



Open Space Session

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Session Objectives

1. To provide participants with a platform to reflect on and discuss learnings from a previous course in an open, self-organized format.
2. To apply Open Space methodology for effective knowledge sharing on the selected themes: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and Account Management and Reporting
3. To explore practical scenarios to deepen understanding of these critical areas and enhance real-world application.

What is an Open Space Session?

“Open Space” is a technique for running meetings where the participants **create** and **manage** the agenda themselves based on **predetermined themes** to enable them to **participate** and express themselves **optimally**

Photo Credit: Sylvain Brison via [Unsplash](#)

Principles of Open Space Methodology

- 1. Whoever comes are the right people** - There's no need to worry about inviting the "perfect" group of people; those who come will have valuable insights and experiences
- 2. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened** – In Open Space, the process is fluid, and there's no strict agenda or control over the flow of the conversation.
- 3. Whenever its starts is the right time** – Discussions begin when they are ready to begin, allowing for a natural pace because sometimes discussions need time to "breathe" and grow before they can begin.
- 4. When it's over, it's over** - This principle allows discussions to close when they have naturally reached their conclusion.



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Bottomline: No **PRESSURE**. Just relax and enjoy the session

Law of Two Feet:

- If you find yourself in a place where you are **not contributing or learning**, move somewhere where you can.



The WHY – Theoretical underpinnings

- The approach draws heavily from **Self-Organization & Complexity Theory**, which posits that complex systems (such as human organizations or communities) can self-organize without the need for centralized control.
- This methodology also aligns with **Constructivist Learning Theory**, popularized by scholars like Piaget and Vygotsky. According to this perspective, people construct their own understanding and knowledge through experiences and interaction.
- Open Space is grounded in **Systems Thinking**, a holistic approach that views organizations and problems as interconnected systems. The approach also emphasizes the **Democratic Participation** of all attendees and favour the creating spaces where every VOICE is equally important.

Open Space Session Groups

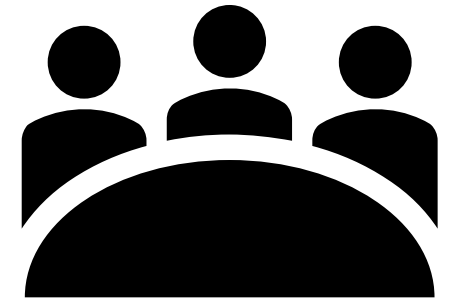
The Open Space sessions will be based on the **pre-workshop e-learning modules** shared to strengthen the capacity of the FEF CSOs in the following areas:

1. **Project Management.** Facilitator – Andi
2. **Monitoring and Evaluation.** Facilitator - Helen
3. **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** - Facilitator – Kas & Christy
4. **Account Management and Reporting.** Facilitator - Caroline

Session 1: Project Management.

Case Study:

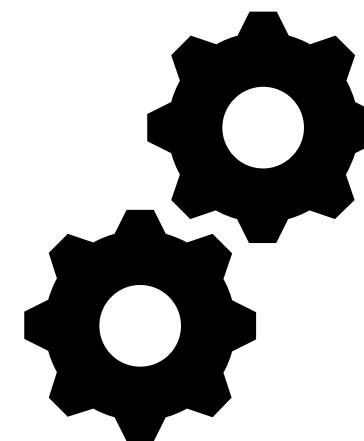
- A project manager working in a humanitarian setting must manage a large-scale refugee assistance project with limited resources.
- The challenge is to balance deadlines, stakeholder expectations, and the reality of working in a volatile context.
- Explore how project management is useful in resolving this.



Session 2: Monitoring & Evaluation

Scenario:

- An M&E specialist conducts a survey in a rural area, but the data collected shows unexpected trends that could potentially undermine the project outcomes.
- What recommendations can the Specialist give to either adapt or course-correct?



Session 3: Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Scenario:

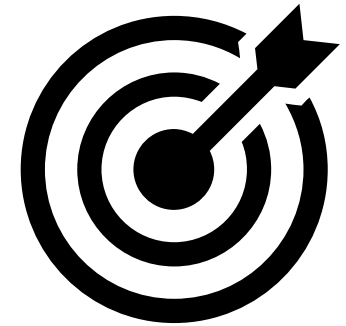
- A frontline worker in a refugee camp encounters a report of possible sexual exploitation by aid workers.
- The group can discuss the steps for reporting, ensuring confidentiality, and managing the ethical and emotional implications of such a report.



Session 4: Account Management & Financial Reporting

Case Study:

- An NGO's finance department notices discrepancies in the accounting of funds used for a health initiative.
- The group can discuss the processes of ensuring accurate financial reporting and the role of transparency in building trust with donors.



*Thank
You*