Main constraints for UN/NGOs to investigate SEA and SH allegations and how to address them?

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Geneva, 26 November 2018
Development of SEA related complaints in UNHCR

- **2018**: (847 complaints in total; cut-off date 30 Sep 2018)
  - UNHCR Personnel: 25
  - Implementing Partner: 53
  - Total: 78

- **2017**: (664 complaints in total)
  - UNHCR Personnel: 19
  - Implementing Partner: 20
  - Total: 39

- **2016**: (399 complaints in total)
  - UNHCR Personnel: 10
  - Implementing Partner: 3
  - Total: 13

- **2015**: (411 complaints in total)
  - UNHCR Personnel: 14
  - Implementing Partner: 4
  - Total: 18

(664 complaints in total)
Development of SH related complaints in UNHCR

(847 complaints in total; cut-off date 30 Sep 2018)

2018

(664 complaints in total)

2017

(399 complaints in total)

2016

(411 complaints in total)

2015

∑ = 27

∑ = 15

∑ = 5

∑ = 9

= UNHCR Personnel

= Implementing Partner
Specific challenges of SEA/SH investigations

- **Humanitarian context**
  - Hardship environments
  - Not easy accessible
  - Difficult gathering of evidence / Trust of beneficiaries

- **Witness protection**
  - Child and victims centered approach
  - Support to victims
  - Physical protection of staff and beneficiaries

- **Nature and Type of allegations**
  - Hearsay and rumors
  - Facts vs. emotions
  - Expectations from donors
UNHCR-NGO regional investigation workshops

• Project to build or enhance investigative capacity in partner agencies working on UNHCR programmes.

• Increase accountability and transparency.

• Contribute to prevention of misconduct.

• Ensure that allegations of misconduct can be more efficiently and cost effectively investigated.

• Raise awareness about and build links to the Inspector Generals Office - Investigation Service.
Minimums standard under the UNHCR-NGO project partnership agreement

- Code of conduct policy
- Complaints mechanism
- Investigation guidelines
- Procedures for conducting a joint investigation when warranted
- HR policies on confidentiality, information disclosure, staff induction and staff development
- Policies on child protection, sexual exploitation and abuse, whistleblowing, fraud, and other areas relevant to investigation
- A disciplinary system
- Trained investigators (or alternatively, access to trained investigators)
- Financial resources to carry out investigations when required
Build a framework for structured UN-NGO cooperation

• Information sharing
  ➢ same locations and same problems

• Coordinated interventions

• Dual assistance

• Witness protection

• Interface with UN RIS