

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

Services are available to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel through United Nations programming and support to gender-based violence services delivered by implementing partners. The Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate (OVRA) was not made aware of dedicated services to support victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, nor any assessment of the need for such services. In Kenya, the United Nations operates in humanitarian, emergency and development settings which present different challenges in terms of the availability and accessibility of services to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Beneficiaries and others in vulnerable situations are at risk of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff in all these contexts.



Awareness raising efforts by United Nations implementing partner in Kalobeyei Integrated Settlement. December 2019, Kakuma, Kenya. UN Photo/Eric Anderson.

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

- The United Nations coordination of, and support for, **assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse are more pronounced in humanitarian settings**. In Kakuma Refugee Camp, UNHCR coordinates reporting and **provision of assistance to victims** of sexual and gender-based violence, including victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- **In the development context**, the vast rural areas of Kenya largely **lack basic infrastructure and comprehensive response mechanisms for victims** of sexual and gender-based violence which could be **accessible to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse**. There are **challenges at the county and sub-county level for victims in accessing quality services across sectors** including medical care, psychosocial support, legal services, safety and protection and livelihood support. Services which exist are available mainly in Nairobi and urban centres, with the most significant gaps reported relating to legal services and livelihood support for victims.
- United Nations entities and implementing partners in Kenya indicated that **incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse are unreported** as victims or their families may **fear discrimination, stigmatization, reprisals** or the **loss of support and services**. Victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff might not recognize that they are victims of prohibited conduct.
- **The OVRA recommends reinforcing victims' assistance**, including through **follow-up**, informed by **victims' feedback**.
- Noting that the United Nations Country Team re-established the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Coordination Network in 2017 with support from senior leadership, consideration of the **appointment of a dedicated PSEA Coordinator is recommended**.
- The adoption of a **system-wide tracking and monitoring mechanism for victims' assistance** that is consistently used and updated **is recommended**. This mechanism, which should cover both humanitarian and development settings, should include details on referrals for assistance, assistance received and information on service providers.

