

September 2024

GESI and PSEAH report

UNOPS Asia Regional Health Cluster (ARHC)

GESI and PSEAH in ARHC UNOPS

UNOPS is committed to gender equality, diversity and inclusion in its workforce and to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in the projects and programmes we deliver in response to partners' priorities and at the heart of sustainable implementation approaches. This commitment includes the prevention and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH). UNOPS has joined a number of United Nations system common efforts in this area.

As one of the units in UNOPS, the Asia Regional Health Cluster (ARHC) is also dedicated to supporting gender equality and social inclusion both within our workforce and the programmes we implement. As the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund grants, ARHC has initiated special measures to ensure the integration of gender considerations within the HIV, TB and malaria programmes at every stage of the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation since the programmes began in 2011. This means that ARHC has been proactively mainstreaming gender in the programme since 2011. These dedicated efforts have specifically focused on ensuring equitable and inclusive interventions within the programmes, leaving no one behind.

In addition, ARHC began conducting advocacy and raising awareness about the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment among PR and partner organizations in 2020. ARHC provided necessary training for Sub-Recipients (SRs) implementing Global Fund grants in the Greater Mekong Subregion—Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam—with technical support from the UNOPS Gender and PSEA unit. Specifically, CSO SRs are implementing PSEAH-related activities to meet PSEA minimum requirements and ensure compliance during the implementation of the Global Fund grants.

GESI and PSEAH activities in 2023

01. Activities within the office

1.1. Internal PSEAH session

In 2023, several PSEAH sessions were held internally for ARHC UNOPS colleagues. Two internal PSEAH sessions were integrated into the respective in-person workshops, and one for Cambodia team was conducted virtually.

	Date	M	F	Total
Myanmar Programme and M&E Team	4 December	14	24	38
Five Countries' Procurement Team	6 November	8	40	48
Cambodia team*	21 July	17	15	32
Total		39	79	118

*Note: This session convened with all UNOPS Cambodia team, not only for the ARHC team.

1.2. International Day (16 days of activism) commemoration in 2023

ARHC produced card news with facts and figures, and short video clips to help the ARHC colleagues understand Gender-Based Violence and encourage their participation in the 16 Days of Activism from 27 November to 10 December 2023.

ARHC Card News #4 #NoEXCUSE


16 Day of Activism against Gender Based Violence


Our partners' commitment to prevent GBV

Are you aware that ARHC conducted Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) training for our Myanmar partners in October and November? Let's hear their thoughts on preventing GBV.

"I firmly believe the battle against gender-based violence is not just a women's fight. I would like to call for the active involvement of men as advocates and defenders to end gender-based violence."

DAW JU JU CHO
COUNSELLING SUPERVISOR
SHOKLO MALARIA RESEARCH UNIT





"I believe education is the key. As a training officer, I have been actively engaging in awareness campaigns and training to educate others about the prevention of gender-based violence. It is our responsibility to create a safer environment for everyone and to build a society free from gender-based violence."

U ZAW HTUN
TRAINING OFFICER, PYI GYI KHIN

GESI and PSEAH activities in 2023

02. Capacity building and technical support for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Gender Based Violence (GBV)

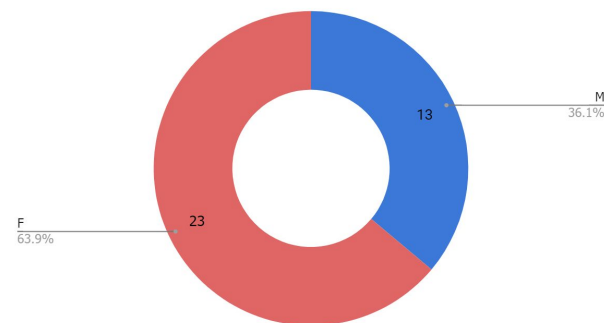
2.1. GESI and GBV Trainer of Training for CSO SRs in Myanmar

The GESI and GBV Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted virtually for CSO SRs in Myanmar. This ToT targeted potential trainers within each organization who will play a crucial role in disseminating GESI and GBV knowledge to their staff and volunteers engaged in Global Fund-funded projects. The training covered essential topics such as GESI concepts, key approaches for GESI mainstreaming, prevention and response strategies for GBV, and the design and practice of gender training sessions.

2.2. Technical support for CSO SRs' GESI and GBV planning

Each CSO SR has developed an internal training plan for GESI and GBV topics. For each SR, the ARHC team, with support from the Gender Specialist, provided technical support and consultations for the training plan and agenda to conduct the well-organized training for their staff, volunteers and even communities. **6 CSO SRs** developed their GESI & GBV training plan with this support.

GESI & GBV training (2023)



GESI and PSEAH activities in 2023

03. Training for PSEAH

3.1. PSEAH refresher training for CSO SRs focal point in Myanmar

The PSEAH refresher training for focal points from Myanmar CSO SRs in late November 2023 was conducted by the UNOPS PSEA unit in Myanmar, which was three half day intensive training jointly for all implementing partners in Myanmar. (Note: PSEAH refresher training for SRs focal point in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam, and regional component was planned but postponed to 2024.)

	M	F	Total
No of focal points participated in the training	6	19	16

3.3. PSEAH awareness session for Laos partners

In May 2023, ARHC provided PSEA awareness raising to government entities while financing training and budget utilization Planning in Lao PDR.

	M	F	Total
No of participants	51	32	83

3.2. PSEAH awareness-raising session for Cambodia government partner (CNM)

ARHC had an opportunity to provide a PSEAH awareness-raising session for Cambodia's government partner, the National Center for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control (CNM) under RAI4E together with other CSO partners in Cambodia in Mid-December 2023. Total number of participants is **268** including UNOPS and CSOs' staff.

3.4. PSEAH session in the grant-making workshop in five countries

ARHC had a PSEAH session during the grant-making workshops in five countries to share the obligation of PSEAH and necessary actions for the partners in terms of the prevention and response of SEAH under the Global Fund grants and as the partner of UN entities.

- Vietnam on 29-31 May 2023
- Cambodia on 5 June 2023
- Lao PDR on 12-13 June 2023
- Thailand on 3 July 2023
- Myanmar on 5 July (TB), 11 July (HIV), 14 July (Malaria) 2023

GESI and PSEAH activities in 2023

04. Hands-on support for GESI and PSEAH

4.1. GESI and PSEAH sharing session in Country Dialogues

During the Country Dialogue in the countries of Global Fund RAI grant in the early year of 2023, ARHC also presented GESI and PSEAH topics and issues for key stakeholders who are working for malaria elimination in each country.

- Cambodia Country Dialogue on 20 Jan 2023
- Thailand Country Dialogue on 24 Jan 2023
- Vietnam Country Dialogue on 31 Jan 2023

4.2. Support for GESI and PSEAH in funding request development

ARHC provided hands-on support to develop essential documents related to gender and human rights and PSEAH, contributing to a more inclusive and safer programme environment. This included:

- Developing gender and human rights annexe documents for 5 countries
- PSEAH risk assessments for four countries and regional component

05. GESI mainstreaming in sustainable procurement

ARHC prioritizes sustainable procurement in accordance with the Procurement Manual and the Sustainable Procurement Framework. When establishing a Long Term Agreement (LTA), ARHC incorporates sustainable procurement considerations into the business case.

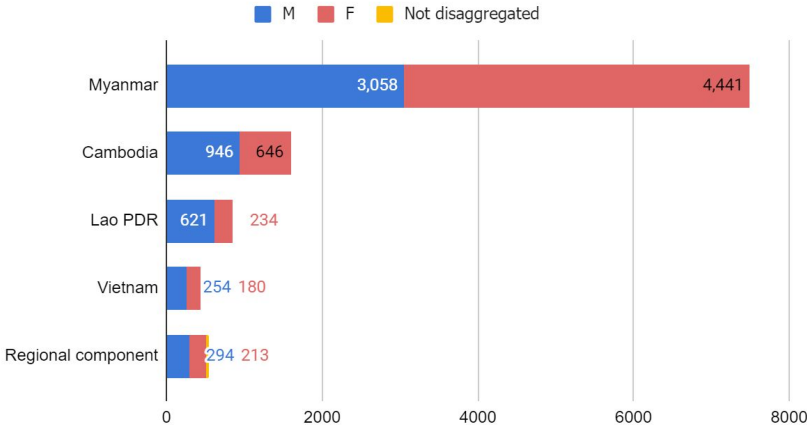
One of the examples is that when establishing the LTA for the supply of ARVs, gender mainstreaming criterion that demonstrates its commitment to supporting gender equality and women's empowerment through its operations, HR policies including clear prescriptions against forced labour/human trafficking in the supply chain were incorporated into the procurement process.

Additionally, all UNOPS offices, including ARHC, have been implementing the integration of the DRiVE supplier sustainability questionnaire. This applies to all relevant processes and this is a mandatory requirement for contracts awarded above USD 1 million. Each contract must meet at least one technical sustainability criterion and one gender mainstreaming criterion.

GESI and PSEAH activities in 2023

06. PSEAH implementation by our partners

Number of Staff & Volunteers trained PSEAH by Country

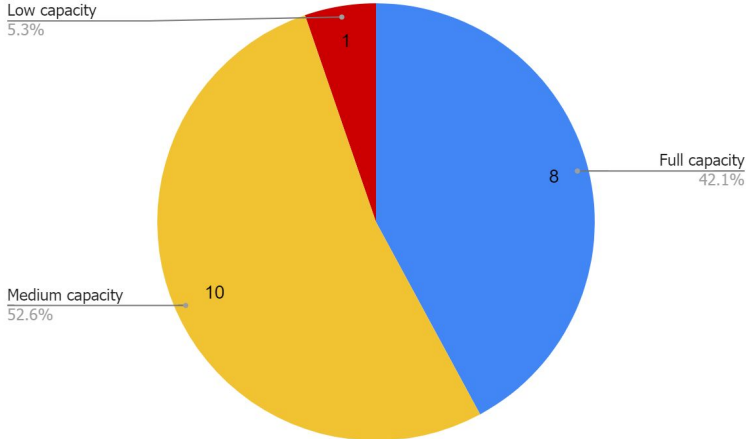


Since 2021, the implementing partners, the sub-recipients (SRs), under the Global Fund grants in the five Greater Mekong Subregion countries have been requested to conduct PSEAH training for all staff, including volunteers. In 2023, all the CSO SRs conducted training on the Code of Conduct and SEAH, including the six core principles, reporting and response, with all personnel as below.

In 2023, the SRs raised awareness of PSEA amongst community members, a **total of 6,216 beneficiaries** in the respective project sites of 5 countries as it is a critical step in the prevention process. The awareness-raising sessions highlight the definition of SEA and how to report cases.

All UNOPS SRs are required to continue yearly SEVEN PSEAH compliance activities, implement them annually, and submit the supporting documents accordingly. In 2023, 8 CSO SRs fully met all the seven PSEAH activities and 10 CSO SRs met most core standards. However, one CSO SR still remains not to the minimum standards.

**Note: Most of the CSO SRs implement more than one projects under the GF grants. The level of capacity is aligned with the PSEA capacity assessment conducted as part of the United Nations’ system-wide response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) when collaborating with implementing partners, effective June 2023.*



Looking Ahead: 2024 and Beyond

ARHC remains committed to promoting the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Integration (GESI) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) within the team, with key stakeholders and implementing partners. This includes supporting PSEAH activities under the Global Fund grants as a principal recipient. ARHC will provide refresher training on PSEAH to SRs' PSEAH focal points, offer technical support for PSEAH implementation in their organizations, and actively promote GESI principles in the activities. We aim to create a safer and more inclusive working environment, strengthen the capacity of our partners, and contribute to a positive impact on the communities.

Priority 1. Supporting SRs capacity building for all PSEA yearly compliance

ARHC will prioritize capacity building for SRs with medium and low capacity in PSEA compliance. By strengthening their capacity, we aim to ensure that all SRs have robust organizational policies and systems for preventing and responding to SEAH.

Priority 2. Maintain a strong focus on raising PSEAH awareness

ARHC will continue to support SRs in raising PSEA awareness within communities in project areas through health education or iCCM training, which the SRs can integrate. This will empower communities to understand their rights and know where to report any allegations.

Additionally, ARHC is keen to raise PSEAH awareness among all partners, including suppliers. ARHC has included a standardized PSEA clause in the contract with suppliers, and we will emphasize to all the implementing partners that they should do the same for the suppliers and contractors. Moreover, ARHC plans to provide brief PSEAH awareness raising to suppliers during the orientation.

Priority 3. Integrating Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

ARHC is committed to mainstreaming GESI across all programme activities. We will continue to encourage partners to raise awareness and build capacity among their staff, health workers, and volunteers. This includes integrating GESI considerations into programme design, implementation, and monitoring. ARHC will ensure that all activities carried out by SRs take into account gender equality and social inclusion principles, particularly in the context of three diseases.

GESI & PSEAH report 2024
UNOPS ARHC