

Overview of services available to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in Haiti

In Haiti, victims of sexual exploitation and abuse have accessed services through referrals to gender-based violence regular programming. Efforts have also been made to develop dedicated services and assistance to support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. These include a project providing services tailored to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, including educational support for children born as a result of such acts, supported by United Nations entities in the country and delivered by implementing partners. Since April 2019, a dedicated Senior Victims' Rights Officer (SVRO) has sought to expand this support.



Students at a school in Grand Chemin, Haiti. 23 May 2019, Grand Chemin, Haiti. UN Photo/Leonora Baumann

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

- In response to **victims' demand for immediate assistance**, in 2018, the **Field Victims' Rights Advocate (FVRA) developed a joint project**, with the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), UNDP, UNICEF and UN WOMEN to provide **educational and livelihood support** to victims and children born of sexual exploitation and abuse through an implementing partner. Support included a **monthly allowance for childcare** (food, school materials, lunchboxes), **medical care**, **rental subsidies/shelter**, as well as **education and training in income-generating activities for victims**. The **FVRA/SVRO collaborates with United Nations** entities in the country to **guarantee sustainability of this support according to the victims' needs**.
- The **SVRO** cooperated with United Nations entities to expand the inclusion of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse in existing SGBV programming. She spearheaded work with lawyers and legal aid organizations to **provide victims with legal services** and facilitate the **resolution of pending paternity and child support claims**. She also facilitated the provision of information and updates to victims on the status of their cases, including through regular meetings with them.
- **Gaps in service provision** include shortage of **safety and protection measures** particularly for men, boys, quality **medical care**, and access to **legal services**. Dedicated assistance for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel is of limited duration and provided on an ad hoc basis.
- The **Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate recommends reinforcing victims' assistance**, including through **follow-up**, informed by **victims' feedback**.



- The **adoption of a system-wide tracking and monitoring mechanism for victims' assistance** that is consistently used, and updated is **should be considered**. Such a mechanism should include details on referrals for assistance, assistance received and information on service providers.