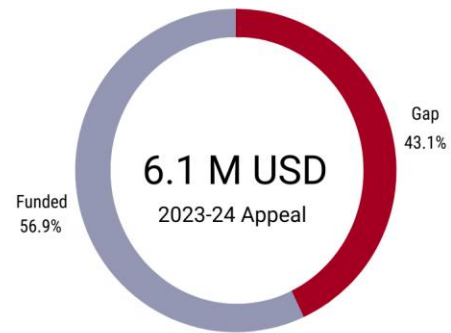


PSEA Coordinators are essential in implementing country-level PSEA action plans and maintaining national and sub-national PSEA networks under the leadership of Humanitarian Coordinators. Their role is critical in protecting affected communities from SEA. One year into the project, PSEACap continues to be a vital mechanism for deploying qualified experts to support country leadership in addressing SEA risks. By December 2024, this IASC-endorsed initiative had successfully deployed ten experts to high-risk humanitarian contexts, strengthening PSEA coordination and response where it is needed most.

Funding update

PSEACap has received financial support from the USA, UK, Germany, Switzerland, and multiple UN Agencies, Funds, and Programmes, enabling 10 deployments to address critical PSEA needs in humanitarian contexts. In November 2024, PSEACap launched its [2025-2026 Appeal](#), aiming to expand deployments to 15 and mobilize \$9,025,183 to strengthen PSEA coordination and response in high-risk settings.



Under the 2023-2024 Appeal equally targeting 15 deployments, ensuring comprehensive support and protection across high-risk contexts, 56.9 % of the required funding had been mobilized. Moving forward, continuous engagement with donors and partners remains essential.

In Focus: Ethiopia PSEA Coordination

Ethiopia is one of the high-risk countries for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) due, inter alia, to the high prevalence of violence against women and girls, the complex humanitarian landscape with large-scale humanitarian needs and the significant funding gaps. According to the [SEA Risk Overview](#) (Global), Ethiopia ranked 7th out of 37 countries in terms of SEA risks, highlighting the need for enhanced prevention and response mechanisms.

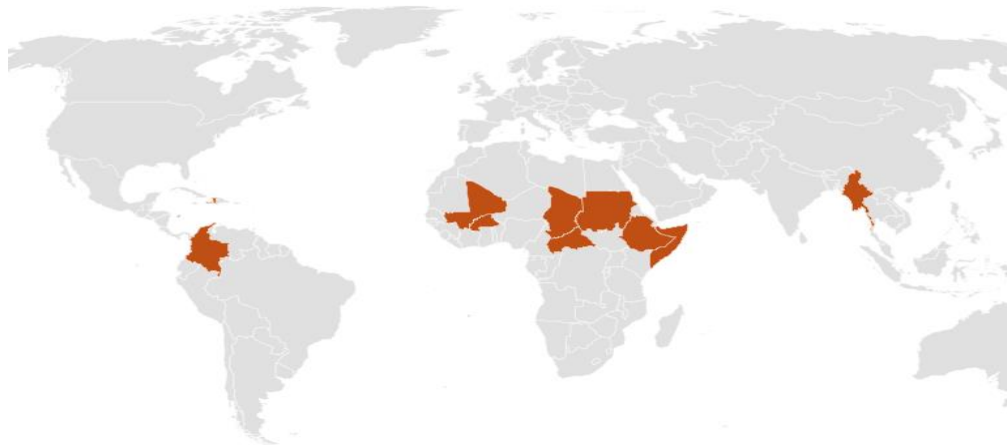
Despite the urgency to strengthen PSEA as a humanitarian community, the PSEA Coordinator position in Ethiopia had, until March 2024, been filled through various *ad hoc*, short-term arrangements, marked by lengthy gaps in between postings. The lack of sustained funding and continuity created challenges in ensuring a consistent and effective inter-agency response to SEA risks.

Recognizing these challenges and needs, the PSEACap mechanism deployed a highly qualified expert for two years in early 2024. Following the deployment of the PSEA Coordinator, significant progress has been made in Ethiopia building systems and structures on protection from sexual misconduct through capacity-building, network strengthening and risk mitigation initiatives.

Significant achievements include the revitalisation of the PSEA Network at national level and its decentralisation into remote provinces enhancing local engagement and resource-efficiency; the reactivation of the Implementing Partner Assessment Working Group. Thanks to the sustained efforts of the PSEACap, the HCT endorsed a PSEA strategy 2024-26, a Statement of Commitment as well as inter-agency referral procedures for SEA complaints.

In collaboration with the AAP working group, she led a mapping of hotlines and other potential entry points for SEA reporting and ensured that PSEA indicators were integrated into humanitarian planning and programming. She provided expertise on integrating PSEA into response tools, such as the gender guidance for the humanitarian response to landslides in South Ethiopia. PSEA also featured in OCHA's civil-military training for police and military personnel. Community engagement and awareness-raising were central to the PSEACap's work. With support from the Swiss Embassy, she organised performances by the Ethiopian National Theatre actors. Entitled "*Fit for PSEAH?*", these were specifically designed sensitize on sexual misconduct, using the interactive Forum Theatre approach, .

PSEACap Deployments



The PSEACap deployment mechanism continued to show strong progress, with an additional PSEA Coordinator deployed in Q4 of 2024, bringing the total number of deployments to ten since the launch of the project.

Dedicated PSEA Coordinators have been deployed to high-risk countries identified through the SEA Risk Overview, including the Central African Republic, Chad, Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Haiti, Myanmar, Colombia, Mali, and Burkina Faso.

Capacity Building and Strategic Direction

Capacity-building initiatives are a core component of the PSEACap mechanism, aimed at enhancing PSEA Coordinators' skills across key thematic areas essential for effective coordination at the country level. In the last quarter of 2024, PSEACap organized a series of webinars in collaboration with the IASC Technical Advisory Group on PSEAH. These webinars aimed to familiarize the PSEACaps as well as other dedicated and interim PSEA Coordinators in humanitarian crises with the latest state of art PSEAH policies and standards while also being an opportunity for global policy experts to 'reality-check' global standards from a field perspective. WHO, SCHR, UNHCR, OVRA, UNFPA, and OCHA's IASC Secretariat provided support in delivering expert guidance and technical input to strengthen the knowledge and capacity of PSEA Coordinators in high SEA-risk contexts. These webinars, held in French as well as English, covered key themes selected by the PSEA Coordinators themselves, including Essential Soft Skills for PSEA Coordinators, Organizational Culture Change for PSEA and Linkages with Gender Equality

In addition to ongoing deployments, the PSEACap management team continues to receive Expressions of Interest from country leadership for further deployments, necessitating difficult choices so that PSEACap support reaches the most at-risk humanitarian contexts. Meanwhile, the PSEACap expert pool, managed by the project, has expanded to over 50 experts, covering multiple languages and regions, reinforcing the initiative's ability to respond to emerging needs.

Initiatives, Applying the Victim/Survivor-Centered Approach; Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Community Engagement and Referrals; Resource mobilisation for PSEA.

The first PSEACap Management Retreat, hosted in Lund, Sweden, from October 28-29, 2024, brought together the project management members from OCHA's IASC PSEA Team and NORCAP for a comprehensive stock-taking on the project. The meeting constituted an opportunity to consolidate achievements, address implementation challenges, and identify the way forward to optimize the projects effectiveness and results.