

Internal Risk Management Group (IRMG)

- Created August 2018
- 51 INGO members and currently inviting 10 National NGOs (NNGO)
- Y1 (Dec 2019 – march 2020) generously funded by DFID through Mercy Corps grant

Why was IRMG created?

- INGOs in Uganda identified fraud, corruption & safeguarding issues as growing risks to the aid sector's ability to deliver accountable and high impact programs;
- To create a safe space to discuss misconduct & risk issues;
- Share information & experiences including best practice in detecting misconduct and handling allegations
- Collaborate in preventing and mitigating risks

IRMG activities to date

- IRMG formed in August 2018
- Concept Note – focusing on fraud and corruption for Year 1, was developed and submitted to DfID (\$350,000);
- Participation & influencing on U4 Anticorruption Conference in Uganda (March 2019)
- KPMG contracted to conduct an assessment of current accountability practices among INGOs in Uganda & based on the results of assessment, plan is to prepare guidelines for risk management and accountability for INGOs in Uganda;
- Ongoing advocacy to support risk management with donors and UN
- Planned awareness raising sessions and training to increase INGO capacity to prevent, mitigate and respond to risks;
- Working on Concept Note for Year 2: i) Focus on Safeguarding ii) Implementation of recommendations from fraud assessment

Key Gaps & Recommendations from KPMG Study on Fraud and Corruption

Key Gaps highlighted:

- Lack of a standard risk management approach to prevention of fraud & corruption
- Inadequate capacity at national partner level
- Disjointed training and capacity building initiatives by INGOs and national partners
- Inadequate funds for training and capacity building

Key Recommendations to INGOs & National Partners:

- Develop a standard risk management approach to fraud & corruption
- Build national partner capacity through joint IRMG meetings/discussions
- Use IRMG forums to share success stories and lessons learnt
- Undertake collective training and joint monitoring/audits

IRMG and LDPG Collaboration

- Continuous update on progress and sharing of experiences;
- Jointly define certain approaches, for example supportive vs punitive actions for a more effective response to corruption;
- Interested LPDG members could fund longer term support to IRMG bilaterally in supporting year two related to safeguarding related activities;
- LPDG members to benefit from information, research, lessons learned etc. by IRMG → this could feed in to a more harmonized approach/view also amongst donors;
- Inter-Agency FRRM system from UNHCR is not so a true inter- agency mechanism and needs more comprehensive inclusion of other non-IP INGOs;
- IRMG could assist in reviewing/compiling reasonable unit rates for budget analysis; effective potential agreement clauses that could work as mitigation measures etc. etc;
- Coordinated effort between LDPG and IRMG on inclusion of local organizations;
- Joint capacity building as and when suitable;
- Continuous collaboration between IRMG and LDPG reduces the risk of being dependent on individuals and risk of losing the institutional memory – could for example produce “lessons learned” reports every year or similar;