notes (GPNs) addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/H) in both [human development](#) (HD) operations and large [infrastructure](#) projects involving major civil works

FAQ

1. What are the GPNs on addressing SEA/H in large infrastructure projects and human development operations?

In 2022, the Bank issued two Good Practice Notes (GPN) on addressing SEA/H in large [infrastructure](#) projects involving major civil works (third-edition) and in [human development](#) (HD) operations, with the sole purpose of better addressing child SEA/H. These GPNs are the result of lessons learned by the Bank due to failures in handling SEA/H in [Uganda](#) and reflect best practices on addressing child SEA/H. While non-binding, these GPNs guide Bank staff in supporting Borrowers to meet their obligations under the Environmental and Social Framework ([ESF](#)).

2. Why are specific child SEA/H measures needed in project documents?

Preventing and responding to child SEA/H necessitates specific measures that will differ from measures designed for adults. If these specific measures are not explicitly included in project design, then child-specific risks are rarely addressed during project implementation, potentially resulting in greater harm to children.

3. To what extent are GPNs being integrated into project documents?

A glimpse at documents for projects approved in the first half of 2024 reveals that child SEA/H risks and prevention measures are not consistently included in project documents .

4. How can ED offices benefit from using this tool?

By using this tool to review projects before project approval, ED offices can identify projects where the Bank is falling short on child SEA/H prevention. Using that knowledge as the basis for proactive conversations with management can strengthen the Bank's institutional efforts to address SEA/H, signal to management where improvements can be made, and encourage task teams to effectively integrate child SEA/H prevention and response into project documents. Over time, this can lead to improved risk management practices while reducing future economic, reputational, and human costs of project-related child SEA/H.

5. Who on the ED team can benefit the most from using this tool?

This tool is designed for all ED advisors. It does not require extensive expertise on the subject nor a significant time commitment. Instead, it provides a concise checklist of key measures to review in project documents, along with essential questions to ask before approval.

6. To which projects does this tool apply?

This tool reflects measures from the GPN on addressing SEA/H in infrastructure projects and HD operations. It can be used to review project documents of Bank-funded projects in the transport, energy, water and sanitation, irrigation, urban infrastructure, education, health, nutrition, population, social protection, and jobs sectors. ED offices can use this tool as a quick guide to review all projects or prioritize its use in projects from a specific portfolio. Notably, this tool will be most helpful in projects where children are the main beneficiaries or where there will be significant direct or indirect interactions between children and project workers.