

IASC Task Team on  
Accountability to  
Affected Populations  
and Protection from  
Sexual Exploitation and  
Abuse (AAP/PSEA)

# IASC PSEA-focused Task Team Meeting.

30 August 2018

- **Aim of Meeting (TT Coordinator)**
- **Update on UN Protocol on SEA Allegations Involving Implementing Partners (UNICEF)**
- **Update on Uniform Protocol on the Provision of Assistance to Victims of SEA (UNICEF)**
- **Update on Uniform Policy on Balancing Disclosure of Information and Principles of Confidentiality (OHCHR)**

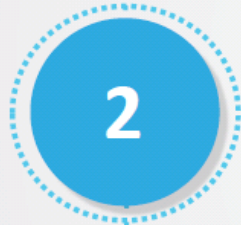
**AOB**

## UN Protocol on SEA Allegations involving Implementing Partners

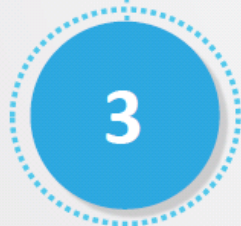
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UN ST/SGB/2003 on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)



Application of the SGB to UN Partners



UN and Partner commitments on PSEA

## WHAT IS SEA?



### Sexual exploitation:

is any **actual or attempted abuse** of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust for sexual purposes, including but not limited to profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

### Sexual abuse:

is **actual or threatened** physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

Source: UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, ST/SGB/2003/13

## WHO DOES THE ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ON SEA APPLY TO?

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### UN Personnel and UN implementing partners

Implementing partners may include – but are not limited to - government institutions, inter-governmental organizations, and civil society organizations, including NGOs. Implementing partners' subcontractors are subsumed within this definition

United Nations

ST/SGB/2003/13



**Secretariat**

9 October 2003

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## **Secretary-General's Bulletin**

### **Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse**

The Secretary-General, for the purpose of preventing and addressing cases of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, and taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 57/306 of 15 April 2003, "Investigation into sexual exploitation of refugees by aid workers in West Africa", promulgates the following in consultation with Executive Heads of separately administered organs and programmes of the United Nations:

## **Section 6**

### **Cooperative arrangements with non-United Nations entities or individuals**

6.1 When entering into cooperative arrangements with non-United Nations entities or individuals, relevant United Nations officials shall inform those entities or individuals of the standards of conduct listed in section 3, and shall receive a written undertaking from those entities or individuals that they accept these standards.

6.2 The failure of those entities or individuals to take preventive measures against sexual exploitation or sexual abuse, to investigate allegations thereof, or to take corrective action when sexual exploitation or sexual abuse has occurred, shall constitute grounds for termination of any cooperative arrangement with the United Nations.

## **Section 7**

### **Entry into force**

The present bulletin shall enter into force on 15 October 2003.

*(Signed)* Kofi A. Annan  
Secretary-General

## UN Protocol on SEA Allegations involving Implementing Partners

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### Key Elements:

- **Rationale**
- **Guiding Principles**
- **Applicability/ Scope**
- **Definitions**
- **Protocol statements: screening; cooperative arrangements; monitoring; risk mitigation**



## MUTUAL COMMITMENTS FOR PSEA

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### Prevention of SEA

Take all appropriate measures to prevent SEA by personnel or subcontractors, including through appropriate training.

### Reporting of allegations

Record and report promptly and confidentially allegations of SEA to respective UN partner.

### Investigation of allegations

Investigate properly and without delay allegations of SEA by personnel, or subcontractors.

### Referrals for immediate professional assistance

Immediate assistance is not dependent on the assessment or investigation of a complaint.

## OPERATIONALIZING PSEA COMMITMENTS WITH PARTNERS

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### Through different policies and tools:

- [UN Protocol](#) on allegations of SEA involving implementing partners (IPs)
- Revised cooperation agreements
- UN Funds and Programmes' [online training](#) accessible to all partners
- [Comprehensive toolkit](#) on the IP Protocol (UNICEF; under development)

## UNIFORM PROTOCOL ON THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF SEA

### Scope and policy framework:

- Aim: Protocol provides direction on the provision of assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)
- Scope of protocol: all UN system organizations
- Policy framework: Read in conjunction with the UN Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel, as annexed in General Assembly resolution 62/214 of 7 March 2008
- Operational framework: informed by GBV/ Child Protection programming and best practices in the field

## KEY COMPONENTS:

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Victim assistance and support; special considerations for children



Referral pathways and monitoring of assistance



PSEA Networks; coordination and key role of GBV/ Child Protection



Capacity development and training



Information, as linked to assistance

## UNIFORM PROTOCOL ON THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF SEA

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- Safety, dignity in their care and treatment, privacy, confidentiality, and provided in accordance with “do no harm” principle.
- Assistance and support provided in a manner that is victim-centered, age and gender sensitive, and culturally appropriate. Where victims of SEA are children, assistance and support provided in a manner consistent with the “best interests of the child.”
- Provision of immediate basic assistance and support begins upon the receipt of the initial complaint. Victim does not need to identify the alleged perpetrator or prove that s/he was sexually exploited or abused to receive such assistance.

## REFERRALS FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

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REFERRALS FOR IMMEDIATE PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE

Key Principles of the Victim-Centered Approach

SAFETY - CONFIDENTIALITY - RESPECT - NON-DISCRIMINATION

**Respect victim's right to**

Be treated with dignity and respect

Choose a course of action

Privacy and confidentiality

Non-discrimination

Comprehensive information to help  
make her/his own decision

**Prevent negative impacts**

Victim-blaming attitudes

Sense of powerlessness

Shame and stigma

Discrimination on any basis

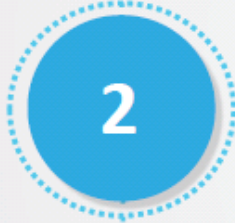
Loss of agency and risk of  
further harm

## UNIFORM PROTOCOL ON THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF SEA

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Stage 1: Consultation and drafting



Stage 2: Field testing and review



Stage 3: Final consultations, update, roll out with a  
monitoring framework

including

*Proposed harmonization and integration across UN  
and IASC*





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

