



**Interagency Community Outreach and Communications Fund on
Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
April 2020**

Background: Raising community-awareness on the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and available reporting channels is critical to **preventing of SEA**, as well as to ensuring that victims know where and how to **safely report SEA** when it does take place, both which are core priorities for the IASC (The main coordination forum of the humanitarian sector) and its member organisations.¹ Standard 4 of the Inter Agency Standing Committee ([IASC Minimum Operating Standards on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(MOS-PSEA\)](#)) calls on IASC members to support the distribution of “awareness raising tools and materials to be used for beneficiary awareness raising activities” and to “communicate in detail the expectations regarding beneficiary awareness raising efforts on PSEA”.

To meet this standard, there is a need for effective, updated **information, education and communication (IEC) materials on PSEA** that are tailored to local cultural contexts, operational realities, the groups that are most at risk, and which take into account among others of literacy, languages, age and capacity.

In line with this need, and recalling that strengthening communication with communities is the centerpiece of the Grand Bargain commitment to achieve a [participation revolution](#)², **UNHCR and ICVA launched an Interagency PSEA Community Outreach and Communications Fund**. The Fund, which is one of the deliverables under High Commissioner Grandi’s [IASC Championship on Protection from SEA and Sexual Harassment \(SH\)](#), has been validated by the IASC Results Group on Accountability and Inclusion (RG2)³ as addressing a significant gap, and it is reflected in the RG2 2020 workplan.

Objectives and Outcomes: The Fund aims to **provide rapid, targeted financial support to NGOs** that lack the resources and/or capacity to develop and disseminate PSEA outreach and communications materials, and to **make available to all IASC members and the wider sector the materials developed through the Fund** for their further use or adaptation. In line with these objectives, the outcomes envisioned are that communications materials and strategies on PSEA are more effectively tailored to local needs and contexts, more accessible; that members of communities have greater awareness of their right to receive protection and assistance free from SEA, and that they know where and how to safely report concerns or incidents regarding SEA.

Implementation: The PSEA Outreach Fund was launched by UNHCR and ICVA in February 2020 with an initial seed investment from UNHCR. The initial funding allows for 9-12 grants of about USD 15-20K. An interagency Steering Group comprised of subject-matter experts from IASC contributes to the project governance, including by developing eligibility and selection criteria, assisting with calls for proposals, and coordinating the review and assessment of proposals. The Steering Group has 7 members from NGOs and UN agencies and is co-chaired by ICVA and UNHCR. It will also coordinate basic technical support in refining and developing project proposals submitted by NGO applicants, where appropriate and feasible.

¹ See [IASC Strategy on Protection from and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment](#) (November 2018) and [IASC Plan for Accelerating Protection from SEA in Humanitarian Response at Country-level](#) (December 2018).

² See GB, “[A participation revolution: include people receiving aid in making the decisions which affect their lives](#)” detailing commitments and priorities related to Grand Bargain (GB) workstream 6.

³ See [Summary Note, IASC RG2 meeting 09 September 2019](#).