# Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse + Sexual Harassment (PSEAH)

- Introduction to PSEA and SH
- Main initiatives
- Current debates and developments

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### What is SEA? What is SH?

	Sexual Exploitation (SE)	Sexual Abuse (SA)	Sexual Harassment (SH)
Who?	• Us + Beneficiary	• Us + Beneficiary	• Us + Us
What?	<ul> <li>Abuse of vulnerability, differential power, or trust</li> <li>Victim's sexual activity generates benefits</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Physical intrusion of a sexual nature</li><li>Use of force or coercion</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Unwelcome advance or conduct of a sexual nature</li> <li>Creates an intimidating environment or becomes a condition of employment</li> </ul>
Examples?	<ul> <li>Offering money, gifts, or a job in exchange for sex</li> <li>Withholding due services or blackmailing for sex</li> <li>Hiring prostitutes</li> <li>Threats of sexual exploitation</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Unwanted kissing, touching, grabbing, or rubbing</li> <li>Threats of an unwanted sexual act</li> <li>Raping or attempted rape</li> <li>Any sexual activity with</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Touching, kissing or speaking inappropriately to a colleague at work</li> <li>Attempted or actual sexual assault</li> <li>Raping or attempted rape</li> </ul>

Sources: IASC Learning Package on Protection from Sexual Misconduct

# How prevalent is it? Some (underreported) numbers

**ABOUT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT: NUMBERS FOR 2019** 



# of reported allegations of sexual exploitation

of sexual exploitation and abuse in the UN system\*



# of identified victims

of sexual exploitation and abuse in the UN system\*



# of reported
allegations

of sexual exploitation and abuse involving Partner organizations\*



Estimated %
of UN workers
that have experienced
sexual harassment\*\*

> We need better awareness and reporting mechanisms

Sources: IASC Learning Package on Protection from Sexual Misconduct



# Before 2018



# UNSG Bulletin 2003



#### IASC Six Core Principles

- "Sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers constitute acts of gross misconduct and are therefore grounds for termination of employment.
- 2. Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief regarding the age of a child is not a defence.
- 3. Exchange of money, employment, goods, or services for sex, including sexual favours or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour is prohibited. This includes exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries.
- 4. Any sexual relationship between those providing humanitarian assistance and protection and a person benefitting from such humanitarian assistance and protection that involves improper use of rank or position is prohibited. Such relationships undermine the credibility and integrity of humanitarian aid work.
- 5. Where a humanitarian worker develops concerns or suspicions regarding sexual abuse or exploitation by a fellow worker, whether in the same agency or not, he or she must report such concerns via established agency reporting mechanisms.
- 6. Humanitarian workers are obliged to create and maintain an environment which prevents sexual exploitation and abuse and promotes the implementation of their code of conduct. Managers at all levels have particular responsibilities to support and develop systems which maintain this environment."

# After 2018 media attention



AN INCREASED EFFORT TO FIGHT SEA AND SH



PLURALITY OF INITIATIVES AND POLICIES



SOME LACK OF COORDINATION AND HARMONISATION



# After 2018 media attention



**IASC PSEA Championship** 



**Donor Efforts** 



**Stronger Policies** 

# **Strengthening Systems**

#### **Improving Policies**

#### PSEA in-country structure

- PSEA Coordinator
- PSEA Network
- PSEA Focal Points

#### Reporting channels

#### **Training**

Investigation

Victim/survivor-centred assistance and support



# UN Protocol on SEA Allegations Involving Implementing Partners (2018)

Contractual obligations with UN

UN PSEA assessment(s)

NGOs might not be aware that they are impacted by it.

# **Learning and Training**

Package on Protection from Sexual Misconduct

Websites and webinars

Guides

**Best Practices** 



SAYING <u>NO</u> TO SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

ICVA

# Recruitment - a debate

Misconduct Disclosure Scheme

Project Soteria

"Humanitarian Passport"

# Sexual Harassment



REPORTING AND "SPEAK UP" CULTURE



REMOVING BARRIERS SUCH AS FEAR OF RETALIATION



WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION



TRUST IN INTERNAL MECHANISMS



# Our weaknesses on a global level



NEED FOR CULTURAL CHANGE



**INVESTIGATIONS** 



SURVIVOR-CENTRED APPROACH + ASSISTANCE



CAPACITY



**REQUIRES FUNDING** 



# **PSEAH and COVID-19**

Increased Risk (GBV)

• Lessons learned from Ebola

Accessing reporting and support mechanisms is more difficult with COVID-19 measures

Inter-Agency Interim Guidance

Cards/checklist for field practitioners



# Video

What if it were you?

Sources: IASC Learning Package on Protection from Sexual Misconduct

