Make your own!
Root Causes of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH)

RESOURCE & SUPPORT HUB

UKaid from the British people

There is a distinction between the "Root Causes" and "Vulnerability and Risk Factors" of SEAH.

Vulnerability and Risk Factors refer to specific factors in an individual's environment that increase their risk of experiencing SEAH. For example, a lack of secure private accommodation may place women at higher risk of SEAH because it is easier for perpetrators to enter these spaces.

Root Causes, in contrast, refer to factors that create power imbalances that enable perpetrators to commit SEAH with impunity. For example, an individual may be at a higher risk of SEAH if they are reliant on aid distribution to meet their basic needs. The factors that contribute to this imbalance of power fall into two main areas:

1. Deep rooted, unequal and harmful cultural and social norms, which are used to cause harm to or exclude individuals or groups from society and power. These norms can often lead to discrimination on the basis of a person's identity or characteristics such as sex, gender and gender identity, sexuality, disability, race or religion.
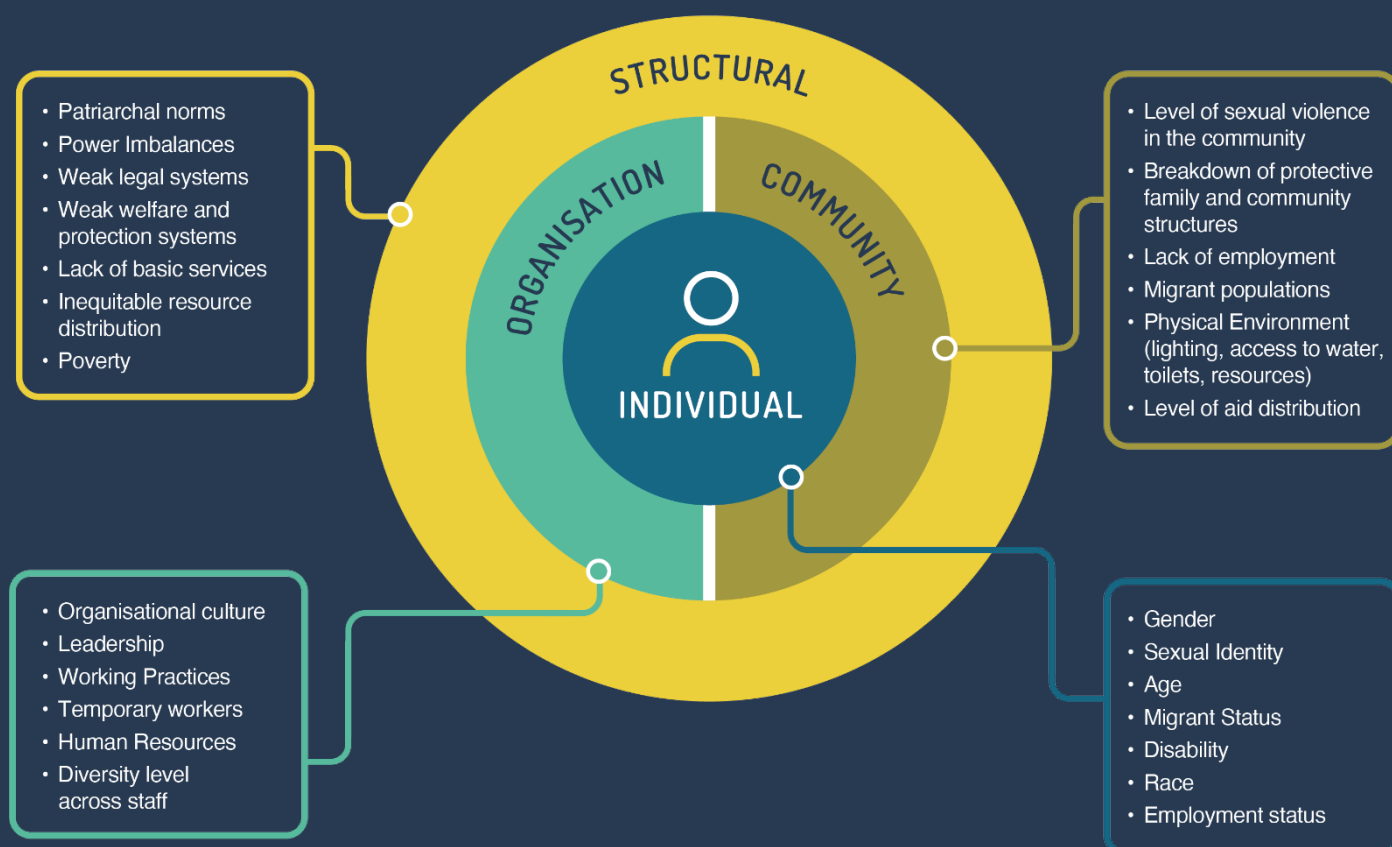
2. Inequitable distribution of resources. Those in power control the distribution of resources. Individuals can abuse their power to withhold vital resources from women and girls in return for "sexual favours". These resources include but are not limited to: food, shelter, money, and decision-making.

POWER AND PRIVILEGE

| GENDER AND SOCIAL NORMS | SOCIAL HIERARCHIES WHICH LEAD TO EXCLUSION AND VULNERABILITY | BELIEFS AROUND CLASS, RACE, ETHNICITY, MISOGYNY AND PATRIARCHY |

STRUCTURAL

ORGANISATION

COMMUNITY

INDIVIDUAL

- Patriarchal norms
- Power Imbalances
- Weak legal systems
- Weak welfare and protection systems
- Lack of basic services
- Inequitable resource distribution
- Poverty

- Level of sexual violence in the community
- Breakdown of protective family and community structures
- Lack of employment
- Migrant populations
- Physical Environment (lighting, access to water, toilets, resources)
- Level of aid distribution

- Organisational culture
- Leadership
- Working Practices
- Temporary workers
- Human Resources
- Diversity level across staff

- Gender
- Sexual Identity
- Age
- Migrant Status
- Disability
- Race
- Employment status

Risk Factors and Root Causes of SEAH: At individual, community, organisation and Structural level

These risk factors are examples for a general context. Refer to this example and complete the structural, community, organisational and individual factors that may be relevant in your context on page 3.

This tool is designed to support organisations to identify and discuss root causes and risk factors of SEAH in their specific contexts.

Structural factors

Power imbalances

Social norms and hierarchies

Organisational factors

Organisational culture

Leadership

Working practices

Human resources

Diversity across staff

Community factors

Level of sexual violence in the community

Physical environment

Individual factors

Gender

Disability

Sexual identity

Age

Race