




INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE – A LEARNING PACKAGE FOR PARTNERS

PURPOSE

UNHCR has developed a learning package to help partners enhance their skills in investigating allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse against beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance. The learning package, which consists of an online e-learning programme and a resource kit, is one of the deliverables of the UN High Commissioner for Refugee’s IASC Championship on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (September 2019 – December 2020), and closely aligns with his commitment to support partners and working jointly to enhance capacity and accountability.

UNHCR initiated this project as a response to specific requests from its partners to support the strengthening of their capacity to conduct high quality investigations of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse. It is based on commonly used principles and standards for administrative investigations within the UN system, as well as UNHCR’s training programme on investigation for partners. Some aspects of the process may have to be modified in order to reflect a specific organization’s internal policies and procedures, as well as local laws and regulations. Field consultations were conducted with NGO partners, and other stakeholders, before the finalization of the package to ensure that its contents and design are user-friendly and respond the operational needs of partners.

 The interactive e-learning programme consists of five modules and is estimated to take five hours to complete.

It includes:  quizzes,  exercises,  case studies and  additional resources.

The complementary resource kit contains all the relevant checklists, forms and templates to support the practitioner during their work.

STRUCTURE

Module 1: [Introduction](#)

The module introduces the basic concepts of sexual exploitation and abuse and other forms of sexual misconduct and explains whose jurisdiction SEA investigations are conducted under.

Module 2: [Principles of SEA Investigations](#)

The module introduces the principles of SEA investigations, including a victim-centered approach, consent and due process rights.

Module 3: [Methodology and Case Management](#)

The module introduces the methodology and case management of SEA investigations during intake, investigation and reporting.

Module 4: [Conducting Interviews](#)

The module provides recommendations on the interview formalities, planning and preparation of an interview, how to create a positive atmosphere for interviews and how to conduct the interviews investigating allegations of SEA, including of vulnerable interview partners.

Module 5: [Analysis and Report Drafting](#)

The module provides guidance on how to analyse the evidence that was gathered during the SEA investigation and how to present the evidence in the final product, which is the report.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

The learning package is primarily intended for implementing partners of the United Nations, who are directly conducting investigations of allegations of sexual and abuse within their organization. It can however also be useful for other partners, who are engaged in different functions with PSEA in humanitarian settings, to enhance their knowledge of the investigative process and the applicable standards and principles.

HOW CAN IT BE ACCESSED?

The e-learning programme and the resource kit is available on UNHCR’s Learn & Connect platform, DisasterReady and the UN Partner Portal.

CONTACT

UNHCR would be pleased to receive feedback on the usefulness of the learning kit at epartner@unhcr.org or inspector@unhcr.org