

SUDAN REFUGEE CONSULTATION FORUM (RCF)

Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Working Group

Terms of Reference

June 2018

Background & Scope

All responders working in Sudan in an emergency or protracted refugee response are accountable to persons of concern. Accountability to affected populations (AAP) can be understood as 'an active commitment by humanitarian actors and organizations to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people they seek to assist'¹. It refers to the responsible use of power in humanitarian action, combined with effective and quality programming that recognizes the dignity, capacity, and abilities of communities of concern.

Sexual exploitation by aid workers and other refugees has sometimes been associated with the provision of humanitarian assistance. Women, girls and boys in particular have been exploited by aid workers and by other refugees who could provide or withhold food, shelter, education or medical care. Since the relationship between humanitarian workers and persons of concern is inherently unequal in terms of power relationships and levels of authority, operational partners must be vigilant and rigorously avoid any action that would suggest or imply that a sexual act might be a condition for protection and material assistance or services.

The Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Working Group has been established to support the creation of- and sustain an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of refugees and other persons of concern in Sudan. The Working Group aims to ensure that inter-agency mechanisms are in place that prevent and sanction exploitation or abuse by aid workers at any point during the refugee response in Sudan, and will work in parallel with Refugee Consultation Forum (RCF) structures and mechanisms to ensure that the needs of refugees and asylum seekers both inform and support overall humanitarian response in the state.

Objectives

The PSEA Working Group will support the coordination of inter-agency efforts to provide a trusted, respectful and inclusive environment to ensure that refugees and other persons of concern in Sudan feel safe, heard, equipped and empowered to speak up for themselves and others. The Working Group will also support partner organizations to take robust and visible action, as appropriate, to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.

Working Group objectives include:

- i. Ensure refugees and persons of concern are safe and protected;
- ii. Ensure that complaint mechanisms and response mechanisms are widely known among refugees and by partner organizations, and are accessible and trusted;
- iii. Support accountability to affected populations;
- iv. Develop joint community awareness and outreach initiatives; and
- v. Support field operations to implement minimum actions on PSEA adapted to community settings (e.g., Refugee Working Groups - RWGs, field offices, etc.).

¹ Inter-agency Standing Committee – Collective Accountability to Affected People:

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/p2p-support-collective-aap-note.pdf>

Outputs

1. Develop an inter-agency Action Plan, outlining concrete steps country offices and field operations can take to strengthen PSEA efforts across the refugee response.
2. Conduct risk mapping, identifying key areas of risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (i.e., by location, sectoral activities, response structure, etc.) and prioritize areas of focus.
3. Develop catalogue of established complaint mechanisms to support partners' awareness of who is doing what and where, and support mechanism strengthening and inter-agency access to available mechanisms. Mapping of complaint mechanisms will also be used to support gaps analysis to identify areas lacking sufficient coverage and/or where mechanisms need to be strengthened or reinforced.
4. Develop and disseminate catalogue of each organizations' reporting mechanisms to support partners' capacity to report of incidents directly with the appropriate focal points.
5. Develop guidance for field operations on minimum actions and standards required to strengthen PSEA efforts in the field.
6. Establish an inter-agency team of PSEA facilitators with sufficient knowledge and expertise on PSEA to support organizational awareness and accountability, and to support field operations on the implementation of the Action Plan and minimum standards.

Membership & Modalities

The PSEA Working Group is open to all partners supporting refugee operations in Sudan. Partners should nominate organizational focal points with sufficient expertise on PSEA and authority to support the implementation of the inter-agency Action Plan within their respective organizations.

The PSEA Working Group will be chaired by UNHCR.

Meetings will be held on a monthly basis for an initial period to support the completion of key outputs (see above). Upon completion, partner will agree on appropriate meeting frequency to support follow-up and monitoring of PSEA actions.