

INTER-AGENCY PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE CAPACITY PROJECT

PSEACap Appeal

January 2025 – December 2026

Summary version

INTRODUCTION

The Inter-Agency Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Capacity Project (PSEACap) seeks to address critical gaps in safeguarding humanitarian operations by embedding PSEA Coordinators in high-risk contexts. Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) can undermine trust in humanitarian aid. The project focuses on providing collective, inter-agency capacity to prevent, address, and mitigate SEA risks, and should SEA occur, to ensure victims and survivors receive timely, effective support. This appeal outlines the project's strategy for 2025–2026, aligning with broader humanitarian priorities to enhance accountability, coordination, and sustainable impact.

PSEACAP AT A GLANCE

Managed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in partnership with NORCAP as part of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the PSEACap was established in 2023. Drawing inspiration from the established models of ProCap and GenCap, PSEACap was created to provide predictable deployments for two years to high-risk countries. The project contributes to operationalizing of the *2022-2026 IASC Strategy on PSEAH, Commitment 3*; providing support to inter-agency PSEA country structures, prioritizing identified high-risk contexts. It directly supports Humanitarian Coordinators through deploying PSEACap Coordinators, driving cultural and systemic change to mitigate SEA risks and build robust systems to respond effectively to SEA allegations, always centering survivors in the response.

GLOBAL TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

The Global Humanitarian Overview for 2025¹ highlights that nearly 305 million people require humanitarian assistance due to escalating conflicts, climate crises, and economic instability. This represents a significant increase from previous years, driven by compounded effects of political instability, environmental degradation, and protracted displacement. These crises, coupled with persistent gender, social, and political inequalities, create conditions that exacerbate power gaps—a key driver of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

Sexual exploitation and abuse undermine the safety and dignity of affected women, girls, and marginalized groups. Since the issuance of the Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13) in 2003, successive UN leadership has prioritized establishing robust systems to combat SEA. However, the number of SEA allegations underscores ongoing gaps and the need for targeted and effective action.

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA AND SEARO INDEX

To prioritise deployment, the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Overview (SEARO) Global Index², developed by UNICEF and OCHA on behalf of the IASC, evaluates SEA risks across multiple dimensions,

¹ <https://www.unocha.org/events/global-humanitarian-overview-2025>

² <https://psea.interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-sea-risk-overview-index>

including legal frameworks, institutional practices, operational capacities, and community vulnerabilities. The SEARO findings highlight systemic vulnerabilities that demand coordinated and robust interventions.

PSEACap's deployment strategy aligns with the SEARO Index and considers additional prioritization criteria to target resources effectively:

- 1. Leadership Commitment:** Strong willingness and action by Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs) to lead on PSEA.
- 2. Identified Gaps:** Specific needs that a PSEACap deployment can address.
- 3. Absence of Dedicated PSEA Coordinators:** High-risk contexts lacking specialized PSEA leadership are prioritized.
- 4. Operational Environment:** Factors such as access challenges, crisis scale and severity, existing capacities, and sustainability of interventions guide prioritization.

OPERATIONAL TARGETS for 2025-2026

Deployments

- Deliver a total of 360 deployment months by assigning PSEA Coordinators to **high SEArisk countries** identified by SEARO.
- Establish three regional PSEA Coordinator roles to enhance learning and harmonization of approaches.

Capacity-Building

- Conduct tailored training and capacity-strengthening initiatives for humanitarian actors, integrating PSEA into operational planning and responses.
- Collaborate with local organizations and national stakeholders to build sustainable, localized PSEA capacities.

Policy Influence

- Bridge field insights with global-level discussions, contributing to the development and refinement of PSEA frameworks and tools.
- Promote best practices and lessons learned through interactive platforms and global forums.

Advancing Localization

- Strengthen the role of local actors, including women-led organizations, in co-leading PSEA networks and decision-making processes. Promote culturally appropriate, community-centered approaches to SEA prevention and response.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS: January 2025 - DECEMBER 2026

Under the **2025–2026 PSEACap Appeal**, the project is seeking **US\$9,025,183** to address critical protection needs in preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) across high-risk humanitarian contexts. This funding for two years will enable the PSEACap to maintain its vital work in deploying inter-agency PSEA Coordinators to high-risk settings, enhancing capacity-building efforts, and contributing to global policy setting and to promote localization.

To achieve these outcomes the PSEACap Management Team will focus on robust field-level coordination, capacity enhancement, and integration of survivor-centered approaches into all PSEA initiatives.

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