

IASC Priority/Task Team Progress Report January 2014-Sept 2015: IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations, and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA)

KEY AIM: Create a system-wide “culture of accountability”: institutionalization of accountability to affected populations, including Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, in function and resourcing within each humanitarian organization alongside system level cohesion, coordination, and learning.

The Task Team has been working on different workstreams, namely **work with, and support, Humanitarian Country Teams** operationalise accountability and PSEA at a collective level; **engage with donors** in advancing the AAP/PSEA agenda, including the strengthening of requirements for funding recipients to demonstrate progress on accountability and PSEA; and **develop a broader advocacy strategy** to ensure that all humanitarian actors are aware of their roles and responsibilities with regard to AAP & PSEA, and disseminate good practices and **pilot inter-agency community-based complaints mechanisms**

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE EARLY 2014:

Support provided to Humanitarian Country Teams and field operations

- Deployed WFP and Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) staff to **support L3 emergencies** in Philippines and CAR, including developing AAP Action Plans on behalf of the Emergency Directors Group.
- **Supported field operations with AAP/PSEA guidance and advice**, including Myanmar, CAR, Philippines and DRC for interagency project
- **Set up a Help desk** to share good practices and respond to technical queries from partners.
- Included AAP in Disaster Risk Reduction strategies in multi-agency projects including local governments.
- AAP and PSEA **experts** participated in the STAIT webinar on accountability with over 500 participants from 60 countries.
- AAP referenced or included in **SRP and HNO guidance, Indicator Registry, Response Monitoring, Operational Peer Review and Humanitarian Coordinator training and guidance** and in the **Humanitarian Coordinators' Compacts**.
- **HC Retreat** in Montreux included a session on AAP. **RC's training** in June included AAP as part of session on crisis response and early recovery.
- Increased links with some clusters to support them in operationalising AAP and co-development of a **workshop with global clusters on Accountability**
- PSEA DVD - “**To serve with pride**” has been disseminated.
- Meeting of PSEA focal points was convened by PSEA Champion William Swing in April 2015 and focal points have been appointed by UN agencies and INGO for the development of global SOPs on interagency complaint mechanisms

Inter-agency community-based complaints mechanisms (CBCMs)

- Interagency CBCMs have been fully established in Melkadida refugee camp, Ethiopia, and in North Kivu, DRC based on extensive consultations with community members. Both structures have decision-making bodies and complaint handling processes in place, and are actively referring victims for assistance and allegations for agency follow up and investigation.
- To date, 81 complaints have been received in Ethiopia including 6 SEA allegations. The DRC pilot, which started later, has received 21 complaints including 19 SEA allegations.



Promoting awareness and good practices

- Inclusion of AAP/PSEA in Humanitarian Coordinator's Handbook.
- ERC and AAP Champion request to IASC Principals for update on efforts regarding accountability and PSEA
- Advocacy with partners and donors to highlight the essential linkages between AAP and PSEA, and increased collaboration at policy and field level
- Capitalisation on linkages between protection and accountability including specific work on the recommendations of the Whole of System report on Protection
- Advocacy work through webinar and initial development of a PSEA campaign

Engagement with WHS

- **Support provided to WHS Secretariat** on how to better advance AAP/PSEA and engage communities in the WHS consultations

Engagement with donors

- Meetings have been held with **donors bilaterally** as well as with **Inter-Parliamentary Union** about tightening the language on affected populations' feedback in the next appropriations bill.
- Donor meeting to discuss role of donors in advancing the operationalisation of AAP & PSEA

PLANNED ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE END OF 2015:

- Technical Support to the operationalisation of AAP and PSEA at field level (Lebanon and DRC)
- Planned support to some HCTs in collaboration with STAIT team (potentially Niger and Iraq) and additional missions to respond to requests.
- Ensure stronger participation of local organizations to the Task Team
- Development of **community-based complaints mechanisms manual** will continue throughout the last quarter of 2015 after compilation of lessons learnt.
- Support to the **development of global SOPs** that articulate how agencies can cooperate at **the field level in interagency complaint mechanisms**, as well as in referring SEA allegations outside a CBCM context.
- Advocacy towards clear and comprehensive communication from agencies' HQ to the field on cooperation modalities for case handling and allegation referrals to address cases in a safe, timely, and effective manner.
- Identify experts for additional STAIT webinars on PSEA and AAP, including in French.

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