



PSEA

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse: Inter-agency prevention and response in emergency settings

Sexual abuse and exploitation (SEA) of beneficiaries is a global concern. SEA committed by aid workers inflicts harm on those whom the humanitarian community is supposed to protect and jeopardizes the credibility of the response. In recent years it has become apparent that coordination between agencies is necessary to ensure credibility of the response and respond to the incidents that occur. Even one incident of sexual exploitation or abuse can undermine the humanitarian aid work in an entire response site, because it breaks the beneficiary trust needed to fulfill our mandate. For this reason, agencies including IOM have been working collectively to take action to coordinate Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) activities and ensure that the population in need receives the expected assistance and protection free of sexual misconduct.

Relevance to IOM's Emergency Operations

IOM is strongly committed to fight SEA. As per current institutional practice, all new IOM staff as well as implementing partners are trained on PSEA. IOM has a Zero Tolerance Policy and a mandatory instruction, the Policy and Procedures for Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, IN/234 which binds staff members to standards of behaviour at all times and especially when working with beneficiaries of assistance, including during emergency response.

Sexual exploitation and abuse of affected populations constitutes gross misconduct and is grounds for disciplinary action, including summary dismissal and referral for criminal prosecution, where appropriate. In 2019, IOM launched the [We Are All In platform](#), which includes a publicly available reporting form to report any type of misconduct including sexual harassment and sexual abuse and exploitation, and an internal space with awareness-raising and training materials (available on IOM VPN or internet connection). More information on IOM's PSEA work on global level can be found in the [IOM Emergency Manual](#).



IOM's Work on PSEA in Mozambique

IOM Mozambique has made PSEA commitments to prevent and address incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse, including active participation in in-country PSEA Inter-Agency Networks. In line with internal and inter-agency protocols, IOM ensures follow-up of potential SEA cases and access to protection of potential survivors, through a survivor-centered approach, in which the survivor's wishes, safety, and well-being remain a priority in all matters and procedures, protecting the survivor from retaliation, traumatization, discrimination and revictimization. As part of the humanitarian response interventions, through IOM awareness raising activities, the affected population is informed on their right to humanitarian assistance, the availability of the Linha Verde hotline as a reporting mechanism, as well as available referral and assistance services.

Overall, in 2021 IOM has trained 67 Government Officials and has conducted trainings and refreshments for 739 IOM staff, including field staff. In addition, IOM PSEA activities at community level (including awareness raising activities, PSEA risk assessment, focus group discussions, lectures, support groups, theatre of the oppressed) reached a total of 4,895 beneficiaries.

Moreover, IOM – Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) has established a complain and feedback mechanism (CFM) to promote accountability of affected population which also serves to raise awareness on PSEA issues within the camps.

+5,701

IOM staff, government officials, partners and beneficiaries were trained by IOM on PSEA in Mozambique.



Pilot Project 2022: Risk Management and Collective PSEA Response in the Philippines and Mozambique

In 2022, with the support from BHA, IOM will launch a Pilot Project which focuses on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Risk Management to contribute to effective PSEA programming, thereby reducing threats and strengthening prevention strategies. Identifying SEA risks will also lead the prioritization of limited financial resources toward Collective PSEA gaps in high-risk contexts and ensure that PSEA is better mainstreamed within programming. The project will hence contribute to global PSEA efforts on Risk Management based on lessons learned from the Philippines and Mozambique.

IOM's PSEA champions.

On 23 and 24 March 2022, IOM conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) for IOM PSEA Champions of each IOM department. The ToT was conducted by experienced IOM PSEA focal points and counted with the participation of the co-chair of the PSEA Network of Cabo Delgado who led the session on community awareness raising. The PSEA champions will significantly contribute to mainstream PSEA across all sectors and interventions of IOM Mozambique, including Shelter, CCCM, Peacebuilding, IBM, Wash, DTM, Protection/MHPSS, Migrant Protection and Assistance, Health in Emergencies and Migration Health Division. They will also sensitize IDPS and communities across Mozambique about the right to assistance free of sexual misconduct and free of charge, as well as reporting mechanisms.

