



Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Network- Pakistan

**Asia Pacific Regional Webinar on PSEA and COVID-19
May 14, 2020**

Julien Harneis, UNRC/HC

Country Context

Pakistan is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world:

3.5 million

people affected by various crises
vulnerability has increased due to
COVID-19, including

- **1.4 million Afghan Refugees**
- **Internally displaced populations – 600,000**
- **Host communities**

Climate Change

Pakistan is among top 10
most affected countries
in the world

Poverty

Projected increase due to
COVID-19 (IMF)

from 24.3 % to 40%

Increased need for PSEA incorporation in COVID-19 response

Core Functions of PSEA

- Accountability to affected populations
- Addressing within organizations as part of the organizational culture
- Checks in recruitment process
- Compliance on PSEA standards as part of standing agreements with partners
- Reports and complaints mechanism

Established in **2016**

Reactivated in **2018**-ToR developed

30 member org. including

12 UN agencies and

18 I/NGOs representing PHF and NHN

Chair: **UNFPA**

Secretariat: **OCHA**

Training Task Force lead: **UNHCR**

Referral Task Force lead: **CARE International**

Key Milestones

2016

establishment of
PSEA network
Pakistan

2019

PSEA Country-Level Framework – Pakistan

Community Based Complaint Response Mechanism and Referral System on PSEA- endorsed by HCT,

ToRs for PSEA focal points and PSEA coordinator

TOT on PSEA for members

Training of govt. partners on PSEA

IEC material development

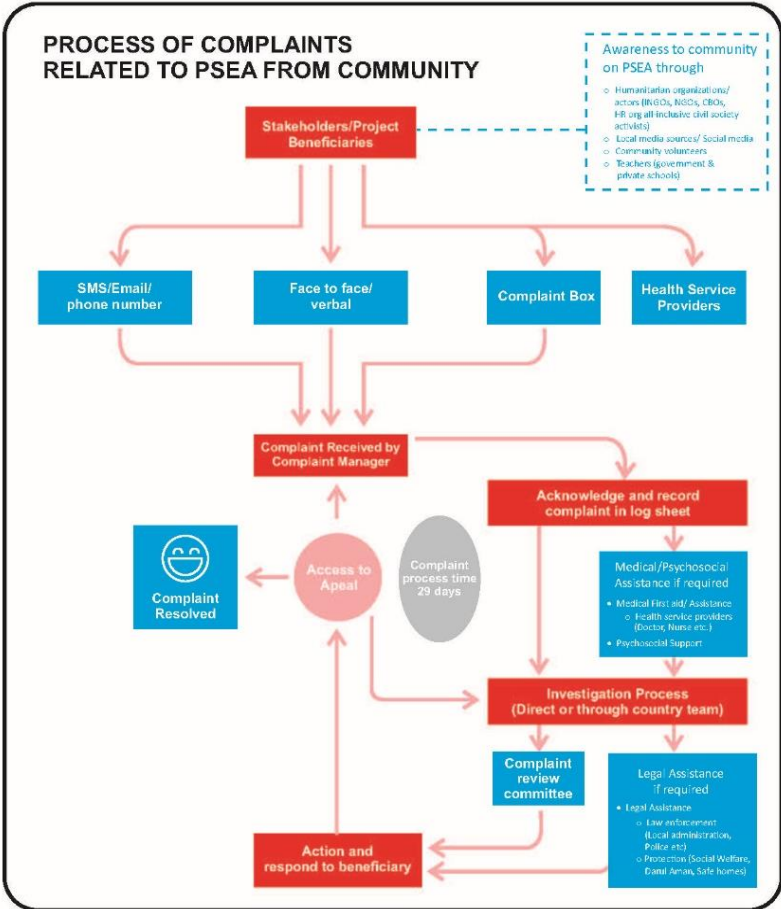
2018

- Reactivation of PSEA Network by UNFPA
- Stakeholders Mapping
- Capacity Assessment survey
- Training of PSEA focal points by UNFPA regional office
- Assessment of referral mechanism for PSEA

2020

COVID response

PSEA mechanism in
development context
AAWAZ II (Voice) and
KPMD (KP Merged
Districts)



Let's Stop The Wrong



Introduction:

On February 28, 2018 RC/HC Neil Buhne sent an email to all UN Staff in Pakistan as part of the UN Secretary-General global call to all UN staff around the world on the UN commitment to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the workplace and to encourage and enable staff to call out sexual harassment in the workplace, and to support victims and witnesses, by launching a "Speak Up" helpline. The goal is to attend to prevent sexual harassment and respond to the needs of personnel, and to empower them to make informed decisions on actions, if they choose.

The Secretary-General's Bulletin (ST/SGB/2013), titled "Promotion of Equal Treatment of Men and Women in the Secretariat and Prevention of Sexual Harassment" provides the foundation for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Sections 3 – 6 states the guiding principles of its implementation. The role of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is to lead in the promulgation of these principles.

The setting up of the Pakistan PSEA Network is one of the HCT's core responsibilities. The designated Pakistan PSEA Network Focal Persons and the HCT Agency Heads would work together to ensure that sexual exploitation and abuse is prevented. This is regardless of affiliation across the humanitarian/development nexus and part of the New Way of Working. The Pakistan PSEA Network shall refer to and shall at all times adhere to the six core principles relating to sexual exploitation and abuse as outlined in the IASC PSEA Global Standard.

Membership and Composition:

The Pakistan PSEA Network (PPN) will function under the auspices of the Resident Coordinator (RC)/ Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) where appropriate and report to him. Each member agency should have a technical and /or a human resource focal person representative to the PSEA Network.

All current HCT agencies are de facto member of the Pakistan PSEA Network (PPN). Membership shall be extended to other international humanitarian organizations with in-country presence or has established office and are willing to be a member of the PSEA TF as well as membership from other relevant International and National NGO's.

Membership requirements:

Organizations/agencies/ institutions who are interested to be a member of the Pakistan PSEA Network (PPN) must inform the PSEA Network Chair through its secretariat by sending an email detailing the name and contact details of its nominated permanent and alternate representative. The email should indicate the organization/agency/institution's willingness to share information, contribute and actively participate in the PSEA Network activities.

Inter-agency Sexual Exploitation an Abuse (SEA) Community-Based Complaint Referral Pathway-2019

IEC Material on PSEA-2019

PSEA TORs-2018

COVID-19 Response

Prevention

- Awareness raising and training of humanitarian workers and partners on PSEA and GBV
- Communication messages on PSEA and GBV
- Orientation of health case workers on PSEA and GBV
- IEC material

Coordination

- Strengthening PSEA network and GBV coordination structures
- Sharing IEC Material and IASC guidelines PSEA
- Technical briefing by IASC Senior GenCap Advisor
 - IASC guidelines on PSEA
 - Global context and usability of fund for PSEA communication and outreach
 - Roll out PSEA Community Based Complaint Response Mechanism and Referral System
- GBV Survey through PSEA network to assess domestic violence status under COVID-19 lockdowns and strengthen response mechanism.

Response

- Establishment of helplines
- Referral pathways
- Tele Psycho-social Support Services to women and children (including other vulnerable groups),
- Remote case management,
- Mechanism establishment on Reporting and accountability
- Dignity kits provision in shelter homes and designated health facilities as a neutral entry point to enhance PSEA by sharing information

PSEA in Development Context: Investing in and Using Government Institutions and Mechanisms

- PSEA related technical and capacity building support of the regular UN AFP programmes to the federal and provincial **offices of ombudspersons** and low enforcement entities;
- Government existing **helplines and psychosocial support services** established with the support of UN AFPs have been repurposed/reinforced for COVID-19 response ;
- Integrate PSEA in the design of COVID-19 related interventions from the onset.
(e.g. UNDP and UNFPA are about to establish model quarantine camps with women and girl safe spaces, monitoring and reporting mechanisms).

Challenges

- Local culture and attached stigma
- No proper reporting mechanisms in place
- The reporting mechanisms are either weak or non-existent
- Lack of awareness of PSEA by referral partners
- Access issue hindering direct reporting
- Resources for system strengthening community based complaint mechanisms.

Reasons

- Network members (UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, CBOs) have different level of capacities to respond to PSEA.
- The PSEA Network members focus on different beneficiaries/persons of concerns/target populations (e.g. local populations, IDPs and refugees) which affects response and reporting mechanisms.
- Reports are kept confidential for safety and security purpose.

Way forward

- Dedicated PSEA coordinator.
- Update interagency PSEA response plan.
- Standardize and strengthen approaches and policies in support of PSEA compliance and accountability across the PSEA Network.
- Expand PSEA referral pathways and case management.