

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



WFP/Simon Pierre Diouf

WFP has been addressing protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) holistically, focusing internally and externally on making an impact at the field level to those we serve. This has included extensive work with Country Offices and Regional Bureaus as well as through increasing collaboration and coordination at the UN and inter-agency levels. Throughout 2020, WFP and the Ethics Office - the Organizational Focal Point for PSEA - quickly adapted to continue providing support, effectively responding to the unprecedented challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report includes key highlights and achievements of 2020.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY

PSEA FOCAL POINTS NETWORK. Providing support and enhancing capacity of PSEA Focal Points has remained a priority that continued through adapted means, including the following successes:

- **Regional online training sessions for PSEA Focal Points** in all six RBx, co-hosted by NGO Unit, the Office on Inspections and Investigations (OIGI) and the respective RBx, with participation from approximately 60 Country Offices
- **Providing CO awareness sessions:** conducting onboarding for new focal points, and support to the recruitment and induction of Interagency PSEA Coordinators in Afghanistan, Colombia, Nigeria and Sudan.

PSEA RELATED ADVISORIES. As a successful indicator and result from the support provided to PSEA Focal Points, in 2020, the Ethics Office received and responded to 308 requests for advice and guidance related to PSEA (compared to 161 advisories in 2019 and 66 advisories in 2018).

INTEGRATING PSEA ACROSS WFP

IN 2020, SUCCESSES WERE MADE IN INTEGRATING PSEA INTO CORE WFP TRAINING INITIATIVES.

The Ethics Office worked closely with the Field Security Division to integrate a PSEA module within the **WFP Safe and Secure Approaches in Field Environments (SSAFE) Training Course** to support WFP employees that are deploying to high risk locations to identify, prevent and respond to SEA in the field.

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

At the onset of the COVID-19 response, to provide relevant and adapted guidance to PSEA Focal Points Network, the Ethics Office developed the guidance document: **Key Considerations on PSEA - Supporting WFP's Response to COVID-19**, which was translated into French, Arabic and Spanish and also contributed to the **IASC Checklist to Protect from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse during COVID-19**.



OUTCOMES FROM INTER-AGENCY ENGAGEMENT

IN 2020, THE ETHICS OFFICE WORKED TO CREATE MORE MEANINGFUL AND STREAMLINED COLLABORATIONS AT THE INTER-AGENCY LEVEL

UN IMPLEMENTING PARTNER PSEA CAPACITY ASSESSMENT.

WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNHCR created a harmonized screening tool for partners in coordination with IASC members and the UN SEA Working Group **to strengthen accountability and capacity of implementing partners and avoid multiplication of processes.**

The Ethics Office and NGO Unit co-hosted a session to introduce the tool to field colleagues which was attended by over 150 participants across WFP. In addition, WFP initiated a field pilot of the Assessment Tool with selected Country Offices.

IASC PSEA LEARNING PACKAGE FOR PARTNERS

The “Say No to Sexual Misconduct” learning package was developed and launched to **equip partner organizations with the awareness and skills** to define, detect and respond to SEA.

WFP had a lead role in adapting the package, working together with UNHCR, other UN agencies and IASC members, from an earlier initiative by IOM.

Prior to its roll-out, WFP, together with IOM and UNHCR, conducted a field validation exercise in Gaziantep, Turkey, with the support from the Syria Cross Border PSEA Network.



ROME-BASED AGENCIES PANEL ON PSEA AND ETHICS.

The Heads of Rome-based Agencies' (RBAs) Ethics Offices led a joint panel entitled: ***Working together to enhance prevention and response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA): The Role of Ethics.***

The panel was part of the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign and was attended by approximately 150 UN colleagues, NGO partners and others. As an example of initiatives in the field, the WFP Gender Advisor in Mozambique outlined the Linha Verde project, put in place in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai, which is now the only inter-agency reporting mechanism in the country.

WFP/Annabel Symington

INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES

IN 2020, THE ETHICS OFFICE EMBARKED ON SEVERAL PROJECTS UTILIZING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUTREACH EFFORTS.

PSEA DIGITALIZATION PROJECT.

This project has the objective of **leveraging the use of technology to enhance a victim centered approach** through safe reporting, access to assistance services, and to improve information analysis to facilitate evidence-based prevention and mitigation of SEA.

This is to be accomplished through three technological solutions: a webform and mobile app; a SEA tracking database; and a predictive model to perform analytics to facilitate relevant mitigation measures, reactively and proactively.

PSEA "AT THE FRONTLINE" PROJECT.

This **interactive PSEA multilingual outreach package for often overlooked frontline workers**, such as drivers, as well as contractors (including financial service providers) and small NGO partners aims to equip them with the knowledge and skills to recognize and respond to SEA. To be relevant and accessible, the materials will use multimedia including video, audio and highly illustrative guides and will be available in eight field relevant languages.

In 2020, an initial survey was conducted with the target group to better understand their needs and preferences and over 1600 responses were received globally.

PSEA IN ACTION

TANZANIA COUNTRY OFFICE ACHIEVES WIDE SCALE TRAINING ON PSEA

The Tanzania Country Office conducted a series of in-person training sessions for 350 WFP employees and Cooperating Partners, using the IASC “Saying No to Sexual Misconduct” learning package.

During the thirteen full-day sessions, organized in five distinct locations in Tanzania in September/October 2020, participants learned to define, detect and distinguish between what is and is not acceptable conduct towards beneficiaries and the available avenues for taking action when such instances occur or are observed.



PSEA AWARENESS ON UNHAS FLIGHTS IN CAMEROON

WFP Cameroon co-led the development and adaptation of PSEA awareness materials to be distributed on in-country UNHAS flights.

This was done in coordination with the in-country PSEA Network as part of its Action Plan.

ORANGE THE WORLD: RBC INNOVATES, PARTNERS, AND COMMUNICATES TO ELIMINATE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

RBC launched the “16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence” campaign with a virtual opening session entitled: *The Role of Technology and Innovation in Funding, Preventing, Responding, and Collecting Data about Gender Based Violence*. This session included a presentation on how to leverage technology to enhance PSEA reporting, information management and analysis for the purpose of preventing and mitigating SEA in WFP operations.

The session was attended by over 120 participants from all 17 RBC Country Offices.

