

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

Some United Nations entities report having the capacity to provide services directly to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, including case-management and psychosocial support, although these services are not dedicated to such victims. Generally, services for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse are available through partners providing sexual, and gender-based violence assistance. There is a risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly in refugee camps where condensed living conditions, lack of privacy and confidentiality pose particular challenges to reporting by victims which affects their access to assistance and support. Incidents can go unreported due to fear of retaliation, and cultural taboos, resulting in shame and stigma.



A community centre at the Za'atari Refugee Camp. 27 March 2016, Al Mafraq, Jordan. UN Photo/Mark Garten

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

- **Victims** of sexual exploitation and abuse **can directly access or be referred to services through the sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) referral pathway** available on a mobile application platform, Amaali, which lists GBV service providers in Jordan by governorate, at the subnational level.
- **Gaps** in sexual and gender-based violence services identified by the Sexual and Gender-based Violence Sub Working Group **include limited safe accommodation** for GBV victims particularly men, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and women with boys over seven years of age.
- The Interagency **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Task Force** has established **confidential reporting mechanisms**, such as hotlines and complaint boxes, in refugee camps and host communities in urban centres. Complaints can also be made in person to sexual exploitation and abuse focal points and United Nations protection officers. The Task Force has developed a community-based complaint referral mechanism, currently under endorsement.
- United Nations interlocutors and beneficiaries indicated that **sexual exploitation and abuse is likely to be unreported**, and that there are **limited safety and protection measures available to victims who report**.
- The development of a **system-wide interagency tracking and monitoring mechanism to track victims and the assistance they receive**, updated regularly, **should be considered**.
- The creation of an **independent senior-level victims' rights post** along the lines of the Field Victims' Rights Advocates/Senior Victims' Rights Officers **should be considered** to foster greater collaboration with entities involved in victims' assistance.
- The development of **dedicated services for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse should be considered** to supplement existing services.

