



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

2021 Mid-year Highlights

WFP has been addressing **PSEA** holistically, focusing internally and externally on making an impact at the field level to those we serve.

The Ethics Office – as the **Organizational Focal Point for PSEA** - supports prevention measures throughout the organization which include providing guidance to a network of over 400 PSEA Focal Points, located in all Regional Bureaus, Country Offices and field offices with significant staff presence.

The following are some of the highlights of the **first six months of 2021**.

Key highlights

WELEARN FOR PSEA FOCAL POINTS

The Ethics Office updated the **mandatory PSEA online training course for PSEA Focal Points** and is currently developing a **high-level 10-minute micro version** of the course specifically targeting senior-level Focal Points.

PSEA SESSION AT THE REGIONAL BUREAU FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA WORKSHOP ON COMPLAINTS AND FEEDBACK MECHANISMS AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)

The Ethics Office and the Office of Inspections and Investigations provided a PSEA specific session to ~43 colleagues from the **Regional Bureau for Southern Africa**, focusing on Complaints and Feedback Mechanisms and AAP.

ETHICS OFFICE STRATEGY ON PSEA (2021-23)

The **Ethics Office Strategy on Prevention and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (2021-2023)** was approved in **June 2021**.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CIRCULAR ON PSEA

The Ethics Office is currently updating the **Executive Director's Circular on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (OED2014/020)**. It is anticipated that this will be completed in early 2022.

PSEA RELATED ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

To date in 2021, the Ethics Office responded to over **140 advisory requests**.

PSEA AT THE FRONTLINE

The Ethics Office has partnered with **Translators Without Borders (TWB)** and the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** on the PSEA at the Frontline project, aimed to equip frontline staff, such as drivers, small NGO partners, contractors (including financial service providers), and data collection teams with PSEA knowledge and skills through a **multilingual outreach package**.

Target groups were directly consulted via an initial survey circulated amongst IOM, WFP, inter-agency PSEA Networks and Food Security Clusters globally in December 2020/January 2021. The survey was available in 9 languages and approximately **3,000 responses** were received from humanitarians from **82 countries**.

The **field testing of this multilingual PSEA awareness package** for WFP/UN employees and partners **started in May 2021** and is currently ongoing in **South Sudan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Turkey** (including **Syria cross-border operations**).

Multilingual field testing is an **innovative approach** for WFP and can provide critical information to ensure that our PSEA outreach messages are relevant, appropriate and contextualized.

Feedback from the testing phase will be integrated in the final product, which is expected to be finalized and rolled out in WFP and IOM in **September 2021**. The final product will be available in **English, Arabic, French, Spanish, and five additional languages**.



“Testing what people have understood and what key messages are not getting through has been fascinating. There is a real challenge for humanitarian agencies in developing clear, consolidated, multilingual reporting systems.”

Translators Without Borders



INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

PSEA LEARNING PACKAGE FOR PARTNERS – “SAY NO TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT”

The Ethics Office supported **individual Country Offices** – specifically, Tanzania and Rwanda - **and in-country PSEA inter-agency networks** (Tanzania and Mozambique) in sharing lessons learned in order to **conduct adapted sessions** of the **“Say No to Sexual Misconduct” learning package**.



“PSEA IN A BOX” PROJECT

This project was initiated with the aim to equip WFP field-level employees and partners (especially small partners) with **interactive multilingual tools to support their PSEA efforts** and is composed of an **awareness package** and **toolkit**. **The roll out of the awareness package is anticipated for September 2021**.

PSEA DIGITALIZATION PROJECT

The Ethics Office has closely worked with the **Technology Division** to advance this project, aiming to developing **three technological solutions**: a webform and mobile app; a SEA tracking database; and a predictive model to perform analytics to facilitate relevant mitigation measures for enhancing a **victim-centred** approach.



INTEGRATING PSEA ACROSS WFP

CONSULTATIONS WITH REGIONAL HUMANITARIAN, PROTECTION AND GENDER ADVISORS

The Ethics Office began organizing quarterly consultations with **Regional Humanitarian, Protection and Gender Advisors** with representatives from relevant HQ Units for the purpose of **strengthening synergies and linkages** between PSEA and the practical work of protection, accountability to affected populations and gender in the field. Sessions took place in March and June 2021 and will continue through 2021.

SAFE AND SECURE APPROACHES TO FIELD ENVIRONMENTS (SSAFE) TRAINING

The **SSAFE training** re-started in June 2021 where the Ethics Office conducted a **classroom session on PSEA**. It is anticipated that a PSEA scenario will be integrated in the practical sessions of the training in September 2021.

UPDATE OF FIELD LEVEL AGREEMENTS

The Ethics Office and the NGO Unit have been working collaboratively to update the **PSEA Clause of the Standard Field Level Agreement (FLA)**.

PSEA IN ACTION

INTER-AGENCY JOINT MISSION TO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Upon a request by the Humanitarian Coordinator, the Humanitarian Country Team and the in-country PSEA Network, WFP, through the Ethics Office participated in an **inter-agency mission in Central African Republic**.

The mission, led by the IASC Senior Coordinator on PSEA and Sexual Harassment, aimed at collectively review PSEA protocols, including the in-country coordination structure, and make recommendations for increased community engagement and victim referral services, **with the ultimate goal of strengthening inter-agency SEA prevention and response in Central African Republic**.

The mission included consultations with the Humanitarian Country Team, UN Coordination Team, MINUSCA, PSEA Network, Inter-Cluster Coordination Group as well as affected communities in several locations.

The Ethics Office coordinated with the **WFP Country Office** in Central African Republic to also conduct **PSEA awareness sessions** for PSEA Focal Points and staff in country.





IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS PSEA CAPACITY ASSESSMENT

The **UN Implementing Partner PSEA Capacity Assessment** was developed in 2020 by WFP and sister humanitarian organizations. The harmonized assessment allows UN entities to assess common partners only once, resulting in increased transparency and reduced processes. To increase its usability, the tool was recently launched in **French, Spanish, Arabic** and **Russian**.

TRAINING SESSIONS

The Ethics Office and the NGO Unit hosted **French and Spanish language online sessions to present the tool to a total of ~60 colleagues in the field**. The English session was held in 2020.

PSEA IN ACTION: PILOTING THE TOOL

In coordination with the **PSEA Network Coordinator**, WFP has initiated a pilot roll-out of the assessment tool in **Colombia**, where WFP has a large operation directed mainly to Venezuelan migrants on their way to Ecuador and other countries in South America.

The Ethics Office PSEA Unit has closely followed this process with colleagues in Colombia to provide support and share lessons learned from other operations.

“ WFP Colombia is committed to implement all the necessary measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in our operations, and we expect to work more closely with our cooperating partners and other UN agencies, from the conviction that they also share that commitment”.

Vitoria Ginja, Colombia Country Office
Deputy Country Director and Senior PSEA
Focal Point



Picture: PSEA awareness session in Nariño, Colombia.

Lessons learned from Colombia will be used by the **Ethics Office to further support other WFP Country Offices in rolling out this assessment**.

WFP is also part of a global initiative together with other UN entities, to standardize an inter-agency approach to the assessment tool and developing coordinated capacity strengthening implementation plans. This approach is being piloted in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** under the leadership of the **National PSEA Network**. WFP Country Offices have also started rolling out the assessment tool, such is the case of **Mozambique and Iraq**.

IASC Inter-Agency
Standing Committee

(Interim)
Harmonized Implementation
Tool

**UNITED NATIONS
IMPLEMENTING PARTNER
PSEA CAPACITY
ASSESSMENT**

UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, and WFP in consultation
with IASC members and the UN SEA Working

September 2020

Endorsed by IASC Operational Policy and Advocacy Group



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