

Overview of services available to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in the Central African Republic

Services for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel are available through referrals to implementing partners, mainly international and national organizations. The acting Field Victims' Rights Advocate (FVRA), in place since 2017, supports the coordination of the United Nations system-wide response to victims' assistance and guarantees that a victim-centred approach is integrated in broader protection and response efforts. The Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate was informed that a project supported by the Trust Fund in Support of Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse provided specialized psychosocial support, medical care and some access to legal services for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse was concluded at the end of 2019, but may be renewed. Another project focused on legal services is pending approval.



11 January 2019 Bria, Central African Republic. UN Photo/Igor Rugwiza

Findings and recommendations on United Nations assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse

- United Nations entities **refer victims of sexual exploitation and abuse** to services available through sexual and gender-based violence programming, some provided by implementing partners. In exceptional cases, the **Conduct and Discipline Team** may facilitate transportation for **victims to access** care or other services or participate in interviews.
- The **acting FVRA** monitors, oversees and coordinates the **strategic vision for provision of victim assistance** and support with all United Nation system actors.
- There are **gaps in the availability and accessibility** of services throughout the country, from **safety and protection**, to quality **medical care, psychosocial support, legal services** and support for training directed to provision of **livelihood support**. Poor infrastructure, limited transportation options and protection concerns create challenges for victims seeking to access services, particularly in remote and rural areas where there are few or no services.
- **United Nations entities** should consider developing strategies to **facilitate the provision** of timely **comprehensive, available and accessible services** for victims of gender-based violence, with specific attention to the **needs of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse**, particularly in remote and rural areas. To complement existing services, the creation of a system-wide pooled contingency fund should be considered in order to provide victims with support and assistance.
- **Victims' assistance should be reinforced**, including through follow-up, informed by victims' feedback.
- The **adoption of a system-wide tracking** and monitoring **mechanism of victims' assistance** that is consistently used and updated should be considered. This mechanism should include details on referrals for assistance, assistance received and information on service providers.

