



Progress and Next Steps

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in humanitarian response

Monday 20 June, 13:15 – 14:45 EDT
Conference Room 1, UN HQ, New York | Zoom

Sponsors and Organizers:

OCHA, Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI, UNICEF, World Vision, Clear Global, CAFOD, US

[Register to join the event here](#)

This is one of the virtual side events to be convened on the margins of the 2022 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), which builds on this year's HAS theme: *“Strengthening humanitarian assistance: good practices and mobilizing action in the application of international humanitarian law, the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and in response to the climate crisis.”*



Background and objectives of event

Over a decade has passed since the first IASC global review of Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN, NGO, IOM and IFRC Personnel, since then significant investments have been made and with another review published this year, this event will examine what progress has been made on ensuring communities affected by crisis are protected from sexual exploitation and abuse, and where challenges remain. The panel will explore how PSEA interacts with #AidToo as well as humanitarians' commitments to localisation and accountability to affected populations. The panel will share experiences from their own organisations, and what lessons can be shared with the humanitarian community. The event will draw on articles from the upcoming Humanitarian Practice Network's Humanitarian Exchange magazine on PSEAH, including the review of humanitarian efforts on PSEA, supporting and capitalizing on the potential role of local and national NGOs in DRC, to ask what shifts and approaches in humanitarian practice and policy are needed to better protect affected communities from harm.

The objective of this side-event is to reflect on the progress and challenges with approaches to PSEAH in light of the findings from the recent review, as well as taking a critical look at how the humanitarian community has responded to sexual exploitation and abuse of affected communities in order to adapt, take action and shift the way we work moving forward.

Discussion points or guiding questions

- What progress has been made on prioritizing PSEAH in humanitarian crises since the first IASC global review?
- What learning is there from recent experiences and approaches? In particular, what lessons can we draw from the scaling up of PSEAH?
- What are the remaining barriers and challenges to strengthening PSEAH and what more needs to be done by humanitarian actors? Where do we need to invest further?
- What can we draw from the new IASC strategy and how can it be used by actors to strengthen PSEA across the humanitarian community?

Key concrete action points and recommendations/take away messages

- PSEA is an integral part of effective humanitarian action.
- Protection from SEA requires engagement from the outset of a response and is a responsibility of all humanitarian actors.
- The focus has been on compliance; humanitarian actors have not done enough to listen to the people affected by sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment on what they want to see – what will make them feel safe to report, what information they need from us to do so, how we can best ensure a survivor-centered prevention and response.
- SEA is not intractable – we can and have made progress. But this requires a long-term investment in establishing and strengthening systems to prevent and respond to SEA, both



within our organizations and through our work with affected populations. If we do this right, the impact for women and children, and our overall effectiveness as humanitarians, will be significant. This is a shift we need to make together.

- We need to strengthen the evidence base for what works, taking a whole-of-system approach. Capacity development of local actors is critical. Governments also have commitments on PSEA. We need to find a way to work better together.
- Collective efforts are needed to improve accountability. Moving forward, humanitarians must (1) assume that, even with safeguards in place, abuse will continue to happen; (2) that underreporting exists; and (3) implement vigorous and proactive prevention and detection. These three actions will be key to establishing a culture of zero tolerance to inaction. Changing culture is not an easy task but, guided by the experience of victims/survivors and affected people, it's one we need to rise to.

Format of the side event

This event will be a hybrid session.

Time	Item
13:15 – 13:20	Welcome
13:20 – 14:00	Panel opening remarks and discussion
14:00 – 14:10	Lightning responses
14:10 14:30	Audience Q&A
14:30 – 14:40	Final question to panel
14:40 – 14:45	Close

Chair and moderator

- Sorcha O'Callaghan, Humanitarian Policy Group ODI (in person)

Panel composition

- Wendy Cue, Senior Coordinator PSEA, IASC Secretariat, OCHA (in person)
- Anne-Marie Connor, Special Advisor to the IASC Champion on PSEAH, World Vision International (in person)



- Thérèse Mema Mapenzi, Director, Centre Olame Bukavu (virtual)
- Cornelius Williams, Director of Child Protection, UNICEF (in person)

Background Material

- Humanitarian Exchange magazine 81 on PSEAH (forthcoming)
- [IASC Vision and Strategy](#): Protection from SEA and sexual harassment 2022-2026
- 2021 [IASC External Review](#) of PSEA and sexual harassment
- [IASC Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment | IASC \(interagencystandingcommittee.org\)](#)

Speaker bios

- **Thérèse Mema Mapenzi** is the Director of Centre Olame Bukavu, a Congolese Women's Organisation, that provides psychological support to women in Eastern DRC. She is a trained psychologist and previously worked with the Archdiocese of Bukavu Justice and Peace Commission managing trauma centres.
- **Wendy Cue** is the Senior Coordinator for protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Wendy joined the Inter-Agency Standing Committee secretariat in January 2018. Previously, she was Head of OCHA's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. She has more than 20 years of international and UN experience in humanitarian affairs, human rights, and sustainable development. Her previous assignments include as Head of OCHA in Nepal, Chief of the Emergency Preparedness and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, Coordinator for the Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium, and Team Leader for human rights investigations in Rwanda and Haiti.
- **Cornelius Williams** is the Director of Child Protection for UNICEF. He has over 25 years of experience in managing child protection programmes in Africa with UNICEF and Save the Children. As a child rights advocate, he has been involved in improving protection of children from sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian settings, reducing recruitment and use of children by armed forces and groups, and increasing access of children to identity documents/ birth certificate and social assistance and other services. Mr. Williams has a leading role in coordinating UNICEF's engagement with governments and other partners for the prevention and response to violence against children in Eastern and Southern Africa. He is a national of Sierra Leone and holds a Master of Arts in International Child Welfare from the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom.
- **Anne-Marie Connor** serves as Special Advisor to the World Vision International, for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Championship, which Andrew Morley assumed January 1, 2022. Anne-Marie most recently served as National Director for World Vision in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Throughout her 15+ year humanitarian career she has held roles in leadership, emergency response & coordination, strategy development and execution in highly complex and conflicted affected countries. She champions protection and safeguarding in the world's toughest places.



- **Sorcha O’Callaghan** is the Director of the Humanitarian Policy Group at ODI where she leads research into humanitarian system reform, inclusion and gender, displacement and humanitarian financing. A specialist in displacement, civilian protection and humanitarian action in protracted crises, she has worked extensively in East Africa.

Contact(s)

	<i>Focal Point 1</i>	<i>Focal Point 2</i>
Name:	Wendy Cue	Sarah Redd
Email:	cue@un.org	s.redd@odi.org.uk
Phone:	+41794770845	+447929429464
WhatsApp:	+4179 6476715	
Mission or Organization:	OCHA	ODI

	<i>Technical Focal Point 1</i>
Name:	Rob Labram
Email:	av@odi.org.uk
Phone:	
Mobile:	
Mission or Organization:	ODI

