



JOINT STRATEGY ON PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

The UN and its partners in Tanzania have a zero-tolerance policy on all aspects of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). This strategy affirms the joint commitment of all UN, partners, and affiliated work forces¹ in Tanzania to actively prevent and respond to incidents of SEA by staff and affiliated personnel.

It is not acceptable for any person in a position of power to abuse their authority under any circumstances and especially against persons with specific needs who are of concern to the humanitarian and development community, including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other particularly vulnerable populations. Acts of SEA undermine the credibility of the UN and its partners and breaches the principle of Do No Harm.

The UN and its partners recognize their leadership responsibility to strengthen the fight against SEA in Tanzania in order to achieve collective accountability to the people that we serve.

SEA refers specifically to acts committed against members of the affected population by humanitarian and development actors, including international and national personnel of the UN, as well as Government and NGO partners. SEA represents a failure on the part of organizations to provide protection and care for communities, especially for the segments of the population with special needs.

The goal is to establish a robust and sustainable system among humanitarian and development actors to prevent, report, investigate and respond to incidents of SEA. Communities and individuals should be empowered to report incidents and should feel assured that their complaints will be treated confidentially and handled efficiently. Perpetrators should be held to account and disciplinary action taken to promote justice and accountability, to support survivors, and to serve as an example to others.

UN Tanzania's vision is that the humanitarian and development communities treat the people we are here to serve with dignity and respect and that we send a strong message that there is no place for sexual exploitation and abuse in the delivery of humanitarian or development assistance.

¹ This refers to any entity with which a UN Agency might enter into a contractual agreement, including contractors, vendors, etc.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES²

Resident Coordinator:

As the highest UN official, the RC has system-wide responsibility for developing collective protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA strategies), ensuring that PSEA joint action plans are implemented, and capacitating the UNCT to lead on overseeing such initiatives. The RC has the lead role on PSEA for the UNCT, including the establishment of the Tanzania PSEA Network. Overall coordination of the provision of assistance to victims falls under the leadership of the RC.

The RC is responsible for:

- Creating and maintaining an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Ensuring that PSEA is integrated into coordination structures across humanitarian, development, peace, and political operations.
- Ensuring that a country-level joint action plan to address sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) is developed and implemented.
- Ensuring that a quality, victim-centred referral and assistance mechanism is operational.
- Ensuring financial and human resourcing for collective information provision and complaint-and-feedback systems, including for complaints on sexual exploitation and abuse.

UNCT

The UNCT is responsible for overseeing implementation of the collective PSEA strategy and action plan in-country. This includes actively addressing PSEA issues when raised in UNCT meetings, supporting the Tanzania PSEA Network, and ensuring that the UNCT has a strategy to provide assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

UNCT members report to RC anonymized cases, progress and measures taken on sexual exploitation and abuse, on sexual harassment, on assistance provided to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as other forms of misconduct and abuse of authority.

Heads of Agencies

Heads of Agencies (HoAs) are responsible for ensuring that all Agency-specific PSEA internal requirements are met at the Country Office level. HoAs also make sure that there is both a Lead and Alternate PSEA Focal Point that actively participate in the Tanzania PSEA Network.

HoAs are also responsible for providing assistance to any victim of sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by personnel of their respective Agency, Fund or Programme and, where appropriate, by personnel of Implementing Partners. Assistance is provided in accordance with the referral pathways established in Tanzania. This assistance may be provided directly by the United Nations Agency, Fund or

² These are drawn from the [Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System \(2019\)](#), the [Leadership in Humanitarian Action Handbook for the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator \(2021\)](#), and the [United Nations Protocol on the Provision of Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(2019\)](#)

Programme, through contractual partnerships, and/or through collaboration with appropriate service providers in Tanzania.

Tanzania PSEA Network Chair and Deputy Chair

The Tanzania PSEA Network Chair (member of UNCMT) and Deputy Chair (member of UNPMT) are responsible for co-chairing the PSEA Network on behalf of the UNCT, including supporting the PSEA Coordinator (or Designate) and PSEA Network to meet the goals and objectives of the Annual Joint Action Plans and to address any gaps in victim assistance coverage, in coordination with relevant gender-based violence and child protection actors.

Tanzania PSEA Network Coordinator (or Designate)

The PSEA Coordinator (or Designate) is responsible for coordinating the work of the Tanzania PSEA Network with support of the Chair and Deputy Chair and ensuring that the Network is meeting its goals and objectives as laid out in the Annual Joint Work Plans. The PSEA Coordinator (or Designate) also manages the SEA Information Sharing Protocol process and ensures that the RC is notified of all SEA allegations reported in Tanzania through this process (anonymized) and supports the RC in ensuring follow-up on investigations. The PSEA Coordinator (or Designate) also follows up on the provision of assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and oversees the training of all PSEA Network members on the procedures for safely and confidentially referring victims for assistance.

PSEA Network (Focal Points)

The Agency PSEA Focal Points are responsible for supporting their HoAs to ensure that their Agency is meeting its internal PSEA commitments. The Focal Points are also expected to attend and actively participate in the PSEA Network meetings.

The PSEA Network is also responsible for integrating the existing gender-based violence and child protection referral pathways into the overall standard operating procedures that govern the receipt and referral of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse; ensuring that all PSEA Network members are trained on the procedures for safely and confidentially referring victims for assistance; monitoring any gaps in assistance coverage; and working with relevant actors to mobilize resources to address these gaps.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Tanzania PSEA Network has four strategic objectives:

1. Coordination of PSEA Activities
 - a. Ensure PSEA Network support
 - b. Develop SEA Information Sharing Protocol
 - c. Joint tracking of PSEA Minimum Operating Standards compliance
 - d. Strengthen knowledge management and sharing between Kigoma and Tanzania PSEA Networks
 - e. Maintain list of all Agency PSEA trainers to support joint trainings
2. Prevention of SEA Incidents
 - a. PSEA Focal Point training
 - b. UN Agency staff training
 - c. Training of Trainers for Agency PSEA trainers
 - d. Implementing Partner training
 - e. Development of IEC materials for UN Agency staff, IP staff, affected communities
 - f. Development of advocacy and engagement strategy, including an approach for Government partners
3. Response to SEA Complaints
 - a. Map available service for victim/survivors, including medical, psychosocial, and legal
 - b. Development of referral pathways for victim/survivor assistance
 - c. Development of guidance for SEA risk mitigation in case of rapid response scale-up
4. Community Engagement and Support
 - a. Hold consultations with affected communities to establish preferred channels regarding feedback mechanisms, ensuring needs of most vulnerable groups are addressed
 - b. Suggest options/models for country-wide community-based complaints mechanism (CBCM)
 - c. Socialize and promote referral pathways with affected communities, once in place

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Tanzania PSEA strategy is guided by the principles enshrined in the key PSEA global commitments:

[Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse \(2003\)](#)

[United Nations Protocol on the Provision of Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(2019\)](#)

[UN Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse involving Implementing Partners \(2018\)](#)

[IASC Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(2019\)](#)

IASC Revised Commitments on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (2018)

IASC Principals Statement on PSEA, including Minimum Operating Standards on PSEA (2015)

As SEA is a form of gender-based-violence (GBV), the GBV guiding principles, which underpin the survivor-centred approach to providing assistance to GBV survivors and represent survivor's rights, must be followed. These are³:

- **Safety:** the safety and security of the survivor and her/his children is the primary consideration.
- **Confidentiality:** survivors have the right to choose to whom they will or will not tell their story, and information should only be shared with the informed consent of the survivor.
- **Respect:** all actions taken should be guided by respect for the choices, wishes, rights and dignity of the survivor. The role of helpers is to facilitate recovery and provide resources to aid the survivor.
- **Non-discrimination:** survivors should receive equal and fair treatment regardless of their age, gender, race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic.

The best interests of the child will be considered when the survivor is a child.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PSEA NETWORK ACTIVITIES

Each Agency currently carries out a yearly self-assessment to determine compliance with the global PSEA Minimum Operating Standards. The PSEA Coordinator (or Designate) reviews each Agency self-assessment with the Agency PSEA Focal Points to determine areas where additional support is needed and compiles the results of all the self-assessments, which is then shared with the PSEA Network as a whole to help guide the development of the Annual Joint Action Plan.

The Tanzania PSEA Network Annual Joint Action Plan is reviewed on a quarterly basis during the relevant PSEA Network meeting and is updated when necessary.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The RC and UNCT will work together with the PSEA Coordinator (or Designate) to determine the adequate level of staffing and budget required to ensure continued progress in protecting affected communities from sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian and development actors.

Endorsed by the Tanzania UNCMT on 2 June 2021

³ [UNFPA Minimum Standards for Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies](#)