



# ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

## Fact sheet on the Secretary-General's initiatives to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse

**Background.** In March 2017, the Secretary-General outlined a comprehensive four-pronged strategy<sup>1</sup> to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse across the United Nations system.<sup>2</sup> The elements of the strategy are to: (a) prioritize the rights and dignity of victims; (b) end impunity through strengthened reporting and investigations, including clarifying limitations on the United Nations to achieve criminal accountability; (c) engage with civil society and external partners; and (d) improve strategic communication for education and transparency. In the implementation of this strategy, the Secretary-General focused on putting the United Nations' "own house in order" by putting in place mechanisms under his authority. In March 2018, the Secretary-General provided an update<sup>3</sup> on the implementation of the strategy, which was further reviewed in March 2019.<sup>4</sup>

To enhance coordination and ensure sustained high-level attention on the issue, the Secretary-General extended the mandate of the Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse until 31 December 2019. Her role is to coordinate the implementation of the strategy throughout the United Nations system and to ensure a harmonized approach through the development of aligned mechanisms and procedures and standardized protocols and tools.

Below are some key initiatives undertaken or built upon in accordance with the Secretary-General's commitment to combat sexual exploitation and abuse since 2016.

### I. Prioritizing the rights and dignity of victims

Initiative	Status
1. Secretary-General appointed first <b>Victims' Rights Advocate</b> at the Assistant Secretary-General level to strengthen the support that the United Nations gives to victims and ensure that a victim-centred approach is integrated into prevention and response	Appointment August 2017; action plan December 2017; work ongoing
2. Field visits conducted by the <b>Victims' Rights Advocate</b> to gain a <b>first-hand understanding of how United Nations actors operate on the ground</b> , in order to assist and support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and make recommendations for further action	Central African Republic, October 2017 and February 2019; South Sudan, December 2017; Haiti, April 2018; Lebanon, August 2018; Jordan, September 2018; and Colombia, April 2019
3. Establishment of inter-agency working group to facilitate a more timely and effective resolution of <b>outstanding paternity/child support claims, including HIV-affected newborns</b> , arising from sexual exploitation and abuse	Working group established June 2018; ongoing

<sup>1</sup> See [A/71/818](#) and [A/71/818/Corr.1](#).

<sup>2</sup> In 2016, as part of the strategy to ensure high-level engagement in the relevant entities across the United Nations system, a high-level steering group was established. It includes the Chef de Cabinet as Chair; the Under-Secretary-General for Operational Support; the Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance; the Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications; the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations; the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel; the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, on Sexual Violence in Conflict and on Violence against Children; the Administrator of UNDP; the Executive Director of UNICEF; the Executive Director of UNFPA; and the Executive Director of UN-Women. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services participates as an observer.

<sup>3</sup> See [A/72/751](#) and [A/72/751/Corr.1](#).

<sup>4</sup> See [A/73/744](#).





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4. Mapping of <b>victims' rights approaches/services</b> : in line with the Secretary-General's instruction in his 2018 report (A/72/751, para. 28), the Victims' Rights Advocate is undertaking a pilot mapping of victims' rights approaches and/or services (prevention, medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, livelihood support, accountability) available across the United Nations system and beyond, which will build on existing work and provide a clear <b>overview of gaps, overlaps, lessons learned and good practices</b> to inform the development of additional tools, policies and programmes	Project commenced October 2018; ongoing
5. <b>Field victims' rights advocates</b> appointed in September 2017 to the four peacekeeping operations with the highest number of allegations; their role is to ensure that a victim-centred, gender- and child-sensitive and non-discriminatory approach is integrated into all activities to support and assist victims in those countries	Ongoing
6. The Secretary-General and the <b>Victims' Rights Advocate met</b> confidentially and directly <b>with victims</b> of sexual exploitation and abuse	October 2017; ongoing
7. The <b>Conduct and Discipline Service</b> launched the <b>Victim Assistance Tracking System</b> in all peace operations, with a view to having a comprehensive information system on specific assistance and support provided to victims  Reporting functionalities to pull data from the System are under development.	Initiated: fourth quarter of 2018; ongoing with all peace operations having received dedicated training during the second quarter of 2019.
8. <b>Uniform Protocol on the Provision of Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse</b> : developed and field-tested by the Conduct and Discipline Service and UNICEF, it describes the principles underpinning the role of the United nations to provide assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and some guidance on the roles and responsibilities of United Nations actors in the field to ensure coordinated and immediate victim assistance	Field testing began January 2017; endorsement by the High-level Steering Group on sexual exploitation and abuse on 12 December 2019
9. <b>Trust fund</b> established in 2016 to provide resources to support victim assistance services and projects; a meeting with Member States took place on 21 June 2019 to showcase the 2017–2018 report on the trust fund (available on the website on conduct in United Nations field missions) and to encourage continued financial contributions <a href="https://conduct.unmissions.org/remedial-trust-fund">https://conduct.unmissions.org/remedial-trust-fund</a>  Video of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse rebuilding their lives: <a href="https://youtu.be/uxgbCYBBjEc">https://youtu.be/uxgbCYBBjEc</a>	Of the approximately \$2 million available, projects have been disbursed or committed in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia; project is forthcoming for Haiti





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10. OHCHR-led development of a <b>United Nations policy on a human rights-based approach</b> to sexual exploitation and abuse, which will complement the conduct and discipline and criminal accountability approaches, and which contains a comprehensive legal and policy framework for prevention and response, which places victims at the centre	A dedicated session will be held in 2020 for the High-level Steering Group Principals to discuss the current draft and endorse the Policy.
11. Statement on the rights of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse under development by the Victims' Rights Advocate, underlining the United Nations commitment and responsibilities for putting the rights of victims at the centre of efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and serve as common point of reference for all United Nation system personnel and others working under the United Nations flag	Consultations with the United Nations system in September 2018 and February 2019; workshop of regional and national experts on victims' rights held in May 2019; ongoing
<b>II. Transparency, accountability and ending impunity</b>	
Initiative	Status
1. <b>Secretary-General's circle of leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations</b> , composed of Heads of State and Government willing to make a visible personal commitment to end impunity for sexual exploitation and abuse <a href="https://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/circle-leadership">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/circle-leadership</a>	Ongoing; members are 87 current or former Heads of State/Government
2. Social media campaign of the <b>circle of leadership</b> on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations carried out on Twitter during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly <a href="https://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/twitter-moment">https://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/twitter-moment</a>	Held from 24 September to 3 October 2019 with the launch of the "Twitter Moment"
3. Issuance of a <b>collective statement by the members of the circle of leadership</b> on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations <a href="https://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/collective-statement-members-secretary-general-circle-leadership">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/collective-statement-members-secretary-general-circle-leadership</a>	September 2018; endorsed by 49 Heads of State/Government and 25 United Nations entities
4. <b>Secretary-General's high-level meeting</b> on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, held <b>on the margins of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly</b> , with Heads of State and Government, regional organizations, civil society and United Nations leadership	18 September 2017
5. <b>Voluntary compact</b> on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse <a href="https://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/voluntary-compact">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/voluntary-compact</a>	Ongoing; 103 Member State signatories





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6. <b>High-level Steering Group on sexual exploitation and abuse:</b> established in 2016 and chaired by the Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and composed of the heads of the offices, departments, funds and programmes involved in strengthening the system-wide response to sexual exploitation and abuse	Ongoing
7. <b>System-wide working group on sexual exploitation and abuse,</b> convened every two weeks by the Office of the Special Coordinator, is crucial to strengthening collaboration and aligning policies, procedures and approaches across the United Nations system	Ongoing
8. Development and distribution, to all United Nations entities with a field presence, of the “ <b>no excuse</b> ” <b>card prototype</b> , which sets out the standards and obligations for prevention and reporting, in all official and some local languages, and which can be customized to meet the needs of individual organizations <a href="https://research.un.org/en/peacekeeping-community/sea">https://research.un.org/en/peacekeeping-community/sea</a>	Completed November 2017; distribution ongoing
9. <b>Mandatory training and e-learning on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse</b> required of all peacekeeping, Secretariat, IOM, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, UN-Women and WFP personnel	For peacekeeping personnel since 2016, for Secretariat and other entities since 2017 and for UNOPS since 2019; training ongoing
10. Development of a <b>web-based mobile application</b> , pro bono by Ericsson, featuring United Nations e-learning materials on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	Expected: first quarter of 2020
11. <b>Instituted annual management letter for 2017 activities</b> , requiring heads of funds and programmes to certify to their governing bodies and the Secretary-General that they reported all credible allegations and the training offered <sup>5</sup>	Completed January 2018
12. <b>Management letter for 2018 activities</b> , in which the Secretary-General urged members of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to submit 2018 certifications <sup>6</sup>	Issued December 2018
13. <b>Action plans/risk mitigation strategies</b> submitted to the Secretary-General by all entities with field operations and programmes	April 2017: 35 submitted August 2018: 37 submitted August 2019: 50 submitted
14. Development of <b>guidelines on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2272 (2016)</b> addressing sexual exploitation and abuse in peace operations <a href="http://undocs.org/S/RES/2272(2016)">http://undocs.org/S/RES/2272(2016)</a>	Operationally effective July 2016; ongoing

<sup>5</sup> 2017 certifications were provided by ITC, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, UN-Women, UNU, and WFP.

<sup>6</sup> 2018 certifications have been provided to date by FAO, ICAO, IFAD, ILO, IMO, IOM, ITC, ITU, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Office at Vienna/UNODC, UNOPS, UNRWA, UNU, UN-Women, UPU, WFP, WHO, WMO and the World Bank.





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15. Since 2017, the <b>Conduct and Discipline Service</b> has been working in partnership with the <b>African Union</b> on the implementation of its compliance framework related to conduct and discipline, including its conduct and discipline policy framework, the screening of personnel, risk management and case management	Ongoing engagement on the compliance framework under the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance
16. The Office of Military Affairs of the Department of Peace Operations released the “ <b>Military aide-memoire</b> : United Nations measures against sexual exploitation and abuse – commanders’ guide on measures to combat sexual exploitation and abuse in the United Nations military” <a href="https://research.un.org/en/peacekeeping-community/sea">https://research.un.org/en/peacekeeping-community/sea</a>	September 2017; updated May 2018
17. The Conduct and Discipline Service developed a <b>sexual exploitation and abuse risk management toolkit</b> ; support activities for missions are ongoing to implement the toolkit and related action plans <a href="https://conduct.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/dpko-dfs_sea_risk_toolkit_28_june_2018_modified.pdf">https://conduct.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/dpko-dfs_sea_risk_toolkit_28_june_2018_modified.pdf</a>	Launched June 2018; ongoing
18. Development of “ <b>Clear Check</b> ”, <sup>7</sup> an electronic tool aimed at preventing United Nations personnel who were dismissed for substantiated allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, or who left the Organization while an investigation was pending, from being deployed or reemployed within the system	Launched 28 June 2018; a Clear Check community clinic was held on 23 October 2019
19. <b>Incident reporting form</b> (and associated guidance) to ensure uniformity in the collection of information, as a first step in the initiation of a formal process to respond to an allegation or report of sexual exploitation and abuse	Finalized July 2017
20. Field testing of the <b>incident reporting form</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Democratic Republic of the Congo (January 2018)</li><li>• Central African Republic and Jordan (January 2019)</li><li>• South Sudan (September 2019)</li></ul>	Ongoing
21. Development of an <b>electronic version of the incident reporting form</b> that will centralize and streamline both the approach of data collection and coordination of information across the United Nations system	Expected: first quarter of 2020
22. Roll-out of an <b>electronic tool to report sexual exploitation and abuse allegations</b> internally ( <i>iReport SEA Tracker</i> ) to facilitate alignment of data and tracking of investigations (used for preparing the quarterly allegation report summaries)	May 2019
23. Development of harmonized <b>guidelines for investigations of sexual exploitation and abuse</b> for United Nations investigative bodies	First quarter of 2020

<sup>7</sup> The following United Nations entities are participating in the screening tool: all Secretariat entities, as well as FAO, IAEA, IFAD, IMO, IOM, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, ITC, ITU, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNOPS, UNRWA, UN-Women, UPU, WFP, WHO, WIPO and WTO.





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24. Training for military national investigation officers provided by OIOS, the Conduct and Discipline Service and the Integrated Training Services of the Department of Peace Operations and funded by the United States of America	Ongoing
25. Development and endorsement of a <b>system-wide uniform policy on balancing the disclosure of information to national authorities with principles of confidentiality</b> when receiving and handling allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by persons acting under a United Nations mandate	Finalized 2017; to be promulgated as a Secretary-General's bulletin in 2020
26. System-wide roll-out of focal points on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, with designated, trained focal points in regional and country offices to strengthen capacities at the field level and to interact and share good practices	Ongoing
27. <b>WFP</b> launched the first online training and accompanying toolkit for focal points on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse	June 2019
28. Entities are working together on joint regional workshops for focal points on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, with training sessions planned in Africa, Europe and Middle East. The training provides the tools necessary to establish effective PSEA mechanisms on the ground. It is a great example of inter-agency collaboration and a significant step in strengthening country capacities in our fight on the PSEA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IOM: Jordan in September 2019</li><li>• UNDP/UNFPA/UNICEF/UNOPS in Brindisi</li><li>• WFP and UNHCR: East and Central Africa in October 2019</li></ul>	Brindisi: October 2019, March 2020  Jordan: September 2019  Kenya: October 2019
29. <b>UNFPA</b> led the <b>PSEA response in the Bahamas after hurricane Dorian</b> . A PSEA Coordinator was deployed for a one-month Surge mission. Most notable accomplishments: a) Set-up of a free 24/7 hotline number for reporting SEA operated by five trained call operators; b) PSEA capacity building of the 21 nominated focal points; c) Development of awareness-raising material with key messages for the affected community, translated in Creole and disseminated	August 2019
30. <b>IOM</b> conducted in-country training sessions and regional sessions for the training of trainers on the <b>community-based complaint mechanisms</b> , aimed at capacitating co-chairs and coordinators of networks for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse <sup>8</sup>	2017-2018
31. <b>UNHCR</b> concluded a survey across 41 operations to collect information on the most-used communication systems and the challenges that exist in collecting, using and responding to feedback	September 2018

<sup>8</sup> In-country training sessions were provided in Chad, Iraq, Lebanon, Malawi, Nigeria, Turkey (refugee response and cross-border Syrian Arab Republic response) and Yemen. Regional sessions for the training of trainers were provided in Eastern Africa (June 2018), the Middle East and Northern Africa (July 2018) and Western and Central Africa (September 2018).





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from persons of concern, with a view to strengthening <b>community-based complaint mechanisms</b>	
32. The United Nations finalized, and circulated to all agencies, funds and programmes, its <b>Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners</b> (led by UNICEF and UNFPA) <a href="http://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/policies">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/policies</a>	March 2018; translations into Arabic and French completed
33. Entities are developing training modules on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse for implementing partners, to strengthen compliance with the Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners so as to synergize efforts and deliver a common message. The PSEA learning package is complemented by a separate, dedicated module on sexual harassment, which can be used either independently or as a component of the learning programme on PSEA	Since January 2019; ongoing and available in English, French and Arabic; new interactive package launched in September 2019, available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic  multi-agency package expected in first quarter of 2020;
34. Entities are developing and issuing <b>assessment guidance to assess implementing partners' capacity</b> with regard to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse during the selection process and to the project partnership agreement, to ensure compliance with the United Nations Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing Partners  The minimum assessment criteria have been agreed in substance among the AFP Task group as the six standards outlined in the IP Protocol. AFPs are now working on a joint assessment tool to streamline IP assessments and will in the meantime assess shared IPs together or use each other's assessments where one agency has already conducted it	February 2019; ongoing
35. All <b>United Nations staff job openings, letters of offer and letters of appointment</b> now have a <b>special notice</b> for detailing the values and standards of conduct required of members and the consequences of failing to meet those standards	Completed 2017; ongoing
36. <b>Staff members required to acknowledge in writing</b> , upon entry, reassignment and yearly, their knowledge and understanding of United Nations standards of conduct, in particular regarding sexual exploitation and abuse, and the consequences for violating them	Completed 2017; ongoing
37. All <b>United Nations contracts for contractors</b> (consultants, day workers, individual contractors) come with <b>general conditions</b> that the contractor must comply with the standards of conduct set forth in the Secretary-General's bulletin on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse ( <a href="http://ST/SGB/2003/13">ST/SGB/2003/13</a> )	Completed 2017; ongoing





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38. <b>Reissuance of 2016 note verbale</b> on the <b>repository of national military laws</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse <a href="https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/standards-of-conduct">https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/standards-of-conduct</a>	Reissued in August 2018; 60 legal frameworks
39. Issuance of <b>2019 note verbale</b> on the <b>repository of national police laws</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse	Issued in January 2019; 10 legal frameworks
40. Review of options for <b>harmonization of standards and procedures</b> for non-United Nations international forces authorized under a Security Council mandate	Ongoing
41. The members of the United Nations Development Group reviewed and included sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment regulations in their Standard Administrative Arrangements	Effective 4 December 2019
<b>III. Engaging civil society, external experts and organizations</b>	
Initiative	Status
1. <b>Formal and informal meetings</b> with civil society stakeholders	2017: 3 formal meetings; 2018: 10 meetings
2. Establishment of a <b>Civil Society Advisory Board</b> , composed of leading civil society figures and experts, to provide the Secretary-General with advice on measures to strengthen prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse	19 February 2019  Meetings: 29–31 May & 6 December 2019
3. <b>UNAIDS, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP</b> engaged in discussions on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse with civil society to strengthen prevention and response by raising awareness and trust with regard to reporting sexual exploitation and abuse in communities and by enhancing accountability and care to people affected	Ongoing
4. UNHCR partnered with ICVA to launch a <b>PSEA Community Outreach and Communications Fund</b> that aims to support smaller NGOs in developing information, education and communications (IEC) materials to raise community-awareness on SEA, as well as to ensure that victims know where and how to safely report SEA when it does take place.	Nov 2019; ongoing
<b>IV. Improving strategic communications for education and transparency</b>	
Initiative	Status
1. To improve transparency, each quarter, the Special Coordinator <b>reports on allegations</b> received by all United Nations entities mandated to report to the General Assembly <a href="http://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/quarterly-updates">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/quarterly-updates</a>	Recurrent every quarter; ongoing
2. <b>Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse website</b> launched and enhanced to include agencies, funds and programmes <a href="http://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/">www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/</a>	Created July 2017; updated regularly
3. A <b>system-wide reporting webpage</b> with near real time reporting was launched, providing the standard for reporting for all allegations	November 2019





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<p><a href="https://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/data-allegations-un-system-wide">https://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/data-allegations-un-system-wide</a></p>	
<p>4. The <b>Conduct and Discipline Service</b> launched a website with live database of allegations, an <b>online reporting</b> form and a subscription service for database updates</p> <p>English: <a href="https://conduct.unmissions.org/sea-data-introduction">https://conduct.unmissions.org/sea-data-introduction</a></p> <p>French: <a href="https://conduct.unmissions.org/fr/exploitation-et-atteintes-sexuelles">https://conduct.unmissions.org/fr/exploitation-et-atteintes-sexuelles</a></p>	January 2017; translated December 2018; updated regularly
<p>5. <b>UNDP, UNHCR and UNFPA launched websites</b> containing information and resources on protection of sexual exploitation and abuse</p> <p><a href="https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/accountability/combatting-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse.html">www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/accountability/combatting-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.unhcr.org/our-fight-against-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment.html">www.unhcr.org/our-fight-against-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.unfpa.org/protection-sexual-exploitation-sexual-abuse-and-sexual-harassment">www.unfpa.org/protection-sexual-exploitation-sexual-abuse-and-sexual-harassment</a></p>	Updated regularly
<p>6. <b>Meetings</b> convened by the Special Coordinator and jointly sponsored by <b>representatives of the Heads of State and Government who are members of the circle of leadership</b>, to share good practices and initiatives</p>	2018: five meetings 2019: April, July and September
<p>7. Development of a <b>glossary (second edition)</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse in the context of the United Nations</p> <p>English: <a href="https://hr.un.org/materials/un-glossary-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-english">https://hr.un.org/materials/un-glossary-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-english</a></p> <p>French: <a href="https://hr.un.org/materials/glossaire-sur-1%2080%99exploitation-et-les-atteintes-sexuelles-glossary-sea-french">https://hr.un.org/materials/glossaire-sur-1%2080%99exploitation-et-les-atteintes-sexuelles-glossary-sea-french</a></p>	Initiated: 5 October 2016; updated: 24 July 2017
<p>8. The United Nations produced and aired a film showing the work of the community-based complaint mechanisms and the UN's response to sexual exploitation and abuse <a href="https://youtu.be/w6BSEZN1s9U">https://youtu.be/w6BSEZN1s9U</a></p>	September 2017 and April 2018
<p>9. All peace operations, as part of their <b>communications strategy on sexual exploitation and abuse</b>, conduct outreach activities to inform communities of the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and about the reporting mechanisms, using direct outreach, theatre, radio, television programming and text-based and social media campaigns, as well as specific outreach to local media</p>	Ongoing
<p>10. Bilingual (English/French) <b>social media campaign</b>, “Honouring our values” digital communication tool, on efforts in the field and at Headquarters to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, including quote cards and videos of personnel, responders, Member States and community members on the United Nations Peacekeeping social media platform and on the platforms of the Under-Secretaries-</p>	Launched March 2018; ongoing





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General for Peace Operations and for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and of the various peacekeeping missions (Facebook and Twitter; <a href="#">#HonouringOurValues</a> ) <a href="https://trello.com/b/8dsqvTYY/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse">https://trello.com/b/8dsqvTYY/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse</a>	
11. Public information <b>video messaging campaign</b> on United Nations efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, featuring the system-wide approach to the Secretary-General's strategy to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (commitments from the Secretary-General, the Special Coordinator, the Victims' Rights Advocate, the Department of Operational Support, the Department of Peace Operations, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, UN-Women and WFP, as well as from MONUSCO and MINUSCA) <a href="http://webtv.un.org/watch/player/5846468853001">http://webtv.un.org/watch/player/5846468853001</a>	September 2018; presented during the seventy-third session of the General Assembly in 2018
12. <b>UNHCR</b> established a <b>confidential independent helpline</b> to provide all colleagues with an additional channel to report misconduct, including witnessed or suspected sexual exploitation and abuse, and to seek advice on related issues, available 24/7 and offering the ability to report allegations anonymously	Launched September 2018
13. Public information campaign on combating sexual exploitation and abuse, including the development and issuance of a <b>United Nations stamp</b> to raise awareness on the importance of speaking out to end sexual exploitation and abuse	Launched March 2019
14. The Departments of Global Communications, Peace Operations and Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance conducted a pilot training programme on communications on sexual exploitation and abuse for senior leaders, subject matter experts and communicators serving in the Central African Republic, Haiti and New York; subsequent training to be delivered	June 2019, upcoming training planned for February 2020
15. <b>UNICEF</b> developed a mobile app on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, for all personnel, with information on how to report and respond to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse	Expected: first quarter of 2020
<b>V. Other</b>	
Initiative	Status
1. <b>System-wide survey</b> for United Nations personnel at field duty stations with humanitarian and peace operations; results <b>disaggregated and shared</b> with heads of participating entities	Baseline survey: 2016; subsequent surveys: 2017, 2018; current survey: May–July 2019
2. <b>System-wide mapping of resources</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse designed to assess the human and financial resources currently dedicated to activities related to the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse	Commenced January 2019; ongoing





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3. <b>Gender study</b> on the causes and consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse to inform the development of strategies and responses	Concept finalized in February 2018; engaged in outreach for funding
4. <b>Entities</b> are publishing new <b>administrative instruction on protection against retaliation</b> , in line with the 2017 Secretary General's bulletin on protection against retaliation ( <a href="#">ST/SGB/2017/2/Rev1</a> )	June 2019; ongoing
5. <b>UNAIDS</b> follow-up on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1983 (2011) and capacity-building programme for peacekeepers and security forces on sexual abuse and exploitation	Ongoing
6. <b>UNDP</b> established a task force on the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse operating under the auspices of the Administrator of UNDP and chaired by the Deputy Chief of Staff	March 2018; ongoing
7. <b>UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS</b> jointly retained an external independent review of their sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment policies and procedures	March 2019
8. <b>UNFPA</b> appointed a <b>Senior Focal Point for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse at the Assistant Secretary-General level</b> , who is assisted by a full-time Coordinator and an ad hoc, director-level interdivisional working group	September 2018
9. <b>UNHCR</b> reinforced its safeguarding structure, which includes investigative, legal, ethics and staff welfare functions, through additional resources and training, and appointed a <b>Senior Coordinator (at the Director level)</b> to lead its work on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment; the Senior Coordinator reports to the Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, who chairs a task force on sexual exploitation and abuse with director-level membership, and is supported by a cross-functional working group	March 2018
10. <b>UNHCR</b> released its <b>sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment strategy</b> and action plan taken forward by cross-divisional teams at Headquarters and in the field <a href="http://www.unhcr.org/5b2cb6284">www.unhcr.org/5b2cb6284</a>	May 2018
11. The Executive Director of <b>UNICEF</b> issued a public statement on her commitment to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse and launched an independent review of the Fund's response <a href="http://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicefs-position-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment">www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicefs-position-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment</a>	February 2018
12. <b>UNICEF</b> completed two internal independent reviews on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment as part of its work to strengthen a zero-tolerance environment; through a management response, UNICEF endorsed all the recommendations stemming from the independent panel reviews.	September 2018; management response released in December 2018; update to the Executive Board on progress in January 2019





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The findings from both reviews have been made public, as has the UNICEF management response <a href="http://www.unicef.org/evaluation/index_102739.html">www.unicef.org/evaluation/index_102739.html</a>	
13. <b>UNRWA</b> established a <b>task force on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment</b> (the UNRWA Sexual Misconduct Task Force), which, since its inception, has conducted a series of diagnostic exercises, including a gap analysis and a detailed due diligence exercise in three focus areas (reporting, survivor support and prevention through programmes), to identify good practices and priorities for improvement; a detailed walk-through of the survivor experience from the moment of complaint onwards, assessed against best practices, is under way	February 2018; ongoing
14. <b>UN-Women</b> developed and issued a <b>handbook on sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment</b> , providing a comprehensive overview of the applicable policies and procedures	June 2018
15. <b>UN-Women</b> undertook an external, independent victim-centered review of its policies and procedures on tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. UN Women endorsed all the recommendations from the independent review through its management response and has committed to implement them continuously.  The review and the management response can be found under <i>Policy and programme matters</i> at <a href="https://www.unwomen.org/en/executive-board/documents/2019/annual-session-2019">https://www.unwomen.org/en/executive-board/documents/2019/annual-session-2019</a>	Review: April-May 2019; Management response: June 2019; Presentation to the Executive Board: June 2019; Implementation: ongoing
16. <b>WFP</b> established an <b>ad hoc joint Management and Executive Board working group</b> on sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment and whistle-blower protection	Ongoing
17. <b>WFP</b> established an advisory group on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, with key stakeholders from each operational region, to provide a learning and knowledge-sharing platform and to strengthen the capacity of relevant WFP focal points to fulfil their role	First consultation held September 2018; ongoing





## VI. Inter-Agency Standing Committee

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee is the primary coordination mechanism for facilitating coherent and timely international responses to emergencies and formulating policy for strengthened humanitarian action. Established in 1991 by General Assembly resolution 46/182, the Standing Committee includes United Nations agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, non-governmental organizations and the World Bank. Standing Committee members have individual mandates but are united by the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. The Standing Committee produces system-wide policies, guidance and tools to harmonize and improve the collective response.

Initiative	Status
<p>1. High Commissioner of UNHCR appointed an <b>Inter-Agency Standing Committee Champion</b> on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment for the humanitarian sector until September 2020, when UNFPA will assume the Championship role.</p> <p>There are three overarching priorities established by UNHCR's High Commissioner for his Championship: (i) bolster prevention; (ii) expand safe spaces to ensure all victims of sexual misconduct can speak out; and (iii) promote the respectful use of authority.</p> <p><a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-on-protection-from-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-on-protection-from-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment</a></p>	<p><u>Previous Champions:</u> IOM: June 2011 to June 2018 UNICEF: July 2018 to August 2019</p>
<p>2. <b>Six Core Principles</b> Relating to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for humanitarian workers strengthened</p> <p><a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/iasc-six-core-principles-relating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/inter-agency-standing-committee/iasc-six-core-principles-relating-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse</a></p>	<p>Revised September 2019; additional translations ongoing</p>
<p>3. The <b>Standing Committee</b> endorsed a set of <b>minimum operating standards for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse</b> and guidelines to implement them</p> <p><a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/3_minimum_operating_standards_mos-psea.pdf">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/3_minimum_operating_standards_mos-psea.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-public/guidelines-implement-minimum-operating">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-public/guidelines-implement-minimum-operating</a></p>	<p>2013, under revision</p>
<p>4. The <b>Strategy</b> on Protection from and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment of the <b>Standing Committee Champions</b> outlines the vision, strategy and priorities until June 2020, as agreed between the Emergency Relief Coordinator, UNICEF and UNHCR and endorsed by the Standing Committee principals</p> <p><a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-senior-focal-points-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment/content/strategy-protection-and">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-senior-focal-points-sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment/content/strategy-protection-and</a></p>	<p>November 2018</p>
<p>5. The IASC endorsed a <b>Plan to Accelerate PSEA at the country level</b></p> <p>The Plan focuses on achieving results for crisis-affected populations in</p>	<p>November 2018</p>





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three priority areas: safe and accessible reporting, survivor support, and enhanced accountability <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/iasc-plan-accelerating">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/iasc-plan-accelerating</a>	
6. The <b>Standing Committee</b> and the <b>CEB Task Force</b> on addressing sexual harassment jointly organized two <b>meetings of investigatory bodies</b> on protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, in order to harmonize approaches to investigation and strengthen system-wide capacity <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-senior-focal-points-sexual-harassment-and-abuse-aid-workers/meetings/joint-ceb-iasc">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-senior-focal-points-sexual-harassment-and-abuse-aid-workers/meetings/joint-ceb-iasc</a>	November 2018 and November 2019
7. <b>Fund established to provide rapid grants to Standing Committee</b> organizations and partners to quickly and competently investigate reported incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse or sexual harassment, managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/content/ocha-fund-investigations">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-champion-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/content/ocha-fund-investigations</a>	November 2018
8. The <b>Standing Committee's Results Group 2 on Accountability and Inclusion</b> manages a website of resources, training and guidance <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/results-group-2-accountability-and-inclusion">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/results-group-2-accountability-and-inclusion</a>	Updated regularly
9. Adoption of formal and informal <b>community-based complaint mechanisms in all humanitarian and peace operations</b> for the receipt of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse <a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-50">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/accountability-affected-populations-including-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/documents-50</a>	Endorsed in 2016; rolled out by the Standing Committee to all members in March 2018; translations into Arabic, French and Spanish completed
10. IASC convened a <b>technical-level Meeting of Investigatory Bodies</b> on protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, which focused on strengthening and harmonizing investigative approaches, with particular emphasis on ensuring the safety and protection of victims and witnesses	September 2019
11. As lead agency for gender-based violence, <b>UNFPA</b> is conducting a multi-agency mapping exercise of services (referral pathway) available to victims of gender-based violence and for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	Initiated late 2018; ongoing





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<p>12. IOM developed generic terms of reference for coordinators on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse to harmonize the role of the coordinator throughout the humanitarian system and to support recruitment by humanitarian and resident coordinators, in line with the Standing Committee's commitment to place dedicated protection from sexual exploitation and abuse coordinators in every humanitarian response agency; appointment of coordinators is ongoing, with funding shared between agencies (UNICEF, WFP, UNDP and others)</p> <p><a href="https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-task-team-accountability-affected-populations-and-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-3">https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-task-team-accountability-affected-populations-and-protection-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-3</a></p>	Circulated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, August 2019
<p>13. IOM launched a project to strengthen the humanitarian community's collective ability to reduce and effectively respond to sexual abuse and exploitation by aid workers and to strengthen inter-agency leadership and coordination on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; having developed and rolled out the 2016 Standing Committee toolkit,<sup>9</sup> IOM is providing technical assistance to humanitarian country teams and to coordinators and networks for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	Established 2016; ongoing
<p>14. IOM deployments upon request to support or establish collective in-country initiatives for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse</p>	2017: Bangladesh; 2018: Syrian Arab Republic, Somalia; 2019: Turkey, Thailand (jointly with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)
<p>15. IOM informs the global dialogue on inter-agency implementation of protection from sexual exploitation and abuse based on the lessons learned from rolling out the 2016 Standing Committee toolkit, at the request of the Standing Committee principals, and will bundle its experiences to share among field and global colleagues</p>	First quarter of 2020

<sup>9</sup> The 2016 Inter-Agency Standing Committee toolkit includes the Best Practice Guide on Inter-Agency Community-based Complaint Mechanisms and the Global Standard Operating Procedures on Inter-Agency Cooperation in Community-based Complaint Mechanisms for Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

