

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

ESSENTIALS

ZERO Tolerance

On Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Sexual Harassment



1 Primary PSEA Document

Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. ST/SGB/2003/13

1 IASC PSEAH Technical Advisory Group

ToRs for IASC TAG on PSEAH

3 Strategic Commitments for 2022-2026

IASC Vision and Strategy PSEAH 2022-2026

- 1 Operationalization of a **victim/survivor-centered approach**.
- 2 **Promote lasting change in organizational culture**, behavior, and attitudes towards all forms of sexual misconduct in humanitarian organizations.
- 3 **Support country capacity** prioritizing identified high-risk contexts, ensuring that PSEA capacity is a systematic part of scale-up in response to crises.

Using a Victim/Survivor Centered Approach

IASC Definition & Principles of a VSCA

A victim/survivor-centred approach places the **rights, wishes, needs, safety, dignity and wellbeing** of the victim/survivor at the **centre of all prevention and response measures** concerning sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH).

- Safety, Security & Well-Being
- Confidentiality
- Dignity & Respect
- Non-discrimination & Inclusion
- Ask, Listen and Engage
- Transparency & Information
- Informed Consent/Choice
- Support & Assistance
- Redress
- Feedback
- Provision on Child Victims/Survivors

6 Core Principles

IASC Six Core Principles Relating to SEA

1. Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers **constitute acts of gross misconduct** and are therefore grounds for termination of employment.
2. **Sexual activity with children** (persons under the age of 18) **is prohibited** regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief regarding the age of a child is not a defence.
3. Exchange of money, employment, goods, or services for sex, including sexual favours or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour **is prohibited**. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries.
4. **Any sexual relationship** between those providing humanitarian assistance and protection and a person benefitting from such humanitarian assistance and protection that involves improper use of rank or position **is prohibited**. Such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of humanitarian aid work.
5. Where a **humanitarian worker develops concerns or suspicions** regarding sexual abuse or exploitation by a fellow worker, whether in the same agency or not, **he or she must report such concerns** via established agency reporting mechanisms.
6. **Humanitarian workers are obliged to create and maintain an environment** which prevents sexual exploitation and abuse and promotes the implementation of their code of conduct. Managers at all levels have particular responsibilities to support and develop systems which maintain this environment.

8 Minimum Operating Standards

IASC - MOSPSEA - 2024



Policy Development, Oversight and Implementation



Leadership commitment



Victim/survivor-centered approach and victim assistance



Effective recruitment and performance management



Prevention, Risk Management and Training



Cooperative arrangements and partner support



Community engagement, feedback, and referral



Investigations and management response

Additional Resources

- Statement by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on PSEAH-July 2024
- UN Protocol on the Provision of Assistance to Victims of SEA & Related Technical Note
- UN Protocol on SEA Allegations Involving Implementing Partners

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