ETHIOPIA PSEA NETWORK
Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Preparedness and Response
I. Overview

- Established 2018; currently co-chaired by UNFPA and UN WOMEN.

- 5 regional networks
  Somali (co-chairs: WFP and UNICEF)
  Oromia (chair: OCHA)
  SNNP (co-chair: UNFPA and UNICEF).
  Tigray, Shire (co-chair: OCHA and Save the Children)
  Tigray, Mekelle (co-chair: UNHCR and IRC)

- 197 PSEA Network focal points (FP) in-country
  Addis Ababa: 65 FP, representing 11 UN agencies, 20 NGOs, and 2 Gov. partners
  Somali: 22 FP, representing 7 UN agencies and 8 NGOs
  Oromia: 30 FP, representing 5 UN agencies and 10 NGOs
  SNNP: 23 FP, representing 5 UN agencies and 7 NGOs
  Tigray, Shire: 34 FP, representing PSEA and IAAWG
  Tigray, Mekelle: 23 FP, representing PSEA and IAAWG

- In 2021, all 197 focal points have received PSEA training, including ToT.

Since its establishment, the inter-agency Ethiopia PSEA Network has made significant progress in tackling sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) within the humanitarian community and development sector in Ethiopia. Critical to the success of this approach was the UN Country Team (UNCT) and Humanitarian Country Team’s (HCT) vital decision, in 2016, to have a dedicated coordination structure in place in Ethiopia, focusing specifically on sexual exploitation and abuse preparedness and response through the establishment of the inter-agency Ethiopia PSEA Network. This decision by the senior management in-country recognised the urgent need to develop joint accountability mechanisms to advance the support available for at-risk communities; thus, also recognising the common root of these abuses: power differentials and gender inequality.
II. SEA Risks Identified in Ethiopia

**Gendered Risk**
Women and girls suffer in gender-specific ways in addition to the distress, pain and grief endured by the population as a whole.

**Under-reporting Risks**
Barriers to reporting needs to be addressed by tackling root causes to and drivers of under-reporting, ensuring equal access to a survivor-centred protection system.

**Stakeholder Risks**
The surge in humanitarian responders combined with high demand and an unequal supply of food and health supplies increases risks of SEA.
III. Strategic Focus

- **Leadership and Coordination**
  Full ownership of PSEA in Ethiopia is to be taken by leaders, who should set the tone from top-down by demonstrating an active commitment to take account of, give account to, and be held accountable by, affected populations.

- **Capacity Building**
  All members of the humanitarian and development community need to be able to recognise consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse on affected communities, the seriousness of the problem, and understand how to prevent as well as how to respond to SEA in a survivor-centred, gender-specific and intersectional manner.

- **Awareness Raising**
  Affected populations in Ethiopia need to be informed about their rights to free humanitarian assistance and to be able to safely report abuses against them through various reporting mechanisms. Similarly, stakeholders and (implementing) partners must be knowledgeable about survivor-centred PSEA preparedness and response.

- **Survivor-centred Response**
  During establishment of IA CBCMs, a community-based approach will be taken by the Ethiopia PSEA Network. This will ensure accountability by incorporating meaningful participation by the affected populations into the overall system.
IV. Strategy and Workplan

Ethiopia PSAE Network 2022-2022 Workplan

This annex is an elaboration of the action plan embedded in the Inter-agency PSAE Framework to prevent, respond to and report on sexual exploitation and abuse in Ethiopia. It is a part of the national strategy, and as such, is aligned with the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator’s vision to work with all partners (e.g., CSOs, NGOs, RJIs, IOM, UNICEF, WHO, etc.) nationally and internationally, and the Inter-agency PSAE Framework. Ethiopia, through the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, has the lead responsibility for the network (i.e., across both national and regional levels), as determined by the Ethiopia PSAE Network (ESPEN) through the coordination meeting held by the national-level network.

Objective 3: Leadership and Coordination

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Ethiopia PSAE Network 2022-2022

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSAE) Strategy and Workplan

Introduction

Since its establishment, the inter-agency Ethiopia PSAE Network has made significant progress in tracking sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), within the humanitarian community and development sector in Ethiopia. These achievements are seen through the establishment of both national and regional level networks, implementation of Inter-Agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Community-based Complaint Mechanisms (CBCMs), development of information campaigns on safe communication, education and communication (ICE) materials and CASI guide in local languages, design of an online assessment tool, country context-specific training packages for network focal points, states and implementing partners, as well as the facilitation of Taf training for over 80 focal points in Addis Ababa, Amhara, Oromia, SNNP, and Tigray. These achievements are further complemented by ongoing network initiatives and inter-agency projects throughout the country.

Critical to the success of this approach was the UN Country Team (UNCT) and Humanitarian Country Team’s (HCT) initial 2022 decision to establish the network in Ethiopia, focusing specifically on SEA and abuse prevention and response through the establishment of the inter-agency Ethiopia PSAE Network. This decision was taken by the senior management in-country in response to the urgent need to develop joint accountability mechanisms to advance the support available for at-risk communities and support the implementation of the UN Women’s Common Position on Sexual Violence in Conflict. As a part of this process, a vision, strategy, and work plan were developed by the PSAE Task Force in 2018, which were later adopted by the Ethiopian PSAE Network and endorsed by UN Women and UNICEF in 2020 and 2021.

Despite this important progress, much more needs to be done on PSAE in Ethiopia, especially as the country continues to be affected by various emergencies. These, amongst others, include conflict and related displacement, civil conflicts, and conflicts in Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti, as well as communities affected by crises. Consequently, all risk groups, including women and children, are at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse.

In this context, the Ethiopia PSAE Network remains committed to realizing:

- Supporting all humanitarian actors and community members in ensuring the protection of individuals from sexual exploitation and abuse through the implementation of the PSAE Network’s strategy and workplan.

- Dr. Catherine Suli, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator to Ethiopia, July 2021
V. Endorsed IA SOP for CBCMs with linked flowchart

Ethiopia PSEA Referral Pathway

Feedback to complainant/survivor

- Hotline or SMS line
- In-person reporting to aid worker
- Safe space, Medical facility, Protection desk
- Suggestions/Complaint box

Is the complaint potentially about PSEA? 

- YES: Refer to PSEA Coordinator 
  - YES: Refer for immediate survivor services through GBV & CP pathways (recipient of complaints) 
  - NO: Record using Incident Report Form (PSEA Coordinator) 
- NO: Refer to PSEA Coordinator 
  - YES: Conduct risk assessment and develop security plan (PSEA Coordinator) 
  - NO: Check status of survivor access to services through GBV & CP pathways (PSEA Coordinator) 

Is the concerned organization known? 

- YES: Does the concerned organization have the capacity to respond and investigate? 
  - YES: Refer to PSEA Coordinator 
  - NO: Report to Protection Cluster or GBV Referral Pathway 
- NO: Can concerned organization be identified & does it have the capacity to respond? 
  - YES TO BOTH: Forward the allegation to the designated unit within the concerned agency 
  - NO TO EITHER: Launch independent investigation & feedback to complain/survivor 
  - NO TO EITHER: Refer to PSEA focal point of concerned organization 

Coordinate with CP/HQ Referral Focal Points 

- YES: Coordinate with CP/HQ Referral Focal Points 
- NO: Forward to HC/HCIC register in centralised database and provide regular updates to PSEA Network 

Inform the complainant/survivor/Head of the concerned organization 

YES: In action possible? 
- YES: Convene PSEA network for urgent meeting 
- NO: Transfer the feedback/complain to relevant Cluster/Sector or agency (if identified) 

Launch preliminary security & feedback to complainant/survivor 

Forward to HC/HCIC register in centralised database and provide regular updates to PSEA Network

Coordinate with CP/HQ Referral Focal Points
VI. PSEA Training Package for Ethiopia

- The "Ethiopia PSEA Network Training Package" was produced by UN Women on behalf of the PSEA Network in 2020

- Available in English, Amharic, Oromo, Tigrinya and Somali

- Designed to support the delivery of in-person as well as online trainings to improve knowledge, understanding and skills of focal points, clusters and key partners

- Uses case studies, group discussions, creative team activities, and thought-provoking questions to promote dialogue and learning

- Adapted for the Ethiopian context, which includes local terminology, referral resources, as well as network standard operating procedures and agreements.
  
  **Module 1:** Introduction to PSEA  
  **Module 2:** Gender Analysis and Gender-based violence in emergencies  
  **Module 3:** Understanding Risks, PSEA frameworks, and survivor-centred approach  
  **Module 4:** CBCMs, receiving a report, and referral pathways  
  **Module 5:** Learning Design and facilitation of PSEA training, i.e. ToT

- All focal points and ICCG members have been provided access to online learning materials and recordings: [https://kayaconnect.org/course/info.php?id=2988](https://kayaconnect.org/course/info.php?id=2988)
VII. PSEA Information Campaign

- Developed PSEA information campaigns with suitable Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.

- Posters, leaflets, brochures, and pocket guides available in English, Amharic, Tigrinya, Oromo, and Somali.

- Diverse information materials/tools for humanitarian stakeholders/service providers and for affected communities.

- Designed to ensure meaningful information-sharing, factoring-in gender, age, ability, and literacy differences in access to tools.

- Implemented in Addis Ababa, Oromia (West Guji), SNNP (Gedeo), Somali (Fafan, Dawa, Liban, Afdar, Siti and Arer), and Tigray (Shire and Mekelle).

- All network members have been able to order materials for free.
VIII. Selection of Available Materials: Affected Populations & Stakeholders
IX. Ethiopia Code of Conduct
X. Regional PSEA Networks: Somali, Oromia, SNNP, and Tigray
XI. Four Technical Sub-Working Groups

- Capacity Building / Training
- Communications and Community Engagement (CCE)
- CBCM/CFM with IAAWG
- Implementing Partner PSEA Capacity Assessment
XII. Tigray

Capacity Building
- 4 hands-on PSEA training sessions were conducted in Mekelle, Feb 16-19 for 90 service providers
- 3-day PSEA ToT training conducted in Mekelle (June 1-3) for 34 focal points
- 3-day PSEA TOT training conducted in Shire (June 16-18) for 23 focal points
- Based on the Ethiopia PSEA Network Training Package
- Additional training sessions have been requested, especially on survivor support, AAP, and CCE

Information Campaign
- PSEA IEC materials (for both affected populations and humanitarian actors) arrived in Mekelle, Feb 22 (and new dispatch prepared).
- This also includes the Ethiopia-contextualised version of the step-by-step pocket guide titled “How to Support Survivors of GBV when a GBV Actor is not available in your area”
- All arrived materials are available in English, Tigrinya, and Amharic
- Distributed with support from UNFPA and UNICEF as CP/GBV AoR leads
XIII. Next Step

National-level

- Continue to support mapping of GBV/CP service providers (health, psychosocial and legal) to ensure survivor-centred training on preparedness and response.
- Continue information campaigns for both stakeholders and affected populations.
- Finalise community engagement sessions to establish CBCMs with multiple entry points.
- Agree on a standardised tool to conduct SEA assessment of implementing partners.
- Continue ToT trainings with focal points, clusters, and (implementing) partners.
- Support regional networks as well as establish further regional networks.
- Conduct nation-wide PSEA assessment with IOM DTM in August and September.

Tigray

- Start implementation of the EHF-funded interagency PSEA Project 2021-22.
- Ensure bi-weekly meetings in Mekelle and Shire (and hopefully soon Axum).
- Map regional focal points and service providers, focusing on capacity, needs and gaps.
- Ensure training on PSEA survivor-support and CBCMs, incl. signing of code of conduct.
- Finalise on-going SEA risk assessment led by the regional network members.
- Conduct community and stakeholder engagement and information campaigns.
XIV. Support Requested by UNCT and HCT in Ethiopia

- Promote full engagement in and support to the national and regional networks.
- Ensure formalised responsibility and time allocation in job description for all focal points.
- Make PSEA capacity building activities and awareness raising activities mandatory for all focal points;
- Promote inter-agency collaboration on the establishment of planned CBCMs with the CP/GBV AoR.
THANK YOU!

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