

IASC Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Date established: 2010

End of mandate: November 2012

Background

In June 2010, the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Review of Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN, NGO, IOM and IFRC Personnel was completed. The Review concluded that the advancement of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in the humanitarian community would be best served if the IASC were to resume its leadership on the issue. This was due to the need to address the high risk of SEA in humanitarian contexts; the lack of progress within the humanitarian sector compared with the peacekeeping sector; the need to focus the humanitarian and development community on improving implementation of the Secretary-General's Bulletin: Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13); and the need to engage humanitarian leaders at the highest level – which was argued throughout the report as the most critical factor in securing progress in PSEA.

At the 77th IASC Working Group, in July 2010, the following Action Points were agreed upon:

1. Agreed that IASC has an important role to play in Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and stressed that every IASC organization has a responsibility to ensure enhanced commitment and engagement from senior management. **Action by: IASC organisations**
2. Expressed support for the Special Advisor's proposal to send letters to IASC Principals calling for their enhanced commitments for PSEA. **Action by: Special Advisor to the PSEA Review**
3. Endorsed the establishment of a Task Force on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse which would support and monitor implementation of the recommendations of the Review, and invited agencies to volunteer to form a small group to develop the ToR for the Task Force. **Action by: Interested IASC organizations to inform UNDP and IRC by end August**
4. Requested the newly established Task Force to develop specific recommendations for the Principals to be tabled at the December Principals meeting. **Action by: IASC Task Force on PSEA**
5. Agreed to pilot scaled-up PSEA action in up to five¹ selected locations, and proposed Haiti as the first pilot. **Action by: IASC Task Force on PSEA**

Objectives

Consistent with the findings of the IASC Review on PSEA by UN, NGO, IOM and IFRC Personnel², it has been agreed that a time bound (two years) Task Force on PSEA be established under the direction of

¹ In practise, this was reduced to three pilot countries due to the limited 2-years time frame of the Task Force.

the IASC. The IASC Task Force will be the venue for collaboration among all IASC members (UN, NGO, IOM and IFRC) with cross cutting focus on the humanitarian, development and peacekeeping contexts. The objectives of the IASC Task Force will be three-fold:

- a. **Strengthen leadership on PSEA** by supporting agency heads to implement PSEA obligations.
- b. Support field offices in implementing joint community based complaints mechanisms (including victim assistance) and related activities.
- c. Support agencies in institutionalizing PSEA within organizational and global structures.

3. Tasks

To meet the above mentioned objectives, the Task Force plans the following activities:

- a) Strengthen leadership on PSEA
 - Encourage UN, NGO, IOM and IFRC heads to play a visible leadership role and to ensure necessary cultural and behavioural change takes place (IASC Global Review Recommendation 2, “Agencies at Headquarters”);
 - Communicate existing policy and guidance to those who have obligations to implement these at the field level, and provide necessary support;
 - Support HCs to promote the engagement of the humanitarian community and lead on this issue within humanitarian forums, especially in humanitarian country teams (IASC Global Review Recommendation 5, “The UN, in partnership with NGOs, IOM and the IFRC”).
- b) Field Support
 - Provide support to three³ pilot countries, by scaling up PSEA action and by focusing on implementing joint community based complaint mechanisms (including victim assistance), and encourage individual agencies to allocate the necessary resources to respond to allegations (IASC Global Review Recommendation 3, “The IASC”);
 - Formalize links between the new taskforce and PSEA networks at field level (IASC Global Review Recommendation 6, “The UN, in partnership with NGOs, IOM and the IFRC”);
 - Design a best practise document on CBCMs set up in the three pilot countries. Ensure the document is in line with the findings of the recent ‘Review of IASC Products’ report (IASC Global Review Recommendation 5, “The IASC”);

² The findings of the Review consist of 34 recommendations (which some overlap). In order to implement the recommendations of the Review (during a two-year time period), the NGO and UN Community were consulted over a two month period to prioritize among the recommendations. The ToR objectives were based on this prioritization exercise.

³ The IASC WG originally agreed to focus on five pilot countries. However, this was reduced to three due to the limited time frame of the Task Force.

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- Initiate and maintain a use- and maintenance-friendly website as a tools repository for work on PSEA (IASC Global Review Recommendation 5, “The IASC”).

c) Mainstream PSEA within organizational and global structures

- Support agencies to (a) address PSEA as part of their general code of conduct, (b) embed PSEA in learning and induction procedures and (c) include PSEA in Focal Points’ (or appointed staff member’s) job descriptions and performance appraisals (IASC Global Review Recommendation 1 and 10, “Agencies at headquarters”);
- Review self-assessment process and adjust according to member’s needs and preferences. Replicate the self-assessment process in 18 months’ time as required in order to monitor progress and identify areas where agencies collectively are challenged (IASC Global Review Recommendation 3, “The IASC”);
- Provide recommendations of the role of the Cluster system in mainstreaming PSEA and ensure that PSEA is integrated with other IASC subsidiary bodies and groups that are involved in similar tasks, such as gender, protection and emergency planning (IASC Global Review Recommendation 6, “The IASC”);
- Support agencies to include PSEA in CAPs and Flash Appeals to ensure there are functional inter-agency PSEA mechanisms in place during emergencies(IASC Global Review Recommendation 4, “The IASC);
- Share best practices on how to mainstream PSEA to related work at global level, such as Sexual Gender Based Violence, Protection, Human Rights etc.

4. Task Force Management

- Call for, prepare and organize regular meetings;
- Manage Task Force membership and contact information;
- Develop and maintain list-serves for field contacts;
- Develop priority outputs for 2010-2012 and coordinate among members leadership on specific actions;
- Re-design the ECHA/ECPS funding proposal (currently focusing on strengthening accountability and community reporting mechanisms, building capacity of humanitarian, peacekeeping and development actors and institutionalizing PSEA efforts for sustainability) according to PSEA Review recommendations and priorities identified by the new PSEA Taskforce;

5. Structure and Composition

The Task Force will be composed of members of the IASC, representatives of organisations that were represented in the ECHA/ECPS UN and NGO Task Force, and other organisations (UN, NGO, IOM and IFRC) that are interested to join.

The Task Force will be co-chaired by Laurie Sullivan (IRC) and Christine Bendel (UNDP) during the first year (2010/2011). By the end of 2011, the Task Force will call for organisation to nominate new co-chairs.

Task Teams will be created for each output reflected in the work plan and a liaison resource person will be appointed to report on the progress of individual Task Teams. The role of the liaison resource person is to facilitate and coordinate the work of the Task Team, assign work to interested voluntary members of the Task Team and follow up and prepare one paragraph (bi-monthly) on the work and progress of the Task Team to Co-Chairs. UNDP will provide Secretariat support for 2010/2011. By end of 2011, the Task Force will call for organisations to provide Secretariat support for 2012.

6. Time bound Task Force

The Task Force will be active for a period of 24 months: December 2010 – December 2012. Prior to the conclusion of this time period, a decision will be made regarding the structure under which PSEA work will continue within the IASC.

7. Decision-making process

The Task Force endeavor to make all decisions by consensus. In instances where there is no consensus but where there is a convergence of views among Task Force members, the Co-Chairs will decide on the basis of the convergence of the majority.

All decisions will respect the mandates of individual Task Force members.

Individual experts who are invited to participate in the Task Force will not be consulted during decision-making processes.

Final approval of the ToR and work plan will be the responsibility of the IASC Working Group.

8. Frequency of meetings

Meetings of the Task Force members will be held every two months to track progress of the work plan of the Task Force in preparation for the midterm progress report to IASC (November 2011). As preparation for each meeting, appointed liaison resource persons are asked to provide a short summary of the work of each Task Team to the Co-Chairs.

9. Monitoring implementation & Reporting

In consultation with the liaison resource persons (of each Task Team), the Co-Chairs will monitor implementation of decisions on a regular basis and will report annually to the IASC WG on their progress.