



**Fact sheet on the Secretary-General’s initiatives
to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse**

Background. In March 2017, the Secretary-General outlined a comprehensive four-pronged strategy¹ to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse across the United Nations system.² The elements of the strategy are to: (a) prioritize the rights and dignity of victims; (b) end impunity through strengthened reporting and investigations, including clarifying limitations on the United Nations to achieve criminal accountability; (c) engage with civil society and external partners; and (d) improve strategic communication for education and transparency. In the implementation of this strategy, the Secretary-General focused on putting the United Nations’ “own house in order” by establishing mechanisms under his authority. In February 2018, the Secretary-General provided an update³ on the implementation of the strategy, which was further reviewed in February 2019.⁴

To enhance coordination and ensure sustained high-level attention on the issue, the Secretary-General extended the mandate of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse until 31 December 2020. Her role is to coordinate the implementation of the strategy throughout the United Nations system and to ensure a harmonized approach through the development of aligned mechanisms and procedures and standardized protocols and tools.

Below are some key initiatives undertaken or built upon in accordance with the Secretary-General’s commitment to combat sexual exploitation and abuse since 2016.

I. Prioritizing the rights and dignity of victims

Initiative	Status
1. Secretary-General appointed first Victims’ Rights Advocate at the Assistant Secretary-General level to strengthen the support that the United Nations gives to victims and ensure that a victim-centred approach is integrated into prevention and response	Appointment August 2017; action plan December 2017; work ongoing
2. The Secretary-General and the Victims’ Rights Advocate met confidentially and directly with victims of sexual exploitation and abuse	October 2017; ongoing
3. OHCHR-led development of a United Nations policy on a human rights-based approach to sexual exploitation and abuse, which will complement the conduct and discipline and criminal accountability approaches, and which contains a comprehensive legal and policy framework for prevention and response, placing victims at the centre	A dedicated session will be held in 2020 for the High-level Steering Group on sexual exploitation and abuse to discuss and endorse guidance
4. Field visits conducted by the Victims’ Rights Advocate to gain a first-hand understanding of how United Nations actors operate on the ground , in order to assist and support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and make recommendations for further action	Central African Republic, October 2017 and February 2019; South Sudan, December 2017; Haiti, April 2018; Lebanon, August 2018; Jordan, September 2018;

¹ See [A/71/818](#) and [A/71/818/Corr.1](#).

² In 2016, as part of the strategy to ensure high-level engagement in the relevant entities across the United Nations system, a high-level steering group was established. It includes the Chef de Cabinet as Chair; the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications; the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, on behalf of the International Accounting Standards Committee; the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel; the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance; the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support; the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations; the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; the Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; the Victims’ Rights Advocate; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children; the Administrator of UNDP; the Executive Director of UNFPA; the Executive Director of UNICEF; the Executive Director of UN-Women; and the Executive Director of WFP. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee participate as observers.

³ See [A/72/751](#) and [A/72/751/Corr.1](#).

⁴ See [A/73/744](#).





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	Colombia, April 2019; and Democratic Republic of the Congo, November 2019
5. Uniform Protocol on the Provision of Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: developed and field-tested by the Conduct and Discipline Service and UNICEF, it describes the principles underpinning the role of the United Nations to provide assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and some guidance on the roles and responsibilities of United Nations actors in the field to ensure coordinated and immediate victim assistance	Field-testing began in January 2017; endorsed by the High-level Steering Group on sexual exploitation and abuse on 12 December 2019 and circulated system wide.
6. Trust fund established in 2016 to provide resources to support victim assistance services and projects; a meeting with Member States took place in 2019 to showcase the 2017–2018 report on the trust fund See: https://conduct.unmissions.org/remedial-trust-fund Video of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse rebuilding their lives: https://youtu.be/uxgbCYBBjEc	21 June 2019: meeting with Member States Using the approximately \$2 million available, project funding has been disbursed or committed in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia; project is forthcoming for Haiti
7. The Conduct and Discipline Service launched the Victim Assistance Tracking System in all peace operations, to have a comprehensive information system on assistance and support provided to victims; reporting functionalities are under development	Initiated: fourth quarter of 2018; ongoing, with all peace operations having received dedicated training during the second quarter of 2019
8. Statement on the rights of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse under development by the Victims’ Rights Advocate, underlining the United Nations commitment and responsibilities for putting the rights of victims at the centre of efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and serve as common point of reference for all United Nations system personnel and others working under the United Nations flag	Consultations with the United Nations system in September 2018 and February 2019; workshop of regional and national experts on victims’ rights held in May 2019; work ongoing
9. Mapping of victims’ rights approaches/services: in line with the Secretary-General’s instruction in his 2018 report (A/72/751, para. 28), the Victims’ Rights Advocate is undertaking a pilot mapping of victims’ rights approaches and/or services (prevention, medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, livelihood support, accountability) available across the United Nations system and beyond, which will build on existing work and provide a clear overview of gaps, overlaps, lessons learned and good practices to inform the development of additional tools, policies and programmes	Project commenced October 2018; ongoing
10. Establishment of inter-agency working group to facilitate a more timely and effective resolution of outstanding paternity/child support claims, including HIV-affected newborns , arising from sexual exploitation and abuse	Working group established June 2018; ongoing
11. Field victims’ rights advocates appointed in September 2017 to the four peacekeeping operations with the highest number of allegations;	Ongoing





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<p>their role is to ensure that a victim-centred, gender- and child-sensitive and non-discriminatory approach is integrated into all activities to support and assist victims in those countries</p>	
<h2>II. Transparency, accountability and ending impunity</h2>	
<h3>Initiative</h3>	<h3>Status</h3>
<p>1. Development and endorsement of a system-wide uniform policy on balancing the disclosure of information to national authorities with principles of confidentiality when receiving and handling allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by persons acting under a United Nations mandate</p>	<p>Finalized 2017; expected to be promulgated as a Secretary-General's bulletin in 2020</p>
<p>2. Rollout of a web-based mobile application, pro bono by Ericsson, featuring United Nations e-learning materials on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Expected: third quarter of 2020</p>
<p>3. Digitization of the incident reporting form to centralize and streamline intake of complaints across the United Nations system</p>	<p>Expected: third quarter of 2020</p>
<p>4. UNICEF developed a mobile app on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, for all personnel, with information on how to report and respond to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Expected: second quarter of 2020</p>
<p>5. Development by OIOS of harmonized guidelines for investigations of sexual exploitation and abuse for United Nations investigative bodies</p>	<p>Expected: second quarter of 2020</p>
<p>6. Gender study on the causes and consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse to inform the development of strategies and responses</p>	<p>Concept finalized in February 2018; outreach planned for 2020;</p>
<p>7. Management certifications: members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination submit certifications on allegations reported and training offered</p>	<p>Issued December 2017, December 2018,⁵ and December 2019⁶</p>
<p>8. United Nations Development Group reviewed and included sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment regulations in their standard administrative arrangements See: http://mptf.undp.org/document/legal</p>	<p>Effective 4 December 2019</p>
<p>9. OIOS organized a meeting of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to strengthen and harmonize investigations across the system</p>	<p>July and November 2019</p>
<p>10. Clear Check,⁷ an electronic tool aimed at preventing United Nations personnel who were dismissed for substantiated allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, or who left the Organization while an</p>	<p>Clear Check launched on 28 June 2018; community clinic held on 23 October 2019</p>

⁵ 2018 certifications provided by FAO, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IMO, IOM, ITC, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC, UNOPS, UNRWA, UNU, UN-Women, UPU, WFP, WHO, WMO and the World Bank.

⁶ 2019 certifications provided to date by: ECE, ESCAP, ESCWA, FAO, IAEA, IFAD, IMO, IOM, ITU, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC, UNOPS, UPU, UNRWA, UN-WOMEN, WFP and the World Bank.

⁷ The following United Nations entities are participating in the screening tool: all Secretariat entities, as well as FAO, IAEA, IFAD, IMO, IOM, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, ITC, ITU, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNOPS, UNRWA, UN-Women, UPU, WFP, WHO, WIPO and WTO.





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investigation was pending, from being deployed or reemployed at the United Nations	
11. Field-testing of the incident reporting form : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democratic Republic of the Congo (January 2018) • Central African Republic and Jordan (January 2019) • South Sudan (September 2019) 	Ongoing
12. Action plans/risk mitigation strategies submitted by United Nations entities to the Secretary-General	April 2017: 35 submitted August 2018: 37 submitted August 2019: 50 submitted
13. Annual system-wide survey for United Nations personnel at field duty stations with humanitarian and peace operations; results disaggregated and shared with heads of participating entities	Baseline survey: 2016 Subsequent surveys: 2017, 2018, May–July 2019
14. Roll-out of an internal electronic tool to report sexual exploitation and abuse allegations (<i>iReport SEA Tracker</i>) to align and track investigations	May 2019
15. Guidance for United Nations entities to assess implementing partners’ capacity with regard to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse during the selection process, including minimum assessment criteria outlined in the Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners, and development of a joint assessment tool	February 2019; ongoing
16. Issuance of 2019 note verbale on the repository of national police laws on sexual exploitation and abuse	Issued in January 2019; 11 legal frameworks
17. System-wide roll-out of focal points on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse in regional and country offices to strengthen capacities at the field level and to interact and share good practices	Since 2019, ongoing
18. UNHCR launched a confidential independent helpline to provide all colleagues with an additional channel to report misconduct and seek advice on related issues, available 24/7 and offering anonymous reporting	September 2018
19. Reissuance of 2016 note verbale on the repository of national military laws on sexual exploitation and abuse https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/standards-of-conduct	Reissued in August 2018; 61 legal frameworks
20. Conduct and Discipline Service developed a sexual exploitation and abuse risk management toolkit https://conduct.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/dpko-dfs_sea_risk_toolkit_28_june_2018_modified.pdf	Launched June 2018; ongoing
21. The Office of Military Affairs of the Department of Peace Operations released the “ Military aide-memoire: United Nations measures against sexual exploitation and abuse – commanders’ guide on measures to combat sexual exploitation and abuse in the United Nations military ” https://research.un.org/en/peacekeeping-community/sea	Published in September 2017; updated in May 2018





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<p>22. United Nations finalized and circulated its Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners (led by UNICEF and UNFPA) www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/policies</p>	<p>March 2018; translations into Arabic and French completed</p>
<p>23. Training for military national investigation officers provided by OIOS, the Conduct and Discipline Service and the Department of Peace Operations</p>	<p>Initiated in 2018, ongoing</p>
<p>24. Development of the “no excuse” card prototype, which sets out the standards and obligations for prevention and reporting and can be customized to meet the needs of individual organizations, and distribution to all United Nations entities with a field presence, in all official and some local languages https://research.un.org/en/peacekeeping-community/sea</p>	<p>Completed November 2017; distribution ongoing</p>
<p>25. Secretary-General’s high-level meeting on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, held on the margins of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, with Heads of State and Government, regional organizations, civil society and United Nations leadership</p>	<p>18 September 2017</p>
<p>26. Development of a glossary (second edition) on sexual exploitation and abuse in the context of the United Nations English: https://hr.un.org/materials/un-glossary-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-english French: https://hr.un.org/materials/glossaire-sur-1%E2%80%99exploitation-et-les-atteintes-sexuelles-glossary-sea-french</p>	<p>Initiated: 5 October 2016 Updated: 24 July 2017</p>
<p>27. Incident reporting form (and associated guidance) to ensure uniformity in the collection of information, as a first step in the initiation of a formal process to respond to an allegation or report of sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Finalized July 2017</p>
<p>28. United Nations staff job openings, letters of offer and letters of appointment include a special notice on the values and standards of conduct required of staff and consequences of failing to meet those standards</p>	<p>Completed 2017; ongoing</p>
<p>29. Staff members required to acknowledge in writing, upon entry, reassignment and yearly, their knowledge and understanding of United Nations standards of conduct, in particular regarding sexual exploitation and abuse, and the consequences for violating them</p>	<p>Completed 2017; ongoing</p>
<p>30. United Nations contractual general conditions require compliance with the standards of conduct in Secretary-General’s bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13)</p>	<p>Completed 2017; ongoing</p>
<p>31. Guidelines on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2272 (2016), addressing sexual exploitation and abuse in peace operations</p>	<p>Operationally effective July 2016; ongoing</p>





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32. High-level Steering Group on sexual exploitation and abuse , chaired by the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General and composed of the heads of the offices, departments, funds and programmes involved in strengthening the system-wide response to sexual exploitation and abuse	Established 2016; meets regularly
33. System-wide working group on sexual exploitation and abuse , convened every two weeks by the Office of the Special Coordinator, to strengthen collaboration and alignment of approaches across the United Nations	Established 2016, Ongoing
34. Mandatory training and e-learning on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse required of all peacekeeping, Secretariat, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, UN-Women and WFP personnel	Peacekeeping personnel since 2016; Secretariat and other entities since 2017; UNOPS since 2019; training ongoing
35. Harmonization of standards and procedures for non-United Nations international forces authorized under a Security Council mandate	Ongoing

III. Engaging Member States, civil society, external experts and organizations

Initiative	Status
1. Secretary-General's circle of leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations , composed of Heads of State and Government willing to make a visible personal commitment to ending impunity for sexual exploitation and abuse www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/circle-leadership	Ongoing; members are 87 current or former Heads of State and Government
2. Secretary-General and circle of leadership social media campaign to raise awareness of protection from sexual exploitation and use and reaffirm the commitment to its eradication www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/twitter-moment	24 September to 3 October 2019
3. Issuance of a collective statement by the Secretary-General and members of the circle of leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/collective-statement-members-secretary-general-circle-leadership	September 2018; endorsed by 49 Heads of State and Government and 25 United Nations entities
4. Civil Society Advisory Board , composed of leading civil society experts, to provide the Secretary-General with advice on how to strengthen civil society engagement www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/civil-society-advisory-board-prevention-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse	Established 19 February 2019 Meetings: 29–31 May and 6 December 2019
5. Meetings convened by the Special Coordinator and jointly sponsored by representatives of the Heads of State and Government who are members of the circle of leadership, to share good practices and initiatives	2018: five meetings 2019: three meetings





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6. UNHCR partnered with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies to launch a community outreach and communications fund on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse to support smaller non-governmental organizations in developing information, education and communications materials to raise community-awareness and ensure victims know where and how to safely report incidents	November 2019; ongoing
7. Conduct and Discipline Service partners with the African Union on the implementation of its compliance framework related to conduct and discipline, including its policy framework, the screening of personnel, risk management and case management	Ongoing since 2017
8. Voluntary compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/voluntary-compact	Ongoing; 103 Member State signatories
9. UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP met with civil society to strengthen prevention and response by raising awareness and trust in communities and by enhancing accountability and care to people affected	Ongoing
10. Formal and informal meetings with civil society stakeholders	2017: 3 formal meetings 2018: 10 meetings 2019: 16 meetings

IV. Improving strategic communications for education and transparency

Initiative	Status
1. To improve transparency, the Special Coordinator reports on allegations received by all United Nations entities www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/quarterly-updates	Ongoing
2. Departments of Global Communications, Peace Operations and Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance conducted training session on communications on sexual exploitation and abuse for senior leaders; subsequent training to be delivered	June 2019; February 2020
3. Launch of a system-wide reporting webpage with real-time data on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse for non-Secretariat entities www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/data-allegations-un-system-wide	November 2019
4. Public information campaign, including the development and issuance of a United Nations stamp to raise awareness on the importance of speaking out to end sexual exploitation and abuse https://unstamps.org/shop/2019-ny-definitive-us-0-85-full-sheet/	Launched March 2019
5. Public information video messaging campaign on United Nations efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, featuring the Secretary-General's strategy and commitments from the Secretary-General, the Special Coordinator, the Victims' Rights Advocate, the Departments of Operational Support and Peace Operations, IOM,	Presented during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly in September 2018





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UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN-Women and WFP, as well as from MONUSCO and MINUSCA http://webtv.un.org/watch/player/5846468853001	
6. Bilingual (English/French) social media campaign and digital communication tool, “ Honouring our values ”, including quote cards and videos of personnel, responders, Member States and community members (Facebook and Twitter; #HonouringOurValues) https://trello.com/b/8dsqvTYY/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse	Launched March 2018; ongoing
7. The United Nations produced and aired a film showing the work of the community-based complaint mechanisms and the response by the United Nations to sexual exploitation and abuse https://youtu.be/w6BSEZN1s9U	September 2017 and April 2018
8. Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse website launched and enhanced to include agencies, funds and programmes www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/	Created July 2017; updated regularly
9. Conduct and Discipline Service launched a website with a live database of allegations, an online reporting form and a subscription service for database updates English: https://conduct.unmissions.org/sea-data-introduction French: https://conduct.unmissions.org/fr/exploitation-et-atteintes-sexuelles	Launched January 2017; translated December 2018; updated regularly
10. All peace operations conduct outreach activities to inform communities of the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and about the reporting mechanisms, using theatre, radio, television programming and text-based and social media campaigns, as well as outreach to local media	Ongoing

V. Additional initiatives from agencies, funds and programmes

Initiative	Status
1. Joint regional training workshops for focal points and coordinators on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, in Africa, Europe and the Middle East, to establish effective protection from sexual exploitation and abuse mechanisms on the ground: an example of inter-agency collaboration and a significant step in strengthening country capacities	Jordan: September 2019 Kenya: October 2019 Brindisi: October 2019, March 2020
2. Training modules on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse for implementing partners, to strengthen compliance with the Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners	Since January 2019; ongoing and available in English, French and Arabic; new interactive package launched in September 2019, available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic; multi-agency package expected in first quarter of 2020
3. IOM deployments, upon request, to support or establish collective in-country initiatives for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	2017: Bangladesh 2018: Somalia and Syrian Arab Republic





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	2019: Asia-Pacific region (with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), Colombia (with WFP), Somalia, Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey
4. IOM released a compilation of lessons learned related to in-country protection from sexual exploitation and abuse programs , on frequently asked questions on inter-agency protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and country examples of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse practice	December 2019
5. UNHCR Standing Committee conference room paper, entitled “Efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment” (EC/70/SC/CRP.20)	30 August 2019
6. UNFPA led the response with regard to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse in the Bahamas after hurricane Dorian , where a coordinator on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse was deployed for a one-month surge mission to: (a) establish a free 24/7 hotline, operated by five trained call operators, for reporting sexual exploitation and abuse; (b) build the capacity of 21 focal points; and (c) develop awareness-raising material in Creole for the affected community	August 2019
36. IOM developed generic terms of reference for coordinators on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse to harmonize their role throughout the humanitarian system and to support recruitment by humanitarian and resident coordinators; appointment of coordinators is ongoing, with funding shared between agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and others) 7. https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-task-team-accountability-affected-populations-and-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-3	Circulated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator in August 2019
8. Publication by UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR of new administrative instruction on protection against retaliation , congruent with the 2017 Secretary General’s bulletin on protection against retaliation (ST/SGB/2017/2/Rev.1)	June 2019; ongoing
9. WFP launched an online training and toolkit for focal points on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	June 2019
10. UN-Women undertook an external, independent and victim-centred review of its policies and procedures on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment; it endorsed all recommendations through its management response and has committed itself to their continuous implementation The review and the management response can be found under the heading “Policy and programme matters”, at: www.unwomen.org/en/executive-board/documents/2019/annual-session-2019	Review: April–May 2019; management response: June 2019; presented to the Executive Board: June 2019; implementation: ongoing





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11. UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS jointly underwent an external independent review of their sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment policies and procedures	March 2019
12. Report of the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-WOMEN and WFP on harassment, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination, and sexual exploitation and abuse (E/2019/34/Rev.1 , annex III)	February 2019
13. UNICEF completed two internal independent reviews on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment to strengthen a zero-tolerance environment; through a management response, it endorsed all recommendations, and both the findings and the management response have been made public www.unicef.org/evaldatabase/index_103521.html www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2019-05/UNICEF-Strategy-Prevent-Respond-Sexual-Exploitation-Abuse-Sexual-Harassment-January-2019.pdf	Reviews: September 2018; management response released in December 2018; update to the Executive Board on progress in January 2019
14. UNFPA is conducting a multi-agency mapping exercise of services (referral pathway) available to victims of gender-based violence and for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	Initiated late 2018; ongoing
15. WFP established an advisory group on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, with key stakeholders from each operational region, to provide a learning and knowledge-sharing platform and to strengthen the capacity of relevant WFP focal points to fulfil their role	First consultation held September 2018; ongoing
16. UNHCR conducted a survey across 41 operations on the most-used communication systems and the challenges in collecting and responding to feedback from persons of concern, to strengthen community-based complaint mechanisms	September 2018
17. UNFPA appointed a Senior Focal Point for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse at the Assistant Secretary-General level	September 2018
18. UN-Women developed and issued a handbook on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment , providing a comprehensive overview of the applicable policies and procedures	June 2018
19. UNHCR released its sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment strategy and action plan www.unhcr.org/5b2cb6284	May 2018
20. UNDP established a task force on the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse, chaired by the Deputy Chief of Staff	March 2018; ongoing
21. UNHCR reinforced its safeguarding structure, which includes investigative, legal, ethics and staff welfare functions, through additional resources and training, and appointed a Senior Coordinator (at the Director level) to lead work on the matter	March 2018
22. UNRWA established a task force on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (UNRWA Sexual Misconduct Task Force), which conducted a series of diagnostic exercises in three focus areas	February 2018; ongoing





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(reporting, survivor support and prevention through programmes), in order to identify good practices and priorities for improvement; a detailed walk-through of the survivor experience from the moment of complaint onwards, assessed against best practices, is under way	
23. IOM conducted in-country and regional training of trainers on the community-based complaint mechanisms ⁸	2017–2018
24. UNAIDS follow-up on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1983 (2011) and capacity-building programme for peacekeepers and security forces on sexual abuse and exploitation	Ongoing
25. UNDP, UNHCR and UNFPA launched websites on protection of sexual exploitation and abuse www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/accountability/combating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse.html www.unhcr.org/our-fight-against-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment.html www.unfpa.org/protection-sexual-exploitation-sexual-abuse-and-sexual-harassment	Updated regularly
26. WFP established an ad hoc joint Management and Executive Board working group on sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and whistle-blower protection	Ongoing

⁸ In-country training sessions were provided in Chad, Iraq, Lebanon, Malawi, Nigeria, Turkey (refugee response and cross-border Syrian Arab Republic response) and Yemen. Regional sessions for the training of trainers were provided in Eastern Africa (June 2018), the Middle East and Northern Africa (July 2018) and Western and Central Africa (September 2018).





VI. Inter-Agency Standing Committee

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee is the primary coordination mechanism for facilitating coherent and timely international responses to emergencies and formulating policy for strengthened humanitarian action. Established in 1991 by General Assembly resolution [46/182](#), the Standing Committee includes United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, non-governmental organizations and the World Bank. Standing Committee members have individual mandates but are united by the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. The Standing Committee produces system-wide policies, guidance and tools to harmonize and improve the collective response.

Initiative	Status
<p>1. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees appointed an Inter-Agency Standing Committee Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment for the humanitarian sector until September 2020, when UNFPA will assume the Championship role</p> <p>The three overarching priorities established by the High Commissioner for the Championship are to: (a) bolster prevention; (b) expand safe spaces to ensure all victims of sexual misconduct can speak out; and (c) promote the respectful use of authority</p> <p>https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-on-protection-from-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment</p>	<p>Previous Champions: IOM: June 2011 to June 2018 UNICEF: July 2018 to August 2019</p>
<p>2. Report by the Executive Director of UNICEF, Henrietta Fore, entitled “Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse: UNICEF-IASC championship 2018–2019”</p> <p>https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/protection-sexual</p>	<p>October 2019</p>
<p>3. Six Core Principles Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for humanitarian workers strengthened</p> <p>https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/iasc-six-core-principles-relating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse</p>	<p>Revised September 2019; additional translations ongoing</p>
<p>4. Standing Committee endorsed a set of minimum operating standards for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and implementation guidelines</p> <p>https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/3_minimum_operating_standards_mos-psea.pdf</p> <p>https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-public/guidelines-implement-minimum-operating</p>	<p>2013, under revision</p>
<p>5. Strategy on protection from and response to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment of the Standing Committee Champions issued, outlining priorities until June 2020</p> <p>https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/strategy-protection</p>	<p>November 2018</p>





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<p>6. IOM informs the global dialogue on inter-agency implementation of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse based on the lessons learned from rolling out the 2016 Standing Committee toolkit, at the request of the Standing Committee principals, and will bundle its experiences to share among field and global colleagues</p>	<p>Second quarter of 2020</p>
<p>7. The Standing Committee and the CEB Task Force on addressing sexual harassment jointly organized meetings of investigatory bodies on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, to harmonize approaches to investigation and strengthen system-wide capacity https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/group/22024/meetings</p>	<p>26 November 2018 and 9 September and 4 November 2019</p>
<p>8. The International Accounting Standards Committee endorsed a plan to accelerate protection from sexual exploitation and abuse at the country level, focusing on achieving results for crisis-affected populations in three priority areas: safe and accessible reporting, survivor support and enhanced accountability https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/iasc-plan-accelerating</p>	<p>November 2018</p>
<p>9. Fund established to provide rapid grants to Standing Committee organizations and partners to investigate reported incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse or sexual harassment, managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/content/ocha-fund-investigations</p>	<p>November 2018</p>
<p>10. The Standing Committee's Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion manages a website of resources, training and guidance https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/results-group-2-accountability-and-inclusion</p>	<p>Updated regularly</p>
<p>11. Adoption of formal and informal community-based complaint mechanisms in all humanitarian and peace operations for the receipt of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-50</p>	<p>Endorsed in 2016; rolled out by the Standing Committee to all members in March 2018; translations into Arabic, French and Spanish completed</p>
<p>12. IOM launched a project to strengthen the humanitarian community's collective ability to reduce and respond to sexual abuse and exploitation by aid workers and to strengthen inter-agency leadership and coordination on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; having developed and rolled out the 2016 Standing Committee toolkit,⁹ IOM provides technical assistance to humanitarian country teams and to coordinators and networks for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	<p>Established 2016; ongoing</p>

⁹ The 2016 Inter-Agency Standing Committee toolkit includes the Best Practice Guide on Inter-Agency Community-based Complaint Mechanisms and the Global Standard Operating Procedures on Inter-Agency Cooperation in Community-based Complaint Mechanisms for Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.





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