

# Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

By ZNWL

# Presentation Objective

- **Raise awareness** of the occurrence of sexual exploitation and abuse, the seriousness of the problem and what should be done to **prevent and respond to it**.

# About Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

- **Gender Based Violence (GBV)** is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetuated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual, emotional or mental harm, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty.
- **Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)** is a particular form of GBV that have been reported in humanitarian contexts, specifically alleged against humanitarian workers.
- **Sexual Exploitation** refers is any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another

# About Sexual Exploitation and Abuse...cont

- **Sexual abuse** refers to actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions. SEA is based in gender inequality, power imbalance and disrespect of human rights

## About SEA

- ▶ SEA can happen in any settings against anyone and anyone can commit SEA although those with more power are more likely to perpetrate while those with less power are vulnerable to becoming victims

# Common types of SEA in Zambia

- ▶ Sexual favours in exchange for employment
- ▶ Sexual favours in exchange for good grades in school or to obtain a place in school
- ▶ Sexual favours in exchange for speedy service provision
- ▶ Sexual favours in exchange for financial support

# Position of UN on SEA...cont

## ○ IASC's Six Core Principles

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is the longest-standing and highest-level humanitarian coordination forum of the United Nations (UN) system. The six principles are as follows:

- 1. Sexual exploitation and sexual abuse constitute acts of serious misconduct and are therefore grounds for disciplinary measures, including summary dismissal.
- 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 in the age of a child is not a defence

# Position of UN and other International Bodies on SEA....cont

## ○ IASC's Six Core Principles

- 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 any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance.
- 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 worker (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.
- 6. Workers (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 .



# Situations that Perpetuate SEA

- Lack of economic opportunities and employment
- -women/girls resort to commercial sex as a way of generating income which makes them vulnerable to trafficking, sodomy and other forms of sexual abuse and exploitation.
- -Female students maybe lured due to desire for high grades.
- -Medical personnel may take advantage of a female patients seeking for services at a health centre/ clinic.
- -Duty bearers seeking for exchange of sex for material assistance in offering public assistance for example CDF
- -Death of parents increases number of orphans who are desperate for material assistance.
- -the women in various businesses may be exploited at the point of soliciting to be offered tenders

# POWER TO STOP SEA

- ▶ The leverage that perpetrators of SEA usually have is the ability to withhold a good or service when their request for sexual favours is not granted. But SEA is both a crime and dismissible offence in almost all organisations if it is proven; citizens have the power to report cases of SEA to Police and employers of perpetrators for corrective action

# Plenary



# Actions to be taken by different Grouping in Preventing SEA

## Policy makers/Duty Bearers

- ▶ Create and implement a comprehensive national plan of action.
- ▶ Raise public awareness and run educational campaigns on SEA.
- ▶ Set up official monitoring mechanism.
- ▶ Ensure a culture of gender equality is fostered in everyday among females and males.
- ▶ Collect and analyze data on the incidence and impact of SEA in communities.
- ▶ Train personnel on all the aspects of responding to incidents of SEA.

# Actions to be taken by different Grouping in Preventing SEA

## Community members

- ▶ Provide opportunities for economic empowerment of women and girls to reduce their vulnerability.
- ▶ Take actions to curb SEA in the communities but developing practical measures - by laws.
- ▶ Support organizations and individuals implementing interventions to address SEA.
- ▶ Challenge harmful masculine norms that encourage violence against women and girls.
- ▶ Advocate for enactment and enforcement of laws to protect community members.

# Actions to be taken by different Grouping in Preventing SEA

## Women leaders

- ▶ women to be at the forefront of capacity building initiatives and awareness raising campaigns.
- ▶ Uphold and promote a culture of gender equality
- ▶ Mobilize community and engage a cross section of community members on SEA.
- ▶ Promote a culture of justice and support for victims of violence.

# Actions to be taken by different Grouping in Preventing SEA

## PWD's

- ▶ Engagement with the disability community and disability organisations when planning and designing programmes aimed at reducing the risk to SEA
- ▶ Alternatives to in-person communication on SEA are used where necessary, i.e. posters, flyers, radio, braille, texts, and social media.
- ▶ Safe and accessible pathways to report on sexual exploitation and abuse are available, through channels preferred by PWD's
- ▶ Use of disability role models to act as peer to peer demonstrators within the disability community through which safe behaviours are cascaded

# Recommendations for actioning

- ▶ Ensuring that survivors have access to assistance
- ▶ Raise awareness to all the member on how to go about reporting the incidences of SEA
- ▶ More sensitization on the consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse