



PSEA



2020 Mid-year review

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

The first months of 2020 were filled with exciting and novel PSEA initiatives, despite the unprecedented restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a halt in plans for face-to-face capacity building activities. The Ethics Office, which is the organizational focal point for PSEA, has quickly adapted to provide remote support. The following are some of the highlights of the first six months of 2020.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Webinars for PSEA Focal Points. A series of regional webinars co-hosted by the Ethics Office, the NGO Unit and the respective RBx were held between April and June 2020. They were attended by over 170 employees.

COVID Guidance. To support the COVID-19 response, the Ethics Office prepared [Key Considerations on PSEA - Supporting WFP's Response to COVID-19](#), which was translated into French, Arabic and Spanish.

UN Implementing Partner PSEA Capacity Assessment. WFP, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF developed a harmonized screening tool for partners. The draft tool was shared with Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) members for feedback and is anticipated to be rolled out in Q3 2020.

The Ethics Office administers a network of over 300 **PSEA Focal Points** across WFP. They are present in all Regional Bureaus, Country Offices and field offices with significant staff presence. Focal Points support senior management in creating a SEA-preventative environment and raise awareness of WFP employees and partners.

WFP PSEA Strategy (2021 -2026) is being finalized. The draft strategy reflects input based on robust consultations, surveys, and internal and external collaboration.

PSEA related advice and guidance. From January to mid-July 2020, the Ethics Office has received and responded to over 140 requests for advice and guidance related to PSEA.



SAYING NO TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

The inter-agency **'Saying No to Sexual Misconduct'** learning package was launched on 13 May 2020 to a global audience.

This dynamic learning package aims **to equip partner organizations with the awareness and skills** to define, detect and respond to sexual misconduct. The training was adapted by WFP, together with UNHCR and other sister UN agencies and NGOs, from an earlier initiative by IOM. **The launch was supported by the Executive Director of WFP, as well as the heads of UNHCR, OCHA and IOM**, in the form of tweets, which led to over 100,000 people seeing the information on Twitter alone.

A **field validation exercise** of this package was conducted by WFP, UNHCR and IOM in February, 2020 with support from the Syria Cross Border PSEA Network, in Gaziantep, Turkey.



150 RETWEETS AND OVER **100,000** IMPRESSIONS



6 WEBINARS ON THE PACKAGE WITH **375** PARTICIPANTS FROM



40 ORGANIZATIONS—INCLUDING **25** PSEA COORDINATORS



FIELD VALIDATION EXERCISE IN GAZIANTEP, TURKEY IN FEBRUARY 2020



INNOVATION

WFP Innovation Accelerator. In February, a team of experts from the Ethics Office, the Office of Inspections and Investigations (OIGI), Knowledge Management, as well as a PSEA field expert, participated in the **2020 Innovation Bootcamp**, hosted by the WFP Innovation Accelerator in Munich, Germany. The PSEA Solutions project was selected **from over 700 applications** and is meant as a confidential reporting app, which also provides information on relevant support resources.

INTEGRATING PSEA INTO WFP INITIATIVES

The Ethics Office in coordination with the Security Division, integrated **PSEA into the Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) Training Course**. The first pilot session took place at the end of January 2020.



WFP/Inger Marie Vennize

INTER-AGENCY AND DONOR ENGAGEMENT

In January 2020, WFP was represented by the Director, Ethics Office, alongside the UN Secretariat and sister organizations and partners, in the meeting of the **OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Reference Group on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**.

During the same month, the Director of the Ethics Office, together with the Swiss Representation of the Joint Executive Board/WFP Management Working Group on Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Abuse of Power and Discrimination, led two **workshops on the prevention and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment**. Discussions focused on challenges and areas of attention with respect to PSEA, as well as on the outline of the organization-wide strategy on PSEA.

PSEA IN ACTION

As part of its interagency engagements, WFP has committed to designating Inter-agency PSEA Coordinators in Afghanistan, Colombia, Mozambique, Sudan and Nigeria (the first three of whom were already in place in the first half of 2020). Here is a glimpse of their work in the field.



In **Afghanistan**, the pre-existing restrictions on humanitarian in-country movement have been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of current challenges related to access and security, in coordination with the PSEA Task Force members and the co-leads (DRC and UNFPA), *Janet Omogi* is focusing on strengthening inter-agency PSEA efforts such as developing an interagency standard operating procedures for recording and processing complaints and ongoing capacity building efforts with strengthening strategy targeting community leaders/structures, government officials and humanitarian workers (UN and partners).

In **Colombia**, *Catalina Arciniegas Alzate* highlighted that the PSEA Task Force focused on producing inter-agency awareness raising material targeting both UN agencies and partners, adapting the IASC recommendations for integrating PSEA in the COVID-19 humanitarian response in Colombia, and conducting a survey on PSEA minimum standards among UN agencies civil society organizations, serving as a baseline for measuring progress and areas for improvement.



In **Mozambique**, *Maria Alvarez* worked on two main inter-agency initiatives: a series of radio mini-dramas (5-10 mins) and spots (1-2 mins) covering subjects such as PSEA, abuse of power and reporting, and the development of a PSEA training platform targeting 2,000 activists, community leaders and outreach workers, primarily from the violence-affected Cabo Delgado region. The platform consists of six pre-recorded modules, covering issues such as PSEA, gender-based violence and child protection, in Portuguese and two local languages.