

PSAE KAP Survey Methodology

Background

An important component of the second year of the Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (PSAE) project is rolling out awareness-raising activities of the Zero Tolerance of Sexual Exploitation directly to beneficiaries in refugee camps on the Thai-Burmese border. These activities aim to make refugees be aware of their right to access CCSDPT services and enjoy the protection provided by any and all humanitarian workers free of sexual abuse and exploitation. They are an integral part of mainstreaming protection from sexual abuse into the work of the CCSDPT member agencies.

In recognition of the important role of refugee awareness, one of the BPRM project requirements is that pre and post surveys be conducted at the beginning and end of the project cycle. The purpose of these surveys is to measure refugee awareness of their rights to good and services free of sexual abuse and exploitation.¹ Accordingly, surveys will be conducted with refugees in camps of Tak province, Mae Hong Son province, and Kanchanaburi province in January and February 2009 and in August and September 2009.

A Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) survey was also conducted in the first year of the project. The 2008 survey revealed that there are still major gaps in refugee awareness of the Zero Tolerance policy. Thus, the 2009 survey incorporates several of the questions that were present in the 2008 survey so that a partial comparison between the two project years can be made. Overall, the present survey strikes a balance between the information sought in the preceding year's survey and new content and question structure which is more relevant to the objectives of the PSAE project in year 2.

Preparation of Survey Questions

The PSAE Coordinator drafted the 2009 KAP survey in collaboration with the IRC Senior Protection Coordinator. Input will also be sought from the IRC Research and Evaluation department in New York as well as the Technical Advisor on Sexual Abuse and Exploitation. As previously stated, the survey incorporates several key questions from the 2008 survey. In particular, questions concerning attitudes and opinions on sexual abuse and exploitation have been kept in the 2009 survey.²

Survey Content

The PSAE KAP survey 2009 is provided here as Annex A. The survey divides into four major areas:

¹ The project proposal requires that 50% of the refugees surveyed demonstrate increased awareness.

² Questions 6, 10, 11, and 14 from the 2008 survey were kept with almost exactly the same wording in the 2009 survey as questions 25, 12, 26, and 27.

Demographic information

Questions 1-6 establish the age, time in camp, ethnic group, marital status, and employment status. Just before these questions, the person carrying out the survey is asked to mark the gender of the respondent, camp, and location within the camp.

Understanding of SAE and attitudes towards SAE

Questions 7 -12 seek to assess the respondent's understanding of what constitutes sexual abuse and exploitation by humanitarian workers. It also includes who are the most likely perpetrators and victims of abuse. Three questions at the end of the survey (25, 26, and 27) examine attitudes towards victims and the reasons driving SAE.

Awareness of rights

Questions 13 – 22 try to measure knowledge of the incidence of sexual abuse and exploitation in the camp as well as awareness of the PSAE project itself. These questions also address awareness of the right to access goods and services free of sexual abuse and awareness of NGO policy regarding staff behavior.

Reporting

Questions 23 -24 look briefly at the issue of reporting sexual abuse and exploitation and seek respondent opinions on the best manner in which to report cases.

Survey Team

The KAP survey will be undertaken primarily through the PSAE trainers based in Mae Sot and Mae Hong Son as well as through organizations such as the Karen Student Network Group (KSNG), Karen Youth Organization (KYO), and Karen Women's Organizations in Tak province and Kanchanaburi province and Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO) in Mae Hong Son province. The PSAE trainers will recruit survey teams from these CBOs and will strive to keep a gender, age, and ethnicity balance. At present, it is not possible to say exactly how many persons will be recruited to conduct these surveys. However, it is estimated that 2-3 persons will be recruited for each camp involved in the survey.³ The survey teams will be provided with specific instructions on carrying out the survey (one day or half-day will be used for this purpose).

³ The camps involved in the survey will be Mae La, Umpiem Mae, Nupo, Site 1 & 2, and Tham Hin and with time permitting, the surveys will also be conducted in Mae Lo Oon and Ban Don Yang as well.

Survey Field Test

The survey will need to be tested prior to starting the survey. The PSAE Coordinator estimates that 20-30 test surveys will need to be conducted by the PSAE trainers and the PSAE Coordinator in order to note any areas of difficulty, confusion, or other stumbling blocks and then make the necessary modifications. The PSAE trainers will be asked to take note of any difficulties, reluctance, time limitations, or other elements which impede completion of the survey or any questions which seem to cause confusion.

Sampling

Given the limited time and personnel involved in the PSAE project, the number of respondents will not be as high as would such a survey in ideal or more manageable conditions. It should be noted that the camps are in some cases very far away from Mae Sot, Mae Hong Son and Bangkok, and that communication opportunities with CBOs are sometimes minimal and that preparation time with the recruited survey teams may be limited. Consequently, the sample size that the survey will target is 500.

In as much as possible the sampling selection will balance random selection with targeted selection. Here, the survey selection will borrow from previous IRC experience of conducting protection-related surveys in the camps along the Thai-Burmese border.⁴ Random selection will be conducted by the survey teams dispersing to previously identified sections of each camp, chosen randomly (for example, Zone A, Zone B, Zone C can be chosen randomly by asking a colleague unaware of the project, then asking another colleague to pick a number between 1-15 in order to identify a section). The PSAE trainer and the recruited individuals will then go to each of the randomly sections and randomly select a street and visit houses at regular intervals. Each surveyor will attempt to complete 10 surveys in a day over a two day period (including the PSAE trainers themselves).

For more targeted surveying, the PSAE trainers and the PSAE Coordinator will discuss areas in which to conduct the surveys which allow more specific targeting (in relation to ethnicity, language, or gender). It will be important that the PSAE staff and the recruited surveyors conduct the survey with those who may have greater knowledge of SAE occurring in the refugee community (young women, students, health workers, teachers, etc.). The PSAE Coordinator and PSAE trainers will identify how to approach these groups as the survey rolls out. It should be noted here that the survey process will rely heavily on the existing outreach activities and schedule that have been in use in the PSAE project (i.e. established contacts with CBOs, beneficiaries with a specific interest in the PSAE project, regular meetings with camp committee members).

⁴ Specifically, the PSAE KAP survey will borrow from the sample selection methodology used in the Assessment of Protection Issues with a focus on Access to Justice and the Rule of Law conducted in 2007.

Location

Given the sensitive nature of the survey topic, the PSAE trainers and the survey teams will conduct the interviews individually and will do so in private settings. Ideally, the interview will take place in the respondents home as conducting the interview in a central location may prove logistically difficult and costly.

Time Frame

The pre survey will be conducted in the months of January and February in accordance to availability of target groups, recruited surveyors and in accordance to on-going PSAE outreach activities and workshops. Ideally, each surveyor will attend a day-long training on survey methodology and data collection and will carry out the survey in each camp over two days (three if necessary). The post surveys will be conducted as late as possible in the project cycle (August or September 2009).

Ethical Considerations

The survey will follow several basic ethical guidelines. Specifically, PSAE trainers, the PSAE Coordinator and the recruited surveyors will:

- ✓ Seek approval of the survey from the relevant camp-based organizations and authorities prior to beginning the survey, namely the camp committees, Karen Refugee Committee and the Karenni Refugee Committee.
- ✓ Obtain permission from each respondent before each interview, having provided a brief overview of the content of the survey questions and explained confidentiality protocols.
- ✓ Ensure the anonymity of every respondent; no surveyor will request and/or record a respondent's name on the paper work of each individual survey
- ✓ Ensure the confidentiality of the responses; no surveyor will share responses with anyone outside the survey team and those involved in the survey project.
- ✓ Will inform relevant partners (notably GBV and SGBV committees within camps as well as LAC personnel) of the dates they plan to conduct surveys so that these may be aware in advance that questions regarding sexual abuse and exploitation and abuse are to be asked of the beneficiary population
- ✓ If any specific disclosures of abuse are made directly to the surveyors, they will liaise with the PSAE trainer or PSAE coordinator to decide how to best follow-up on any such disclosures.

Anticipated Constraints

There are several constraints which the survey will encounter as it is being carried out. Among these are:

- ✓ A survey on sexual abuse and exploitation by humanitarian workers may meet hesitation, reluctance, or anxiety from some beneficiaries. The survey will not be able to guarantee that all responses are totally frank as beneficiaries may fear reprisals or withholding of humanitarian assistance as a result of answering truthfully. The surveyors and the PSAE team will take special care to preserve the anonymity of respondents.
- ✓ Language issues may also be a problem. While the PSAE coordinator has tried to keep the language of the survey as simple as possible, the complex nature of the issue and possible conceptual confusion (notably between gender-based violence and sexual abuse and exploitation) may make it both difficult for the surveyors to understand the questions they are asking and make it difficult for respondents to answer. The PSAE team will therefore make the surveyor training as clear and understandable as possible (it may be useful to rely on persons who have already had significant involvement with the PSAE project) for the recruited surveyors.
- ✓ There is little money budgeted for the surveys in the project proposal. Therefore, recruitment of the survey team, travel to the camps, purchasing equipment, and general implementation of the survey will have to employ minimal resources. The PSAE Coordinator and team will piggyback on existing activities, events, resources, and equipment as much as possible throughout the course of the survey.