

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

United Nations entities in Mozambique have developed referral pathways to gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection services, which have been mapped, and are accessible to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel. There are no dedicated services for such victims, and no assessment has been made of the need for such services. Allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse have been reported in Mozambique, particularly relating to locations affected by climate-related disasters where the United Nations provides humanitarian support. Most allegations do not identify victims and concern local leaders in respect to the provision of food assistance, shelter, and other humanitarian assistance. Access to justice, healthcare, shelter, and other services for victims of sexual gender-based violence continues to be a challenge, particularly in rural areas.



Health Centre in Mutua, Mozambique. January 2020. UN Photo/Manaka Infante

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

- While **dedicated services** for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse **were not identified**, standard operating procedures for recording and processing of complaints have been developed. Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) referral pathways exist. **Assistance for identified victims** of reported allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse is **facilitated through GBV and child protection programming**.
- GBV services are offered by the State which seeks to guarantee that all services, including police, health and psychosocial services are interconnected and available in one place. Some civil society organizations also provide services.
- **Gaps** in assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse relate to **safety and protection, legal services**, and the fact that longer-term support from service providers may not be comprehensive or exist in remote areas.
- **Access to justice for victims** of sexual exploitation and abuse is **compromised by lack of legal services**, or their high cost where they exist and lack or loss of documentation, including because of climate-related disasters.
- **A PSEA Network**, established in 2019, co-chaired by UNICEF and Care International and **coordinated by two PSEA Coordinators** (one in Beira and one in Maputo), serves as the **primary body for coordination, support, and oversight** in relation to sexual exploitation and abuse. The PSEA Network structure includes an inter-agency reporting mechanism that complements agency and partner-led systems.
- The **reinforcement of victims' assistance**, including through **service-intake and follow-up, informed by victims' views should be considered**.
- **United Nations entities should consider** exploring the **creation of specific budget lines for victims' assistance** to address the particular needs of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse that cannot be met through existing services.



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