Rapid IARA SEA *Rapid Inter-Agency Risk Assessment on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*

<u>Disclaimer:</u> At the time of publishing, in April 2025, the Rapid IARA methodology was not yet field-tested. Therefore, users are encouraged to consider this when implementing the methodology at country level. For any technical support, questions, or input to improve the Rapid IARA methodology, please contact: <u>psea-coordination.helpdesk@un.org</u>

The Rapid IARA was created by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in complementarity with the IARA SEA Toolkit.

- To download all **Rapid IARA SEA Tools** in English, <u>click here</u> (no translations available).
- To download the **IARA SEA Toolkit** in full in **English**, <u>click here</u>. To download the translations of the IARA SEA Toolkit in **French** (<u>click here</u>), Spanish (<u>click here</u>), and **Arabic** (<u>click here</u>).
- To download **lessons learned of the IARA SEA Toolkit creation**, <u>click here</u>.
- To download the **FAQs on the IARA SEA**, <u>click here</u>.
- To watch the **IARA SEA Video** <u>click here</u>.

Summary

DEFINITION The Rapid Inter-Agency Risk Assessment on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (Rapid IARA SEA) methodology is a streamlined approach for rapidly identifying and addressing SEA risks, enabling swift and focused mitigation efforts.

The Rapid IARA SEA has 5 Core Aims (RAPID):

- **R** apid identification of highest SEA risks and mitigation measures

- **A** lignment with a specific crisis scope or time-bound response

- **P** rioritization of urgent SEA risk mitigation actions

- **I** dentification of information gaps for future inter-agency risk assessments on SEA (IARA SEA).

- **D** rawing on existing knowledge and experiences

TARGET AUDIENCE PSEA Networks, RC/HC and UNCT/HCT and other strategically selected stakeholders who have critical information on SEA risks within the context.

In the absence of a PSEA Network, the Rapid IARA can be carried out with organizational PSEA focal points through existing coordination mechanisms within the response.

OUTPUT A concise five-page SEA Risk Snapshot, identifying highest SEA risks and urgent mitigation actions, aimed at informing immediate PSEA efforts

APPLICATION

The Rapid IARA is implemented in the following scenarios:

1. **Sudden-onset crisis**
   - Rapid IARA is primarily designed for inter-agency SEA risk analysis in sudden-onset crises.
   - Rapid IARA generates real-time information on the highest SEA risks.
   - Rapid IARA supports expedited and targeted SEA risk mitigation actions in challenging environments.

2. **Time and resource limited context**
   - Rapid IARA provides a rapid understanding of SEA risks if conducting an IARA SEA is not feasible due to time and resource constraints.
   - Rapid IARA does not replace the comprehensive IARA SEA process, as the Rapid IARA does not include community consultations.
   - Rapid IARA can be the basis for a comprehensive IARA SEA by identifying critical information gaps.

3. **Update an existing SEA Risk Register**
   - Rapid IARA can be used to update an existing SEA Risk Register in case of sudden changes to the context. In this case, the output of the exercise is an updated SEA Risk Register instead of the SEA Risk Snapshot.

Links to Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) in sudden onset crisis

If the timing of a Rapid IARA overlaps with a MIRA, you may:
1. Use any PSEA-related information from MIRA's findings to inform relevant areas of the Rapid IARA.
2. Use findings from the SEA Risk Snapshot to inform relevant areas of the MIRA.
3. If the MIRA involves primary data collection (e.g., through KIIs and FGDs with communities), consider opportunities for conducting an IARA SEA and discuss integrating community consultations on PSEA as part of the MIRA.

Watch the IARA SEA Video!

IARA SEA complementarities and distinctions

The table below outlines the complementarities and distinctions between the Rapid IARA and IARA SEA Toolkit:
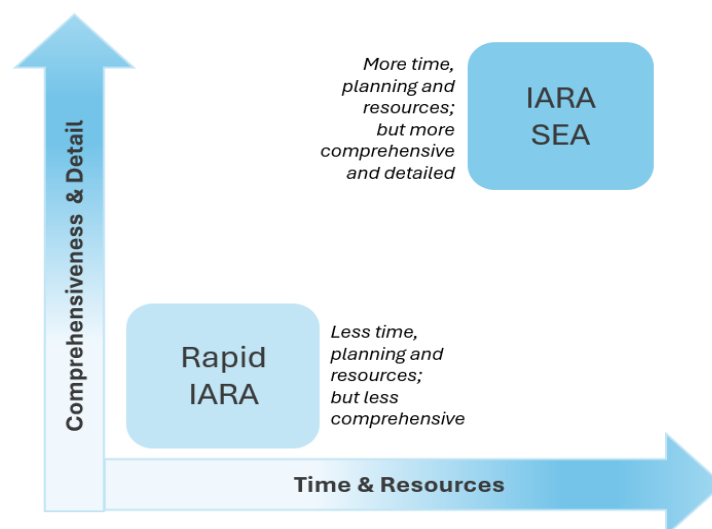
METHODOLOGY	RAPID IARA SEA	IARA SEA Toolkit
OBJECTIVE	Identify the highest SEA risks and SEA risk mitigation measures to inform immediate efforts.	Comprehensive risk overview to inform PSEA Program and strategic priorities for the next 3-5 years.
SETTINGS	Tailored primarily to rapid-onset crisis but adapted for use in any other context where information is needed but an IARA SEA cannot be implemented.	Humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding contexts
SCOPE	Aligned with the crisis scope (thematic and geographic).	Country, region, or location; scope can be small, medium or comprehensive.
METHODOLOGY	Draws on experiences and perceptions of the highest SEA risks as identified by a limited number of strategic stakeholders. Secondary data is reviewed by the key informants in preparation for the risk identification session.	Usage of secondary data/desk review, primary data collection (as required), various stakeholder groups including communities are engaged.
TIMING & FREQUENCY	a. At onset of crisis when a real-time understanding of SEA risks is needed b. If significant shifts in context require SEA Risk Register updating c. if no resources exist for conducting an IARA SEA.	Updating is advised every 3 years for humanitarian contexts and every 5 years for development contexts, or more frequently if significant shifts in context occur.
OUTPUT	SEA Risk snapshot (5 pages)	SEA Risk Register (max 30 pages, plus annexes)
COST	Existing staff time, no funding	Small (5000 USD) Medium (10,000 USD) Comprehensive (15,000 USD)
TIME COMMITMENT	2 weeks	Small IARA (Spread out over 3 – 4 months), Medium IARA (Spread out over 4 - 5 months), Comprehensive IARA (Spread out over 5 - 6 months)

The Rapid IARA SEA and the IARA SEA serve different purposes, and each presents its own set of limitations and opportunities, as shown in table below.
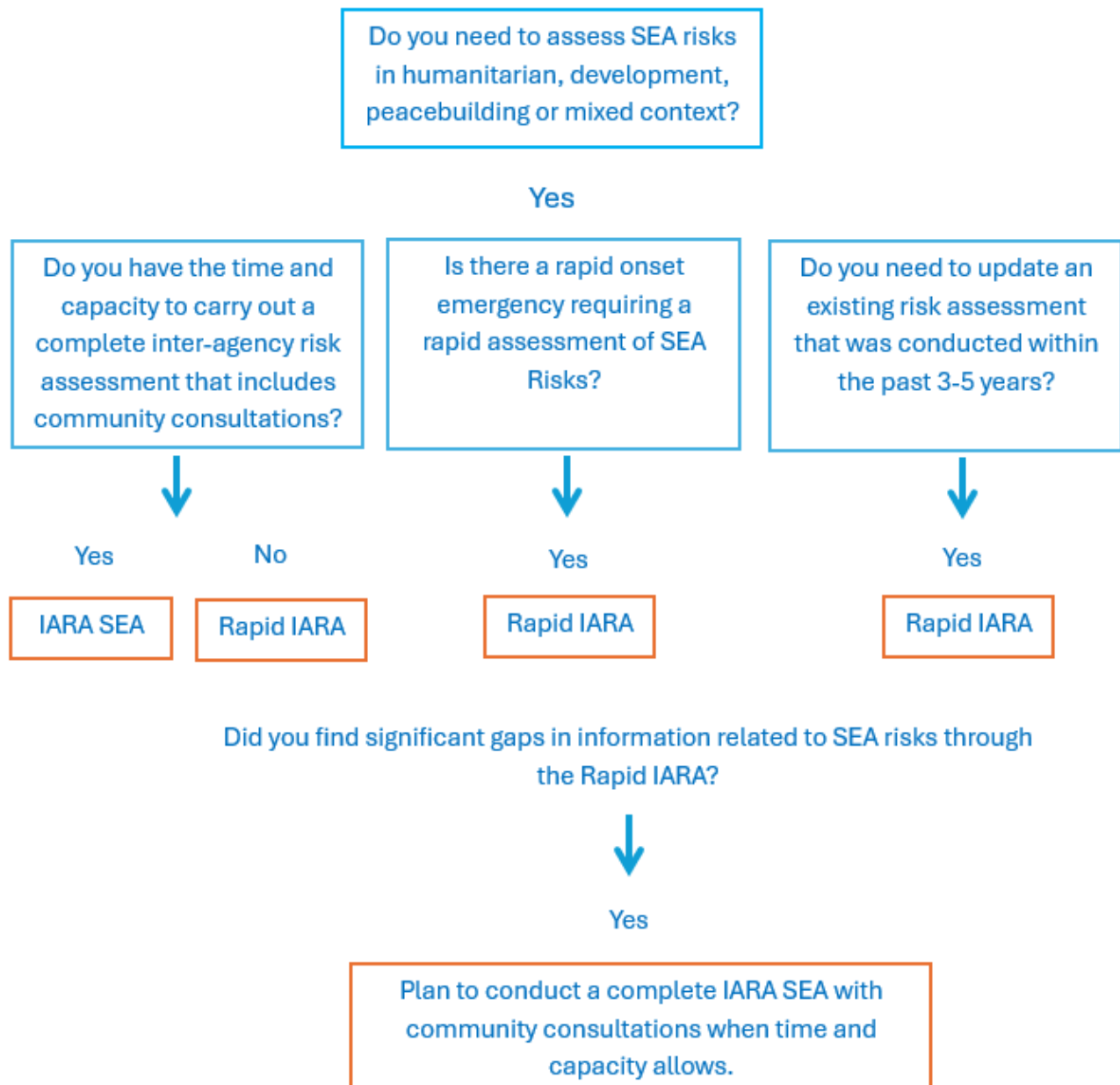
METHODOLOGY	Rapid IARA SEA	IARA SEA
OPPORTUNITIES	• Swift planning and implementation. • Requires no additional funding, relies primarily on time contributions by stakeholders (max 3 hours). • Focus on targeted, easy-to-implement recommendations.	• Rigorous, structured methodology leads to comprehensive, context-specific and nuanced SEA risk identification. • Extensive stakeholder engagement process, enabling diverse perspectives on SEA risks and recommendations, including voices of communities. • Sustainability: results inform longer-term PSEA efforts.
LIMITATIONS	• Low data depth, less detailed risk identification and potential for oversight. • Potential for inaccuracies and bias without integration of voices from communities. • Limited risk mitigation measures identified and buy-in around these. • Results are time-bound, can only be used to inform punctual, short-term PSEA efforts.	• Time and resource intensive. • Extensive planning and stakeholder engagement processes. • External technical support may be required (e.g.: expert consultant).

Summary IARA SEA and Rapid IARA SEA

Decision-Making Tree

Do you need to assess SEA risks in humanitarian, development, peacebuilding or mixed context?

Yes

| Do you have the time and capacity to carry out a complete inter-agency risk assessment that includes community consultations? | Is there a rapid onset emergency requiring a rapid assessment of SEA Risks? | Do you need to update an existing risk assessment that was conducted within the past 3-5 years? |

Yes — IARA SEA   No — Rapid IARA

Yes — Rapid IARA

Yes — Rapid IARA

Did you find significant gaps in information related to SEA risks through the Rapid IARA?

Yes

Plan to conduct a complete IARA SEA with community consultations when time and capacity allows.

What does Rapid IARA SEA measure?

The Rapid IARA SEA focuses on the highest risks in the context/crisis utilizing the same 4 risk dimensions as the IARA SEA approach, but these are examined in less detail and depth. These dimensions are aligned with the Global SEARO Index and core PSEA standards to allow for comparison and complementarity.

Enabling Environment 1	Context 2	Operational Context 3	Protective Environment 4
Captures highest SEA risks related to environmental factors at country level.	Captures highest SEA risks related to community vulnerabilities, and aid and development workers' attitudes and behaviors impacted by the context.	Captures highest SEA risks related to response institutions within organizations, response modalities at cluster, working group, and program levels.	Captures highest SEA risks related to gaps in PSEA specific capacity and resources, and PSEA mechanisms in place.

What is the scope of the Rapid IARA SEA?

The scope of the Rapid IARA is determined based on 3 possible scenarios:

1. **At the start of a crisis response:**
   The Rapid IARA SEA aligns with the crisis's geographic and thematic scope.
   - **Example**: In a food insecurity crisis in the northern region of a country, it focuses on SEA risks in the North and sectors relevant to the crisis (i.e. Health/Nutrition, WASH, etc.).

2. **Time and resource limited context**
   The Rapid IARA SEA can focus on specific locations, regions, or be applied country-wide based on guidance presented in the IARA SEA Toolkit.
   - **Example**: In a country with scattered humanitarian efforts, focus on a high-risk region, such as one affected by conflict and/or frequent natural disasters.

3. Update an existing SEA Risk Register

The Rapid IARA SEA focuses on risk domains/areas affected by the changes to enable SEA Risk Register updating.

- **Example:** For policy changes like government reforms focus on SEA risks related to government structures, update enabling environment (Risk Dimension 1), for a shift from humanitarian to development cooperation, update operational context and protective environment (Risk Dimension 3 and 4) of the SEA Risk Register.

Roles and responsibilities

Actor	Roles and responsibilities
Inter-Agency PSEA Network, supported by inter-agency PSEA Coordinator and Co-Chairs	Implementation, Ownership
Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) and/or the UN Country Team/Humanitarian Country Team (UNCT/HCT)	Consultation (Short consultation with Leadership: 30 mins), Oversight
Cluster/Working Group representatives, (especially from Protection, Gender-Based Violence, and Child Protection), and government focal points (if possible).	Consultation (Risk Identification session: 2 hours)

How is the Rapid IARA SEA implemented?

Summary

Preparation → Consultation → Risk analysis → SEA Risk Snapshot

IMPORTANT NOTE

- The Rapid IARA does not involve an extensive review of secondary data or primary data collection as it aims to provide quick insights into pressing SEA risks that require urgent action. However, secondary data should be reviewed by the key informants while preparing for the rapid risk identification session. Key informants should consult with staff, especially those in frontline or field roles, to understand specific SEA risks.
- If a comprehensive review of secondary data and/or primary data collection is feasible, please use the IARA SEA Toolkit (click here to download in full in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic).

IARA SEA

Rapid IARA Step-by-Step *(tick the box when completed)*

1. Preparation

The PSEA Coordinator/Co-Chair:	Link to tool
☐ Presents the Rapid IARA SEA process to the PSEA Network.	Download introduction PowerPoint slides here. Watch IARA SEA video here.
☐ Invites the RC/HC and the UNCT/HCT for a 30-minute online, in-person, or hybrid group discussion.	Download invitation email here.
☐ Identifies available assessments, reports and documents on SEA risks and reviews these. **NOTE:** Identification and review of data sources should be swift. If recent assessments/reports that are relevant to SEA risk identification exist, these should have probably already come to your attention. If these cannot be easily found, it means there are evident gaps in terms of SEA risk identification and documentation in this context, and this limitation should be noted in the SEA Risk Snapshot.	n/a
☐ Invites the inter-agency PSEA Network members and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. Protection, Child Protection, GBV, as well as other Cluster Coordinators or Working Groups related to the emergency context) for a 2-hour online, in-person, or hybrid SEA risk identification session. The invitation should include in attachment: 1) the risk identification session questions, 2) existing reports. The email also requests to receive feedback from field staff on SEA risk.	Download invitation email here. Download the risk identification session questions here.
☐ Identify two (2) note-takers to take notes during each session.	n/a

2. Consultation

The PSEA Coordinator/Co-Chair:	Link to tool
☐ Facilitates the 30-minute group discussion with the RC/HC and/or UNCT/HCT.	Download senior leadership consultation questions here.
☐ Facilitates the 2-hour SEA risk identification session with PSEA Network and other key actors.	Download the risk identification session questions here.
The note-takers:	
☐ Share the consultation notes with the PSEA Coordinator/Co-Chair.	n/a

3. Risk analysis

The PSEA Coordinator/Co-Chair:	Link to tool
☐ Analyze and summarize the data collection notes and summarize the input into the SEA Risk Snapshot (including highest risks and risk mitigation actions). There should be sufficient information from both consultations to be able to draft the SEA Risk Snapshot. If there are gaps in information, please also note these gaps. This can be used to determine the need for an IARA SEA.	Download the SEA Risk Snapshot template here.
NOTE: If an SEA Risk Register already exists, the findings of the Rapid IARA will be compared with the existing SEA Risk Register. The SEA Risk Register is adapted based on the Rapid IARA results.	

4. SEA Risk Snapshot

PSEA Coordinator/Co-Chair:	Link to tool
☐ Sends the draft SEA Risk Snapshot to the PSEA Network by email for input/comments.	Download the SEA Risk Snapshot template here.
☐ Includes input of PSEA Network members in the final SEA Risk Snapshot	Download the SEA Risk Snapshot template here.
☐ Disseminates the SEA Risk Snapshot with relevant clusters, field-level organizations, OCHA, and other relevant working groups and coordination structures	Download dissemination plan here.
☐ Includes mitigation actions in the PSEA Network Action Plan, and monitors implementation of the Action Plan.	n/a

If the findings of SEA Risk Snapshot indicate that there are significant gaps in information surrounding SEA risks, consider undertaking an IARA SEA to clarify, expand and add depth to Rapid IARA results. Please refer to the use the IARA SEA Toolkit (click here to download in full in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic) for more information or the FAQs on IARA SEA.

For any questions or input to improve the Rapid IARA methodology, please contact: psea-coordination.helpdesk@un.org