



## **Safeguarding Bulletin Edition 9**

Suggested Reading: [The South Sudan Hub Journey Infographic](https://safeguardingsupporthub.org)  
([safeguardingsupporthub.org](https://safeguardingsupporthub.org))



## Safeguarding Case Scenario

Dente is a 41-year-old staff member working for a local Community Based Organisation (CBO) contracted to an international organisation as a temporary technical staff in the Long-Lasting Insecticide Nets (LLIN) distribution campaign. In his role, he is responsible for the registration and distribution of LLIN. He spends much of his time in remote villages distributing the nets from house to house.

During the distribution activity Dente was seen frequenting the family house of a 17-year-old girl named Bami, who lives with her disabled parents. Bami would prepare tea and snacks for the distribution team led by Dente every morning and her lifestyle was observed to be improving daily.

Three months after the campaign, a close relative to Bami came to the CBO field office with Bami who was two months pregnant. Bami confessed that Dente had promised to marry her and because of that she gave in to him. However, after the distribution was complete, Dente did not show up again, his phones could not be reached, and she did not know where he lived but, she knew that he worked for the local CBO.

Bami's relative demanded that Dente marry Bami. As per tradition and custom, no one else would agree to marry Bami now that she was pregnant. The relative also demanded that if Dente's whereabouts were not known, the CBO should take responsibility of Bami because the family would not be able to provide for her during her pregnancy and delivery. The problem the CBO faced was that Dente no longer worked for them and they were unable to trace him.

### **Analysis and discussion**

#### **1- Is this a safeguarding issue?**

This is a safeguarding concern as Bami is underage and the staff member of the local CBO took advantage of her in the process of providing a service. Bami's family is highly vulnerable because her parents are disabled and they had no power to challenge his actions, as they thought by marrying Dente, their lives would improve. The CBO does not have detailed information about Dente, and are unable to track him to take responsibility.

#### **2- How would the organisation come in to assist Bami, considering that Dente was a temporary staff?**

Bami can be supported through the referral pathways. The CBO may temporarily take responsibility for Bami's health, as they look at ways of handing the case over to the local authorities and trace the perpetrator.

#### **3- What have we learned from this case study?**

The community was not aware of safeguarding concerns, types of safeguarding, when and where to report. The organisation could have conducted community awareness sessions on safeguarding, how to report such cases and about the referral pathways.

The organisation should do background checks on all new staff and all staff should be given orientation on safeguarding. All staff should be aware of the organisation's safeguarding policies and of roles and responsibilities.

**4- What action could the INGO have put in place to prevent this incident?**

The CBO could have encouraged earlier reporting of any incident, by ensuring that safeguarding awareness was carried out in the communities that they serve and that they have active community networks who know how to deal with such cases and how to report them.

## **Safeguarding Focal Person Profile**



**Tell us your full names and the agency you work for?**

I am Clarice Achieng, I work for Malaria Consortium.

**What inspires you to wake up every morning and get to work?**

The joy of working comes from working with people from different backgrounds, skills and abilities. I find happiness in sharing knowledge and learning new things from others. It's the diversity that makes me look forward to a new day.

**What are your hobbies, what do you love doing when you are not working?**

I love taking few minutes of self-reflection daily, and thinking about life in silence. When not working, I take time alone to try to mend a few clothes and come up with new creative designs and ideas.

### **Why is safeguarding important in your job?**

As a manager, safeguarding is important as I deal with different staff who have different needs. My role helps me to lead safeguarding well when it comes to dignity and respect to all, despite colour, gender, ethnicity, or race.

### **What do you think are the most important qualities an SG person should have?**

- Non tolerance to any form of abuse
- A good listener
- Must be aware of help/referral centres where victims can be supported
- Well informed on safeguarding issues and approaches.

### **Can you tell us about a recent safeguarding initiative/improvement that your team have implemented?**

Recently, we had training and community leader's awareness on safeguarding in all the facilities where we work.

### **Can you tell us a common misconception staff may have about safeguarding and could you demystify?**

Many staff assume that safeguarding is not a concern since some of the practices are allowed within their communities, for example, early/forced marriages and giving gifts to vulnerable people in return for sex or marriage.

### **Share any quote or advice you would like to give our readers?**

"Safeguarding starts with me; it is my responsibility. If I get safeguarding right, then it must be seen and felt in all I do, inside and outside the office, through verbal and non-verbal ways. I endeavour to be a safeguarding champion and to create a safe environment for all that work and deal with me."

## **The Health Pooled Fund Safeguarding Toolkit**

The HPF safeguarding toolkit is an essential resource to include in your staff induction training to eventually improve safeguarding practices within your organisation.

[The toolkit can be found by clicking here.](#)





*Copyright (C) 2023 Health Pooled Fund South Sudan. All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**  
[raising.concerns@hpfsouthsudan.org](mailto:raising.concerns@hpfsouthsudan.org)

Health Pooled Fund - 2nd Class Residential Area, Tong Ping near Turkish Embassy,  
American Embassy Road,  
Juba- South Sudan