IASC Task Team Progress Report 2018:
IASC Task Team on Accountability to Affected Populations, and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (AAP/PSEA)
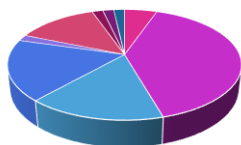
KEY AIMS:

- Foster a culture of accountability and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse at all levels of the humanitarian system.
- Encourage institutionalisation of AAP and PSEA within humanitarian organizations, including local and national NGOs, INGOs, Red Cross Red Crescent movement and UN Agencies.
- Support operationalisation of AAP and PSEA at collective level as well as individual agency level.

2018 SUMMARY

Building on the 2017 Subsidiary Body Review findings and the views of its membership, the Task Team prioritised collaborative actions over information sharing and demonstrated results in the following areas:

- **Expanded support to over 50 country operations** through revitalising its Helpdesk and support functions.
- **Support to collective AAP and PSEA mechanisms**; through work on the Humanitarian Programme Cycle; prevention of SEA, efforts to align global AAP and PSEA initiatives and reinforce the critical links between AAP and PSEA.
- With the spotlight on PSEA following the 2018 SEA scandals, and the increase in global developments (at UN and Donor levels); for PSEA-focused work the Task Team shifted its focus to **updating members on key AAP and PSEA initiatives** that would directly impact them as well as providing support to the various initiatives.

2018 Task Team Members

- NNGO (6)
- INGO (45)
- UN (18)
- Networks (20)
- IASC Subsidiary Body (2)
- Independent expert (15)
- IFI (2)
- Donor (2)
- Research Institute (2)

The Task Team mailing list includes 326 recipients. Total number of member organisations (and experts) is 112. An **increase of almost 30% in membership** since 2017.

Why is this important? The Task Team welcomed 15 new NGOs/NGO networks to the membership during 2018. Having a broader representation of NGOs was considered imperative as they engage with communities on a daily basis and can bring back the voices of affected populations into global level debates. NGOs this year and beyond are also facing increasing pressure to adapt their policies and programmes to changing donor and UN requirements; especially on PSEA so it is essential that they are part of the process and linked in; a role that the Task Team plays.

Diversity within the Task Team is imperative. Collective efforts around AAP and PSEA need to go beyond the realms of traditional humanitarian work to be truly impactful. The current membership brings humanitarian, peacekeeping and development actors together as well as donors, international finance institutions and research institutes to share best practise, work together and learn from each other.

2018 Task Team Meetings

January	**PSEA:** Following requests from members, a dedicated meeting on SEA risk assessments
February	**AAP/PSEA:** AAP inputs into Youth Guidelines; discussion on language barriers and challenges to AAP (TWB)
March	**PSEA:** Stock-take of PSEA focused activities
May	**PSEA:** Dedicated PSEA meeting to develop Task Team messaging on PSEA for donors following scandals
June (co-chaired with OCHA)	**AAP/PSEA:** Stock-take to start alignment of global collective AAP/PSEA initiatives: CBCM project, CCEI, CDAC, CHS Alliance, GB Participation Revolution, P2P and the Task Team
July	**PSEA:** Updates from the IASC Secretariat on PSEA work, the ECOSOC PSEA event and the GHD High Level PSEA event; updates from UN SEAWG
August	**AAP/PSEA** First consultation with Task Team for IASC workplan
September	**PSEA:** Following requests from members, a dedicated meeting on UN SEA WG new policies and protocols, including the protocol on Implementing Partners
October	**AAP/PSEA:** Development of tool showing results of collaborative action between AAP and PSEA actors
November	**PSEA:** Updates on Global PSEA developments: DFID on donor commitments post Safeguarding Summit; Inter-Agency Misconduct Disclosure Scheme; BOND Accountability WG; International Ombuds Study; IASC PSEA/SH Championship and CHS Alliance PSEA Index
December (co-chaired with OCHA)	**AAP/PSEA:** Updates on developments around AAP and the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC) including from DFID, OCHA and the CHS Alliance

Participation at Task Team meetings rose significantly from 2017 to 2018

(From approx. 25 participants in 2017 to approx. 55 in 2018)

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AT THE COLLECTIVE LEVEL

With support from REACH and OCHA, data on **views and perceptions of affected populations was collected and analysed for inclusion in 6 HNOs:** Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Somalia, Ukraine and Yemen

Why important? Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) provide HCTs information on affected people's needs and provide the basis for Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs). In 2017, for the first time, led by the Task Team with REACH, data was collected in 2 responses on: people's views and perceptions about the response; their preferred ways of feeding back and complaining about the response and their information needs and preferences.

This is a simple, cost effective and efficient way of using existing systems at country level to consult a wide reach of affected people and embed their views into the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC).

A menu of AAP and PSEA questions for needs assessments was developed and endorsed by the Task Team and REACH. https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/news-52

Reinforcement of critical linkages between AAP and PSEA through development and Task Team endorsement of a tool and continued advocacy/guidance https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/news-91

Why important? Affected people should be at the heart of all our PSEA work. In particular, for people to safely access and feel confident enough to use feedback/complaints mechanisms for complaints of SEA, our AAP and SEA actors need to work together; to ensure that any system is designed with community inputs.

IASC AAP Commitments (CAAP) guidance note was developed and endorsed by the Task Team https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-61

Why important? The revised CAAP was developed and endorsed by the IASC Principals on the 20th of November 2017 to reflect key developments in the sector including the Core Humanitarian Standard, the work on community-based complaints mechanisms and the recognition that PSEA is an integral part of the wider accountability agenda. The guidance note builds on recommendations from the Grand Bargain Participation Revolution and the CHS.

With support from Translators without Borders, **71 translations of the 6 IASC PSEA principles** have been finalized and validated (by Task Team members).

Why important? Sharing information (through posters etc.) on what behaviour affected populations and staff should expect from aid workers in accessible formats is a simple, and cost effective way of preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/news-28

A dedicated meeting was convened with Good Humanitarian Donorship Donors to represent **Task Team messages for Donors** in response to the SEA scandals:

https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/news-42

Why important? Following the 2018 SEA scandals; the Task Team was keen to advocate on some key areas including: the need for donors to encourage reporting of SEA; need for standardized donor reporting on SEA and the importance of putting the affected populations first by linking our PSEA and AAP work. Messages were agreed, endorsed and presented by Task Team members.

Though the IOM Inter-Agency CBCM project**, regional Training of Trainers (ToTs)** were executed in East Africa, MENA and West and Central Africa

Why important? One of the greatest challenges around PSEA is the fact that communities often do not differentiate between who the perpetrators of SEA are and often, existing feedback/complaints mechanisms are unable to handle complaints if they are about external actors. IOM's IASC work on joint Community-Based Complaints Mechanisms has continued throughout 2018. Through the 3 regional ToTs, staff from the regions were brought together to learn good practices in collective mechanisms (including PSEA networks), learn how to adapt existing feedback/complaints mechanisms, set-up inter-agency referral pathways and deal with complaints of SEA according to agreed upon SOPs and standards.

With support from IOM, Humanitarian HR and Save the Children, a **leadership training module on PSEA** was developed and piloted in Somalia.
The P2P Guidance note on PSEA for HCs and HCTs also received Task Team support and endorsement.

Why important? Consistently we hear about the need to reinforce PSEA through all organizations and at the collective; but especially at the leadership level. This is a significant need.

Harmonisation of Global Collective AAP and PSEA Initiatives. The Task Team led efforts to increase awareness on and harmonise the work of the Task Team, Communications and Community Engagement Initiative (CCEI), Community-Based Complaints Mechanism (CBCM), the CHS Alliance, the P2P Team, CDAC Network and the Grand Bargain Participation Revolution.

Why important? To align our objectives, prevent duplication and decrease confusion; especially at the field level.

DIRECT REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT

Demand for the Helpdesk functions and requests for ad hoc support increased in 2018; largely reflecting the need for organisations and country programmes to strengthen their capacity around protection from SEA following the 2018 scandals.

29 **AAP and PSEA queries responded to through the Help Desk**

Included support to NGOs, clusters, donors, UN Agencies and HC/RCs offices at the global level and in 15 countries including: Bangladesh, Kenya, Somalia, Eastern DRC, Ukraine, Turkey, Myanmar, Liberia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Paraguay and Afghanistan

28 **PSEA queries responded to through website**

Included support/guidance to NGOs and UN Agencies at the global level and in 12 countries including: Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, DRC, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Chad

39 **operations supported through IOM inter-Agency CBCM project**

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Cross-border Northern and Southern Syria, DRC, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Haiti, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, UAE, Uganda and Yemen

With thanks to IOM, UNDP, UNDFS, UNICEF and other Task Team members for their support to the Help Desk Function

Examples of support provided:

NGOs: Guidance on how to engage on AAP and PSEA in country; provision of examples of AAP frameworks; advice on how AAP and PSEA can be adapted to development contexts; advice on resources on working with partners and in remote contexts; PSEA advice for development of guidance on Women and Girl's Safe Spaces and advice on how to strengthen PSEA at country level.

Donors: Advice on how to deal with AAP in areas with telecom restrictions; advice on what can be shared with subjects of complaints following investigations.

Clusters: Advice on training materials; advice on how to engage with the Task Team.

UN Agencies: Advice on AAP and PSEA resources; support for definitions of feedback and complaints; request for TORs for PSEA Networks.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT REQUESTED AND DELIVERED

- Task Team Coordinator invited to the UK and Germany by NGOs to present on the work of the Task Team and discuss AAP and PSEA measures
- Convening of ad hoc PSEA meeting to support Task Team member (development actor) on how to deal with contractors
- Specific meeting to guide NGOs working in Europe on AAP and PSEA in an informal setting (with IOM)

Examples of Awareness Raising and Support to Global AAP and PSEA Initiatives

The Task Team is committed to raising awareness within the humanitarian community on new developments in AAP and PSEA. In 2018, much of the focus was on PSEA and members expressed a need to be kept up to date with emerging policies, protocols and initiatives.

Updates on developments at the IASC, UN SEA WG and NGO levels were provided in Task Team meetings.

Task Team member inputs into a number of new initiatives including:

- The IASC Championship Proposal on PSEA
- The Global Ombuds Initiative
- The proposed Centre of Excellence on PSEA
- The revision of the CHS PSEA Index
- The development of the P2P PSEA Guidance note for HCTs and HCs
- The CHS Humanitarian Accountability Report
- The Groupe URD - 'Where have we got to with accountability' study
- The Inter-Agency Guidelines for Young People in Humanitarian Settings
- IRIN Research on Humanitarian Sector and News

Task Team support to and/or representation at:

- DFID Safeguarding Summit
- IASC CEB Investigations Workshop
- OCHA Heads of Office Induction
- DFID internal Guidance note on AAP

Streamlining AAP and PSEA Resources

In recognition that there are so many resources (guidelines, case studies and examples of best practise on AAP and PSEA), CDAC and the Task Team held a workshop in December 2017 to develop a shortlist. This was designed to complement the IASC AAP Commitments (CAAP) and was endorsed by the Task Team in February 2018.

https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/news-26

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

From August to September 2018, the Task Team went through a consultation process to develop the workplan outcomes for the IASC workplan. At the same time; detailed objectives and activities for the Task Team itself were discussed and agreed upon, a summary of which is presented here:

Summary of Key Task Team Priorities for 2019

AIM: Increased capacity of collective and organisational AAP and PSEA initiatives at the country-level through**:**
- Development of Regional Networks in which best practices can be shared, links between AAP and PSEA maximised, and direct support provided
- Continuation of direct support to country operations through the Helpdesk Functions
- Development of new partnerships with national actors

AIM: Views and perceptions of affected populations inform humanitarian responses through:
- Continued work to collect data on people's views and perceptions about the responses and behaviour of aid workers and represent them in HNOs and HRPs
- Support to collective AAP and PSEA mechanisms throughout the HPC process

AIM: Prevention of SEA through:
- Increasing awareness amongst communities and staff on behaviour to expect from Aid Workers
- Enabling feedback/complaints mechanisms to handle complaints of SEA (against internal and external actors)
- Support to leadership to mitigate against risks of SEA
- Development and provision of tools
- Improving linkages between AAP and PSEA

Big ticket items that require continuity and follow-up in 2019

A number of the above initiatives are already underway/ongoing and will require dedicated support through the Task Team as below:

- ❖ **Management of Task Team Helpdesk** which provides support to organisations/collectives within 48 hours

- ❖ Continued work with OCHA to finalise process of **mainstreaming AAP and PSEA into 2019 HNOs**

- ❖ Work with REACH and OCHA to start process of mainstreaming AAP and PSEA into **2020 HPC process** (to commence in February/March)

- ❖ Continued work with Translators without Borders to translate and disseminate **translations of PSEA principles**

- ❖ Coordinated support to **PSEA session at the Humanitarian Partners Networking Week** (HNPW) in February

- ❖ Continued work with IOM and Humanitarian HR (and others) to develop tools and learning packages on **PSEA for leaders** (planned for early 2019)

- ❖ Continued work with IOM and global collectives to **support inter-agency SEA complaints handling**

- ❖ Work with CHS Alliance to **adapt and pilot CHS PSEA index for use by HCTs** to determine their collective ability to deal with SEA

- ❖ Continued work with IFRC, OCHA and IOM on development and roll-out of tool for **complaints inputs and referral** (for sensitive and non-sensitive feedback and complaints)

- ❖ Support to implementation of **IASC PSEA/SH Championship Strategy**

Ideas for Results Group 2 in 2019

With the proposed restructuring of the IASC and establishment of Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion a number of ideas are being considered for 2019 which could bring together work around gender, disability and mental health into global and country work on AAP and PSEA:

- ❖ **Include views and perceptions of all people, including men, women, girls, boys, children, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, people with mental health issues and other marginalised groups in the HPC process** at country level. To do this, the ongoing work on data collection for HNOs could be expanded.

- ❖ Support collective AAP and PSEA actors/initiatives on the ground to ensure **men, women, girls, boys, children, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, people with mental health issues and other marginalised groups are able to safely access and ultimately provide feedback and complaints (including of SEA)**

- ❖ Ensure **men, women, girls, boys, children, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, people with mental health issues and other marginalised groups** understand the behaviour to expect from aid workers by tailoring existing products to their needs

- ❖ Establish **specific workstreams** that ensure the needs of all marginalised groups are reflected in AAP and PSEA guidance and implementation. E.g. Child-focused Group

- ❖ Establish **Sexual Harassment (SH) working group** to share information/best practise and align with work on SEA where relevant