

# South Sudan Hub end of phase 1 celebration

## From the Resource and Support Hub We will be starting Shortly

### Housekeeping

**You are on mute with video off** to support connection

**Chat is enabled to panelists** to support with tech issues

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# The Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub (RSH)

Supporting organisations in the international **humanitarian and development** sectors to strengthen their safeguarding policy and practice against **Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment** (SEAH)

## Vision

We are committed to being **collaborative**. We are driven by the needs of less-resourced **civil society organisations**, guided by **survivor-centred principles** and focused on **contextualised** products and services.

- RSH Global funded by UK Aid from December 2019 – November 2024 and RSH Eastern Europe funded by DEC from March 2022 – October 2023
- A global multilingual online platform which has set up 11 National Hubs across 4 regions

# What does the Online Hub have to offer?

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Tools and  
resources



E-learning  
course



Peer-learning  
via webinars



Directory of  
safeguarding  
consultants



Available in English, French, Swahili and more!

En | العربية | Français | Kiswahili



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# Our National Hubs

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## Africa

Ethiopia

Nigeria

South Sudan

## Middle East

Jordan

Syria

Yemen

## South Asia

Pakistan

Bangladesh

## Eastern Europe

Poland

Romania

Moldova

# Our approach in South Sudan

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- Set up in September 2020
- Primary audience is less resourced CSOs
- Partnership and collaboration are central
- Strategic priorities based on Country Assessment and user engagement
- Services are tailored, contextualised, translated and blended
- Activities include: a Hub website with contextually relevant and translated resources, a mentorship programme, Ask and Expert, tailored training in Juba, Torit and Wao and national research



# A snapshot of progress in South Sudan

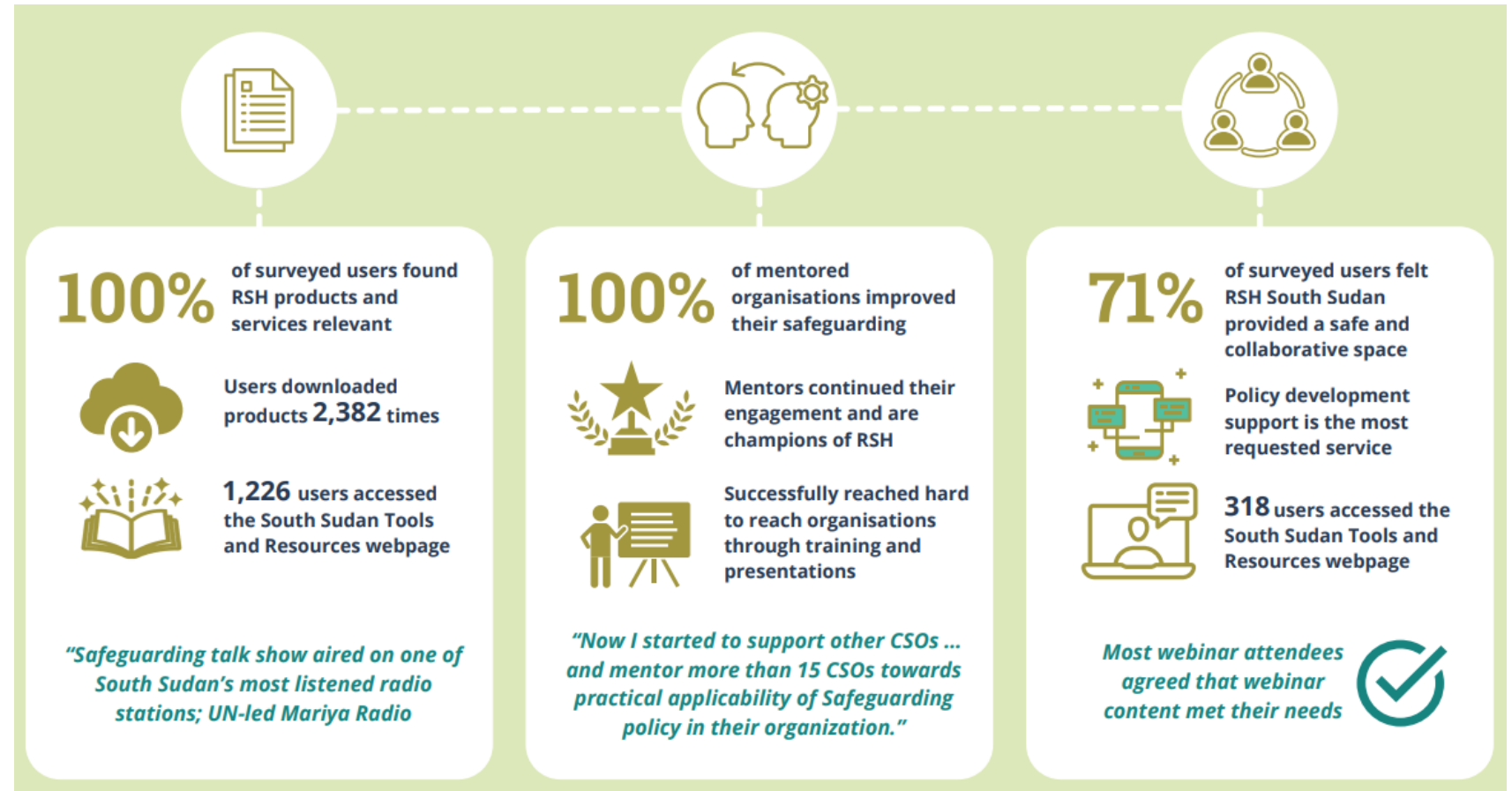
 **8,314**  
people  
accessed the  
South Sudan  
Hub site

**89%** of surveyed users agreed that RSH products improved their knowledge and understanding of safeguarding

 **Our audience:**

- CSOs
- Government
- Private sector
- INGOs

**91%** of surveyed users felt RSH has increased opportunities to share safeguarding experiences in the aid sector



# RSH South Sudan Hub End of Phase: What's next?

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- The need and demand for safeguarding support is still great in South Sudan
- Identifying funders and partners to take forward a locally owned and sustainable second phase

While this happens, some activities will remain...

# You can still...

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**Visit the South Sudan Hub website**

**Download resources** from South Sudan and other Hubs in the Library

**Complete the e-learning course** in English, Arabic and other languages

**Attend webinars** hosted by other Hubs

**Receive the global newsletter** for the latest news and events from across the Hubs





# NNGO LEADERS' PERCEPTIONS & EXPECTATIONS OF SAFEGUARDING GOVERNANCE IN SOUTH SUDAN



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# Introduction

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- Emerging safeguarding literature in South Sudan has not yet investigated the extent to which NNGO leaders' perceptions & expectations influence their organisations' governance responses to safeguarding action.
- This study examines a section of NNGO leaders' about their experiences of safeguarding practice in their respective organisations' context and conduct in South Sudan against the backdrop of Resource Support Hub's (RSH) programme in South Sudan and,
- It has provided pointers for what new adjustments and outlines are necessary to establish a sustainable safeguarding practice within NNGO organisations based on the ingredient of personal change at the leadership level.

It was conducted between November 2022 – January 2023 covering three states in South Sudan

- Central Equatoria -Juba,
- Eastern Equatoria – Torit
- Western Bahr el ghazal – Wau

# Rationale – Why this study?

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- RSH aims to support organisations in the aid sector in South Sudan to strengthen their safeguarding policy and practice against SEAH.
- Its target is less resourced local organisations in developing countries
- RSH works across three regions; Africa, Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Asia, in total there are 9 national hubs in Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Jordan, Syria, Yemen, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- As RSH identifies major gaps, it looks for ways to fill them, in collaboration with other partners and networks. Approaches used are development of resources including research pieces, mentorship, online training, webinars, and podcasts
- In order for RSH to give further recommendations on boosting safeguarding intervention in South Sudan among the less resource organisations, it is crucial that it explores the perceptions and expectations of NNGO leaders with regards to the governance of safeguarding in South Sudan through this study

# Objectives

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The overall objective of the study is to explore the perceptions, and expectations of NNGO leaders and examine how these influence NNGOs' governance responses to safeguarding practice in South Sudan. Specifically;

1. Assessing the levels of safeguarding knowledge, attitudes and practices and expectations of NNGO leaders and management staff and understand how these impact safeguarding.
2. Explore what works to and the challenges faced to build safeguarding practice among NNGOs in South Sudan.

## **The outcomes of the study**

1. Contribute to evidence gap linked to how leadership impacts safeguarding uptake.
2. Insights on what works to improve safeguarding practices in South Sudan.

# Methodology

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- **Desk review** - primarily covered RSH Safeguarding Framework (2020) which has served as the basis for its support to safeguarding practice in South Sudan over the last two years
- **Qualitative methods** were used to gather in depth information from a small sample of NNGOs through a mix of key informant interviews and focus group discussions with NNGO leaders in South Sudan
- A total of 4 focus group discussions and 15 key informant interviews were conducted with a sample size of 47 (28 female & 19 male) leaders of 35 NNGOs
- 15 RSH-supported NNGOs and 20 Non-RSH NNGOs were selected for both the focus group discussions and key informant interviews

# Methodology

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## Breakdown of FGD Group Particulars

No.	Group	RSH	Non-RSH	Female	Male	Sub-total
1	Group 1	X		5	3	8
2	Group 2		X	8	0	8
3	Group 3		X	4	4	8
4	Group 4	X		4	4	8
5	Total	2	2	21	11	32

## Breakdown of KII Particulars

No.	Key Informants	RSH	Non-RSH	Female	Male	Total
1	15	10	5	7	8	15

# Main Findings

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- The findings of this study is broken down per the knowledge, practice and attitude towards safeguarding

## **Knowledge of safeguarding and information availability**

- There is expressed general confidence among the participants in understanding safeguarding, its risks, groups at risk and preventive measures to be taken and the referral pathways to address support to survivors.
- More 50%, cited improved conduct and internalization of their safeguarding policies and the concerted efforts they are currently undertaking to mobilize and sensitize their staff on safeguarding – owing it to their engagement in safeguarding under RSH is within a range of 6 months – 2 years
- (85%) of the participants think their organisation has a realistic understanding of the importance of safeguarding and that their respective perceived levels of their organisation's preparedness to address safeguarding issues in their humanitarian work were relatively high (60%-70%), citing different stages of actual engagement in safeguarding practice following formulation of associated policy documents.

# Main Findings

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## Practice of safeguarding activities and services

- Most participants (95%) stated that they have either a Focal Point or an Ethics Committee that initiates, investigates, and allocates redress/deterrence of safeguarding issues
- 50% of participants expressed the practice and scaling up of safe recruitment, safeguarding budgeting and for others, awareness raising; creating safeguarding policies; and monitoring policy implementation are ongoing
- 50% expressed that they practice safeguarding principles through eliciting feedback from communities through dialogue/feedback sessions, radio listening and family listening clubs
- 5% had no illusions that they are yet to develop a set of minimum standards for safeguarding concerns or incidents. They thought this could as well be the case with many NNGOs in the country



# Main Findings

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## **Attitude (s) towards safeguarding practice and leadership support**

- 50% of KII participants underscored that there is still a level of difficulty in understanding and applying the ideas, techniques and practices of safeguarding promoted by partners and donors.
- Their individual motivation for promoting safeguarding practice in their organizations can be attributed to trying to lead by example among the affected populations they serve; being agents of change; and obliging because of duty of care and Do No Harm.
- Over 70% of KII participants noted that external scrutiny shape decisions about how they manage their safeguarding practice, especially when soliciting funds is due.
- There is an inherent tendency for NNGO leaders to protect their organizational reputation at all costs, often meaning that safeguarding practice and any concerns raised will be downplayed at best or ignored altogether at worst.

# Recommendations

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1. NNGOs should each work to create a viable safeguarding plan which is translatable into a safeguarding budget reflective of their commitment to accomplish shared safeguarding practice goals in partnerships.
2. NNGOs and partners need to shift from a compliance-oriented approach to safeguarding, to one of genuine cultural and norm change through reappraising the basic preconditions for meaningful people-centred work in their safeguarding practice.
3. Behavior change communication on promoting safeguarding practice should not only emphasize giving out information but critically pose questions to affected populations and invite them to reflect and revisit their assumptions regarding power imbalance in relation to the safety and dignity of vulnerable community members, particularly women and girls

# Recommendations

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4. Streamline working with survivor-centred and intersectional approaches, in order to ensure that the prevention and response efforts reach all those that it needs to reach and that safeguarding practices in themselves do not cause further trauma or harm.
5. Lobby the Relief & Rehabilitation Commission (RRC), which is the national body for oversight of aid work, to develop and roll out a robust flagging system to keep local actors and their staff in check
6. NNGOs to establish internal organisational mechanisms such as regular work group reflections
7. Donors should consider and increase investment in national and local actors to address safeguarding risk factors and harms and ensure appropriate responses in NNGOs' safeguarding practice.

# Thank you! Any questions?



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