



Title of Side Event: Empower to Protect: Strengthening Partnerships Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Sponsors and Organizers: UN Implementing Partners Protocol Working Group – comprised of IASC members

Date and Time: 21 June from 13:15-14:45 (GMT+2), Salle XXII UNOG

This is one of the side events to be convened on the margins of the 2023 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), which builds on this year’s HAS theme: *“Strengthening humanitarian assistance at a time of unprecedented global humanitarian needs: driving transformation and solutions to address the urgent challenges of rising food insecurity and the risk of famine, protection risks and climate change.”*

The event will be primarily for an in-person audience with a possibility for those who cannot join in person to connect remotely. The link will be sent to registered participants a few days prior to the event.

Background and objectives of event:

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) is a massive violation of the trust put into us by the communities we serve as humanitarians, and it negatively impacts the entire humanitarian community, including UN entities, international and national NGOs all over the world. The proven, most effective way to respond to it is by doing so hand in hand, together with our partners. This side event will present the UN Implementing Partner Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Capacity Tool in the UN Partner Portal¹ - a new digital module that will assess how well equipped our partners are to prevent and respond to incidents of SEA and will facilitate building their capacity in this area.

In line with this year’s theme, the module offers a distinct and innovative solution to address the challenges of SEA risks.

Through this new module, the UN will be able to jointly assess partners’ PSEA organizational capacities, and, where needed, develop and implement a capacity strengthening plan based on the capacity gaps identified. By using the UNPP, the risk of duplication is mitigated, information sharing and transparency are maintained with partners. This represents an instrumental step towards harmonization and coordination to better manage risks of SEA and protect those we serve.

The tool is a direct response to the PSEA requirements for the UN and partners when working together which are outlined in the 2018 [United Nations Protocol on Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Involving Implementing](#)

¹ The UN Partner Portal is an online platform designed to simplify and harmonize UN work processes for partnering with civil society organizations. The Portal is a collaborative inter-agency effort led by UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP.



[Partners](#) (United Nations IP Protocol).

The specific objectives of the *Empower to Protect: Strengthening Partnerships Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse* session are to:

1. Provide an overview of PSEA and why it needs to be addressed
2. Highlight the importance of the UN IP PSEA Capacity process as a harmonized approach
3. Restate our joint commitment with partners towards protecting communities
4. Present the UN IP PSEA Capacity Assessment Module as a new risk management solution
5. Hear experiences from our partners and UN entities that have implemented the tool

Discussion points or guiding questions:

The session will start with high level remarks from the Chair on the importance of partnerships in preventing and responding to SEA.

It will then turn into a panel discussion with NGO representatives and representatives from UN entities to discuss the importance and value of working together to prevent SEA. Panelists will share lessons learned and discuss how their experiences using the harmonized implementation tool has enabled them to more safely deliver assistance.

Following the panel, members of the Interagency IP Protocol Working Group will present the new PSEA module and discuss the journey from policy to practice; including how this new tool will facilitate working together to build the capacity of partners.

Key concrete action points and recommendations/takeaway messages:

- 1- United Nations partners are valued as collaborators to achieving objectives that could not be achieved as efficiently, effectively, or innovatively alone.
- 2- The UN entities aim at working jointly with partners in a transparent, equitable, supportive and mutually beneficial way, allowing for SEA risks mitigation and sharing responsibilities, coupled with increased accountability.
- 3- UN entities have been rolling out the operationalisation of the harmonized UN PSEA implementation tool in multiple regions through a joint engagement with partners to utilize the tool and identify areas requiring PSEA capacity strengthening.
- 4- The tool in the UN Partner Portal is the first of its kind that will allow UN entities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to work together to assess, build and monitor partner capacity to prevent SEA.
- 5- You can get involved by:
 - reaching out to the IPPWG Members for more information.
 - participating in the upcoming training webinars on the use of the PSEA module in the UNPP.

Chair and moderator:

Chair: Ib Petersen, Assistant Secretary General, Deputy Executive Director, UNFPA

Panel composition:

- Ramy Sakr, Project Manager and PSEA Advisor from Association for Forests Development and Conservation (AFDC)
- Gareth Price-Jones, Executive Secretary, Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)
- Giammichele De Maio, Chief of the NGO Partnerships Unit, WFP



- Natalia Macdonald, Senior PSEA Advisor, WFP
- Fitsum Assefa, Chief Programme Implementation UNICEF
- Robert Hurt, Head of Implementation Management and Assurance Service, UNHCR
- Nicole Kim, Programme Specialist, UNFPA

Panel moderator: Dr. Gaya M Gamhewage, Director Prevention of and Response to Sexual Misconduct (PRS), WHO

Presentation of PSEA module: Natalia Macdonald, Senior PSEA Advisor, WFP and Nicole Kim, Programme Specialist, UNFPA

Background Material (feel free to share links to relevant documents):

[UN Protocol on Allegations of SEA Involving Implementing Partners](#)

[UN IP PSEA Capacity Assessment Tool](#)

[Introduction to the UN Partner Portal](#)

[UN Resource Library for Implementing Partners](#)

(Note: As the organizer of the HAS, OCHA will post your side event concept note on the HAS website to facilitate the participation of interested stakeholders in the side events.)

Contact(s):

Please list focal point(s) in the below table (maximum 2):

	<i>Focal Point 1</i>	<i>Focal Point 2</i>
Name:	Nicole Kim	Natalia Macdonald
Email:	nicole@unfpa.org	natalia.macdonald@wfp.org
Phone:		
Mobile:	+1 646-662-5427	+39 342 992 1743
Mission or Organization:	UNFPA	WFP

Please indicate the technical focal point(s) (for technical assistance participants may require before/during the side event) in the table below (maximum 1):

	<i>Technical Focal Point 1</i>	<i>Technical Focal Point 2</i>
Name:	Said Malouf	Nina Lacroix
Email:	malouf@unfpa.org	nina.lacroix@un.org
Phone:	+41 79 8598887	
Mobile:	+41 79 8598887	
Mission or Organization:	UNFPA	OCHA

