

IASC PSEAH Championship Priorities

Andrew Morley/SCHR 2022



The SCHR is pleased to put forward the following priorities for the 2022 IASC PSEAH Championship. The priorities have been developed based on the work of previous champions, the IASC External PSEAH Review, the draft IASC 2022-2026 strategy, and an extensive consultation process (see appendix for more information).

The priorities lie across three domains:

1. An affected population-focused priority
2. A country-level priority
3. A systems improvement priority

SCHR recognizes a number of other critical initiatives underway which are distinct from but related to the Championship priorities and will support these initiatives where capacity allows (see appendix for more information). The priorities are further designed to bolster and support the safeguarding coordination roles of OCHA and the IASC Secretariat. Finally, the chosen priorities reflect the contributions that a first NGO Championship can bring with a focus on community-based, operational impact across the humanitarian ecosystem.

SCHR commits to ensuring continuity between Championships, with a review on progress at the 6-month mark, early identification of the next Champion and consideration of extended transition if needed to ensure continued momentum and effective handover.

DOMAIN 1: AFFECTED POPULATION-FOCUSED

The Champion will lead the IASC to agree upon a definition of a victim/survivor Centred approach, its main principles, and key entities/actions involved in its implementation including prevention work, investigations, and response to SEAH violations.

Background:

The sector has made great advances in defining survivor-centred approaches and the change necessary in agencies in order to put them in place. However, as noted in the IASC External PSEAH Review *'The IASC has no official, shared, or agreed definition of a 'victim/survivor-centred approach', nor a set of guidance or pathways to make sure that a victim/survivor-centred approach is applied to the full spectrum of PSEAH activities of all IASC members. This work will build upon prior work to define and apply a victim/survivor centred approach notably including the 2020 UNHCR policy*

Deliverable: Whole of IASC definition of the victim/survivor-centred¹ approach in action; guidance for implementing such an approach in response to an allegation/complaint

By: Definition agreed by December 2022
Guidance drafted by June 2023

Success: A shared understanding of victim/survivor Centred approaches by humanitarian leaders and managers, PSEAH specialists, staff and volunteers, partners, and at least a proportion of affected people and local authorities. This understanding will be built on documented standards and approaches that are in place when IASC members respond to a complaint or allegation.

¹ The Champion will primarily use the term "victim/survivor", acknowledging that the individual terms "victim" or "survivor" are preferred in certain contexts. While the two terms are often used interchangeably, "victim" is more prevalent in the United Nations system, and "survivor" is more prevalent in psychosocial support sectors.

DOMAIN 2: COUNTRY-LEVEL

The Champion will support the development of an institutionalised five-year project to centrally employ and deploy IASC PSEA coordinators to the 15 highest risk contexts and mobilise political support and additional donor funding for it

Background:

Deployments of inter-Agency PSEAH coordinators remain an ad-hoc affair, despite an active interest in funding such deployments from donors and working models to deploy inter-agency capacity in the GenCap and ProCap projects. Progress is evident, particularly around standardised induction support and TORs. The IASC PSEAH review has called for *establishing a fund to put in place and maintain PSEA coordination capacity in the 15 highest risk contexts for a three-year period.*

Deliverable: A detailed project proposal including framework of hosting options and costs
By: Host identified, proposal developed and supported by IASC Principals by April 2022
Proposal shared with Donors by the Champion in Summer 2022
Proposal funded by Fall 2022
Success: An institutionalised, hosted project covering 15 highest risk contexts with funding from two or more donors for three or more years by end June 2023.

DOMAIN 3: SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT

The Champion will lead the continued process of culture change started under the UNHCR and UNFPA Championships, building on the existing work of SCHR to ensure that the sector actively evidences a zero-tolerance approach for inaction on SEAH

Background:

Previous Championships and the IASC External PSEAH Review have identified the critical importance of *'a sustained focus on changing the culture of the humanitarian sector.* In particular, the Champion will focus on changing:

- The sectors' cultural assumptions about abuse in humanitarian contexts, and how it relates to our values.
- How the sector recognises the power asymmetry between humanitarians and affected people bestowed by the positions they hold and the unconscious bias that this may cause.
- How those in the sector talk about our knowledge of abuse.
- How the sector perceives and expresses relative risks, and who they impact upon, or action and inaction related to SEAH.

Deliverables: A collective baseline of perceptions of culture and acceptance of by staff in IASC agencies, building upon existing perception surveys conducted by many IASC member agencies
By: August 2022
Specific concrete actions by individual IASC agencies
By: June 2023
Success: a measurable positive shift from that baseline by June 2026

Annexes:

A. Additional Initiatives that the Champion will support

1. Commission and endorse a 5-year Programme of Action along the lines recommended in the ten-year Review. (Led by the Emergency Response Coordinator (ERC) and IASC Secretariat)
2. Capacity building and other work around PSEAH investigations including work on changing the burden of proof and victim support protocols (UNHCR, UNICEF and others), including work with Staff associations and Tribunals about how they can support a victim/survivor-centred approach
3. Revision of the current Community-Based Complaints Mechanism (CBCM) into a more effective and simpler model for field implementation. (Led by IOM)
4. Vetting of staff (Clear Check with the UN Special Coordinator for PSEA's Office and the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme led by SCHR)
5. Conduct proactive joint PSEAH missions where under-reporting of violations is suspected (Led by IASC PSEA Thematic Experts Group Field Support Team)
6. SEA Risk Index to identify high risk contexts (OCHA leading with FCDO support)
7. Revision of the IASC Minimum Operating Standards on PSEAH (Led by IASC Secretariat/OCHA)
8. Adopting and translating simpler language around IASC principles (Led by UNICEF)
9. Development of a usable, best-practice 'field guide' to PSEA, designed for use by all staff and managers rather than PSEA specialists, by creating a meaningful structure out of the existing vast and disorganised library of guidance, templates, and other documents. (TBC, likely a consultant)

B. Summary of Priority Setting Consultative process:

The selected priorities have been developed following wide consultation, including the Principals Round table on November 23rd 2021, a follow-up workshop convened by the IASC Secretariat, and a broad consultation with over 40 PSEAH stakeholders from 30 UN and NGO entities in December 2021-January 2022. They are built on the work of the previous champions, the IASC External PSEAH Review, the draft IASC 2022-2026 Strategy and recognise the huge range of existing efforts in this area. Stakeholders have provided input into these priorities through an online survey and via direct consultations by SCHR. The priorities are further designed to bolster and support the coordination roles of OCHA and the IASC Secretariat.

The selected priorities complement and build upon each other across the three domains.