

Part Two: Understanding of PSEA, SEA, GBV, & SEXUAL HARASSMENT

• Activity 1: Key Definitions

➤ What is PSEA?) _____ PSEA stands for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.



➤ What is SEA? _____ SEA stands for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Definition of Sexual Exploitation

- Sexual exploitation means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of:
 - (a) vulnerability
 - (b) differential power; or
 - (c) trust
- for sexual purposes, including but not limited to: profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.
- *In other words, Sexual exploitation means using your power over someone to take advantage of them sexually.*

Definition of Sexual Abuse

- Sexual Abuse means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature which can occur
 - (a) by force; or
 - (b) under unequal conditions; or
 - (c) under coercive conditions.
- *In other words, Sexual abuse means getting sex by use of power.*

SEA vs. Sexual Harassment

- SEA occurs against a beneficiary or vulnerable member of the community: Sexual Harassment occurs when one employee makes continued, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature to another employee, against his or her wishes.

GBV and SEA

- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** is violence that is perpetrated against someone because of his/her gender. Thus, SEA can be seen as a type of GBV, as victims of SEA are often abused because of their vulnerable status as women, girls, boys or even men [in some circumstances].

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Activity 2: Understanding the Concept of SEA

- SEA is rooted in power differences and unequal relationships.
- SEA is committed by people in positions of power. These groups of people might include humanitarian aid workers, teachers, soldiers, police and those in authorities.
- Consent does not determine whether SEA has occurred or not. Because victims of SEA have unequal power, they may feel forced to agree (to receive food, to protect their families, etc).

Activity 3: Brief History of SEA Policy

- Allegations of SEA arose in regions including the Balkans, Cambodia and Timor Leste during the 1990's, in West Africa in 2002 and in the DRC in 2004.
- 1 The UN developed a series of policies concerning SEA in response to allegations that such acts had been committed by peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel.
- The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises, composed of UN and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), was established in March 2002. It developed agreed definitions of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and adopted standards of behaviour to be included in UN and NGO codes of conduct

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- 2 This led to the Secretary-General's bulletin: Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse in October 2003. This document reiterates specific prohibitions and standards for all UN personnel. ”
- In South Sudan, the first case emerged in 2015, two years after the civil war. According to probe entitled “alleged sex abuse by aid workers unchecked for years in UN-run South Sudan. In 2017 and 2019 cases of sexual exploitation and abuse became increased happening. A number of allegations against humanitarian aid worker continued to rise in Protection of Civilians Sites in the Country.

SESSION 3: SIX CORE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

Activity 1: UN SGBs and IASC Six Core Principles

- Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse constitute acts of **serious misconduct** and are therefore grounds for **disciplinary measures, including summary dismissal**. *The UN is serious about sexual exploitation and abuse. Staff could lose their jobs if they do it.*
- 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 in the age of a child is not a defense.** *Sex with children is not allowed.*

- **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 any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance. *Sex cannot be bought or forced.*

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.

- Where a [United Nations] staff member develops **concerns or suspicions** regarding sexual exploitation or sexual abuse by a fellow worker, whether **in the same agency or not** and whether or not within the United Nations system, he or she **must report such concerns via established reporting mechanisms.** *Let the focal point know if something is going on that's not right.*

➤ [United Nations] staff are **obliged to create and maintain an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.** Managers at all levels have a **particular responsibility** to support and develop systems that maintain this environment. *Remind people that sexual exploitation and abuse is NOT allowed.*

Activity 2: South Sudan Specific SEA Special Measures

- All sexual relationships between international UN staff and any members of the local population are strictly prohibited
- All national staff are prohibited from having any sexual relationship with a beneficiary of assistance.
- Any staff member who has an established relationship with a member of the local population should disclose this information confidentially to the appropriate designated